

BOOK REVIEW SESSION

FIVE MINDS FOR THE FUTURE

BY HOWARD GARDNER

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- Professor of Cognition and Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.
- Recipient of MacArthur Prize Fellowship (1981), John S. Guggenheim Memorial Foundation (2000) and University of Louisville's Grawemeyer Award in Education (1990).
- Honorary degrees from 21 colleges and universities worldwide.
- 100 most influential public intellectuals in the world (2005 - Foreign Policy and Prospect magazine).

THE UNDERLYING MOTIVATION:

- *Challenges in the global arena.*
- *What are the kinds of mind that people will require in order to thrive in the future ?*

5 MINDS:

Disciplined Mind

- Mastery of major school of thoughts.
- Identify important concepts within the discipline, spend time in studying deeply, and approach the concept in a number of ways.
- Poorly disciplined mind? When people see everything through 1 discipline.

Synthesizing Mind

- Integrate ideas and communicate it to others in useful ways.
- Identify a specific goal, build a starting point by studying previous works, and select an approach.
- Poorly synthesizing mind? An individual will be overwhelmed by information and unable to make judicious decisions.

5 MINDS:

Creating Minds

- Innovative.
- Nurture creativity since childhood and rewarding environment.
- A person will be replaced by computers and driven away by those who have creative spark.

Respectful Mind

- Aware and appreciates differences among human beings.
- Intolerance and disrespect are not a viable option.
- A person is not worthy of respect by others and will poison the workplace and community.

Ethical Mind

- Going beyond self-interest.
- Ethical orientation begins at home, adults and community as role models.
- Decent workers and responsible citizens.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ First option is to separate the individual from the organisation as expeditiously as possible as the individual is incapable of respect or prone to unethical acts can quickly poison an entire division.
- ✓ Second option is to assign that individual to a niche where the deficiency poses no threat to the organisation.
- ✓ Third option is to make it clear to the worker that he needs to improve with respect to one or more of these competencies.

IN PERSPECTIVE:

I want my children to understand the world, but not just because the world is fascinating and the human mind is curious. I want them to understand it so that they will be positioned to make it a better place. Knowledge is not the same as morality, but we need to understand if we are to avoid past mistakes and move in productive directions. An important part of that understanding is knowing who we are and what we can do... Ultimately, we must synthesize our understandings for ourselves. The performance of understanding that try matters are the ones we carry out as human beings in an imperfect world which we can affect for good or for ill. (Howard Gardner 1999)

Question –

Do we have what it takes to move forward?

THANK YOU

