

Fancy Geometry??

Written by Klaas
Monday, 16 January 2012 18:59

◆ <p>◆◆ Our education sector has much in common with the ANC and it's 100 year bash: Desperately poor planning, a huge waste of money and◆unimaginative excuses for non-performance. When new Education Minister Nzimande◆blurted out that 8 Billion Rand (a◆stack of 100 Rand notes with a height of 9 km!) of public education funds had been wasted recently - the words corruption, foolishness and greed◆were not mentioned by him -◆nobody was surprised, except maybe at his bravery.◆◆But there is another reason for our plight which is◆less obvious...</p> <p>◆</p> <p>◆◆◆Education has been deemed 'in crisis' because◆the◆50% (officially 25%) unemployment◆ has been linked to terrible◆matric results particularly in the technology-related subjects.◆There is an assumption that good maths and good science results would◆greatly reduce unemployment.◆</p> <p>◆</p> <p>Good education achieves any or all of the following objectives: </p> <p>1. Provision of a safe environment for young people.</p> <p>2. Competence to do things. </p> <p>3. Acquisition of a useful attitude/mindset.◆◆</p> <p>4. Learning a useful sense of self.◆</p> <p>5.◆Membership of the old-boy network◆with a background◆of known quality.</p> <p>◆◆</p> <p>Anyone can have their own ranking, but I believe Number◆3 is key, probably in conjunction with Number 4, rather than Number◆2 on its own. Because competence is useless if combined with a poor work ethic or destructive personality, while incompetence can always be rectified with learning, given the will to learn.</p> <p>◆</p> <p style="text-align: left;">Discussion of a useful◆attitude/mindset is probably only advisable once everybody wears assault protective gear and/or remembers that 'beauty is in the eye of the beholder'.◆Attitude/mindset may be influenced by cultural values, group thinking, competitiveness of the environment, personal quirks,... - but in the National Interest surely◆◆◆◆◆</p> <p style="text-align: left;">good work ethic,◆◆◆◆◆</p> <p style="text-align: left;">willingness to learn (even the famous 'enquiring mind')◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆</p> <p style="text-align: left;">and positive social awareness◆◆◆ stand out.</p> <p>◆</p> <p>How to go about achieving this admirable mindset? Well it helps to take cognizance of a few parameters.◆◆ </p> <p>Firstly, by

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age 2 years, personality seems to be largely set, broadly, into

the more common

Type B (lifestyle orientated)

or the less common

Type A achievement orientated, neurotic

and depends upon genetics, family and environment happenings.

Secondly, **Types B and A need different stimuli to perform.**

Thirdly, the **focus of a person's energy** depends upon the **information available** to that person. A very admirable mindset may turn to crime, drugs or emigration if there is a perception that it is futile to hope for a desired career.

Interestingly enough, and this will discomfort some readers, **traditional mass education systems** have purposefully beavered away at Number 4 above - learning a useful sense of self - to perpetuate the existing order:

By teaching mathematics at a level which ensures that 80 out of 100 pupils abhor the subject (and none of them ever need Algebra or fancy Geometry in everyday life or at work), **a useful inferiority complex with respect to technology and much respect for the 'more intelligent' academics was achieved. Result: Winning MATERIALISM and GLOBALISATION! And winning big companies and technology countries!**

Strangely, South Africa has chosen to go the same route, to a ridiculous extent, by getting 50% of all learners to write a university entrance exam (our matric) when there are **only university places for ~13%** of all learners (in Germany, 30% of all learners write matric and **27%** of all learners can go to university).

Failure by Design.

Thus the **Recipe for Education** has the following ingredients:

No corruption.

11 and 13 year school leaver diplomas.

Well-paid teachers.

Different **Teaching Methodologies** for Type B and A personalities targetting an admirable mindset.

History, culture and sport content which support a good sense of self.

And a political leadership which gives hope for the future and inspires teachers, learners and parents to perform. Because unemployment will drop drastically if company taxation seriously advantages **'local**

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lekker',♦if import♦regulation♦advantages locally made goods, if more than half the police is clean and stops crime, if the state president and his power brokers demonstrate a social conscience.♦</p> <p>♦♦</p> <p>♦♦♦♦ Of course, it is highly unlikely that the ANC will implement any worthwhile changes - judging♦by their actions and utterances the only point on any agenda is their internal power struggle. And one doesn't really want to bankrupt South African Airways by voting them out.♦♦♦♦♦♦♦</p> <p>♦♦♦♦♦ Maybe the only hope is the emergence of a new party, like the ruling Workers' Party in Brazil, founded ♦in a meeting of the minds between trade unionists, socialist church intellectuals and left wing intellectuals. When Lula da Silva, a trained machinist, departed as the country's president after 8 years, his approval rating was a phenomenal 83%.♦Inspiring stuff.</p> <p>♦♦♦♦♦♦♦And don't forget our hole card: We've got resources♦everybody needs.</p> <p>~Letter to The Star, Mail♦& Guardian in Jan 2012</p> <p>♦</p>