

Knowledge for Higher Level of Creativity

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Introduction

Creativity is one of the hallmarks of any progressive society and given the emphasis on creativity as a generator of new knowledge in all walks of life, creativity has been described as the fuel of the 21st century. Why not? The modern society has become more a creative society and has been progressing at a tremendous pace with new insights from people across the world. New areas of knowledge are emerging in the field of technology and these areas are expanding the frontiers of human thinking and intellect. The frontiers of knowledge have expanded so much that the society is not just a society but has now become a creative society. If the organizations were to compete on the basis of one resource, it would not be oil or coal, but creative ideas generated by the educational hubs and employee hubs. In this context, the role of teachers in facilitating creativity among the students assumes significance. Given the centrality of rote learning of our education system, there is an urgent need to break the mould of knowledge flow in all directions which could produce individuals with creative ideas. The role of the teachers at all levels is of paramount interest.

Knowledge Generation

For ages, knowledge generation has been the sole prerogative of a few sections of the society, may be scientists and researchers and occasionally the corporate individuals burning with the desire to achieve something and they have succeeded. Those

efforts have yielded good results and also have helped the mankind in mitigating myriad problems plaguing the society and economy. The knowledge in the area of health has helped the mankind in addressing various health related problems and the mankind has reached a stage where most of the epidemic diseases have been erased from the world. Similarly, the human insights into the process of learning itself has generated so much of knowledge that there are different ways of learning for everyone and this in turn has led to newer forms of learning on one hand and knowledge generation on the other hand. All this knowledge, in all the areas of human working has helped human beings to metamorphose into a better society in terms of prosperity and well being.

This vast body of knowledge has come from a few individuals who are actively engaged in the field of science and research and such individuals are very few in number compared to the whole lot of people on the planet. The knowledge they have generated came out of the laboratories and their research efforts. Such endeavors are more or less limited to a small section of the society. The good part is that such a small section of the society could generate so much knowledge that the human race has attained a great level of prosperity and well being. The pursuit of science and research is again limited to a few individuals who are more inquisitive and research oriented and this led them to generate more knowledge. These are those individuals who have successfully challenged the popular thinking

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and came out with something new by using their creative abilities. Now, the time has come develop more creative individuals who can really make lives of human beings much better in a holistic sense.

Breaking the Groves

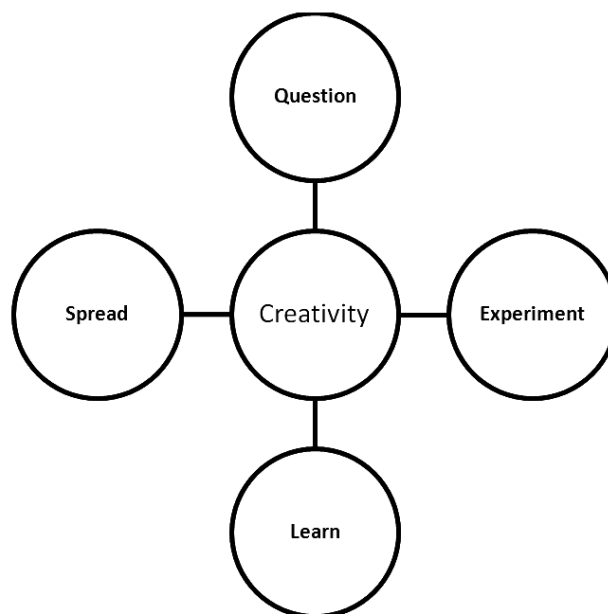
A man is what he thinks. The process of thinking and thinking has been snubbed by the social forces which most of the times ensures that everyone adheres to the norms established by the society. These norms tend to influence the thinking process of every individual in a certain way and the thinking of certain way makes the individuals to stop thinking in a creative manner. In fact, every individual is allowed to think only to such extent which is in tune with the social norms. Whether they are learning institutions or organizations of great repute, alternate thinking and out of box thinking are rarely appreciated. Creative ideas are branded as non workable or less workable and every effort is made to make such creative ideas to conform to the pre-established standards. Thus, the established patterns of thinking of the human beings work as anti dotes for creative ideas and creativity in the society.

The pattern of thinking as suggested by Edward de Bono is most of the times structured and every thought generated by individuals follows a structured pattern. This structured pattern is further structured by the same ideas and over a period of time the ideas flow in the same groves. The brain ensures that the ideas are routed through the groves which develop as a part of thinking and every idea or thought generated flows through the same groves. This process of thinking is antithetical for creativity. The creative ideas are either not generated or do not come out given the strong thinking groves which are established over years in individuals. Every thought and idea is limited to the thinking groves.

Given the level of societal thinking in which one lives, it has become a necessity that the problems cannot be solved with the same level of thinking, because such thinking is confined to the thinking groves. Only a few individuals are successful in breaking these thinking groves through their sheer efforts and these few individuals are able to generate a wealth of knowledge useful for the mankind. The time has come for every individual to break those thinking groves and become creative in addressing myriad problems being faced by the mankind. Unless those thinking groves are demolished, the problems being faced by the human kind would become gigantic and may threaten the entire human into extinction.

New knowledge through Creativity

There is an urgent need for new knowledge as mankind, despite technological advances, has stood at apocalypse in the form of social unrest, emotional trauma, air & water pollution, global warming, congested urbanization, etc. When more and more



people start thinking in a creative manner, it leads to the creation of more and more knowledge and

addressing the human problems as well. Given the gigantic nature of problems being faced by the mankind, it is only the creativity and creative solutions, which can address them in the most efficient and effective manner. Who is responsible for the creative ideas and inculcating creative thinking? Obviously, the society itself needs to create more people at homes, schools and organizations.

Question: Children at homes and schools need to be inculcated the mindset of questioning and they may be actively encouraged to write down the questions for their teachers at schools. Without questioning the status quo, the learning itself becomes monotonous and the overall impact of learning comes down over a period of time. Hence, the society as a whole should inculcate the questioning mindset among the children at homes and schools and employees in the organization.

Experiment: The society as a whole should be willing to experiment new things rather than writing off the ideas as non-workable. The society has become much better compared to the last two centuries in terms of economic development and this could be attributed to the experiments in all the walks of life – science, engineering, learning, sports, transportation, communication, etc.

Learn: Learning is an integral part of knowledge generation and such learning may be made more

systematic wherein the exchange of ideas is more deliberate. The deliberate exchange of ideas which further acts as a source for new ideas, would help in breaking the thinking groves but also helps people in the development of new thinking groves.

Spread: Creativity and creative ideas should be spread among the people through all the available means so that new ideas and thoughts trigger within the society. The spreading of creative and new ideas would make the society better and also encourage the people to address their problems from an innovative perspective.

Conclusion

Creativity, no doubt, is the need of the hour. Without creative solutions, the problems created by mankind would remain insurmountable given their scale and spread. New insights and information are needed for the mankind to uplift itself from the alarming number of problems it has created over a period of time. As Einstein said, “We can’t solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.” Hence, there is a need for creative thinking for a better society through the generation of new insights in the form of knowledge.



*Lying feebly amidst as a by-gone Golden era's wreckage,
May be, due to the onslaught of the new thoughts of life.
Lord, only thou know it this path is right;
But, as I, from a distance watch my poor village,
Can only but stare and wonder, if this is after all, mine?*

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