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**DEVELOPING GLOBAL CITIZENS THROUGH GARDNER'S
"FIVE MINDS FOR THE FUTURE"**

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Abstract: There is a number of definitions to the term " global citizenship". To the young and trendy, it means international exposure through extensive travelling and having an overseas education. But a philosophical and sociological review of the term in a global and multiracial society like Singapore indicates that matters like knowledge of other cultures, races, religions, economic issues, health issues, unemployment, critical review of information from a wide range of media, justice and integrity should be of concern to a global citizen. Compassion, respect and social responsibility transcend beyond geographical borders, race, language , gender and religious barriers Developing Singaporean students into global citizens may not be easy as many aim single mindedly for good grades, a well-paid job and speedy promotion. Howard Gardner published *Five Minds for the Future* in 2006. in his book, he stresses that for people to move forward in the 21st Century, they need to have a:

- 1) Disciplined Mind for lifelong learning;
- 2) Synthesized Mind to critically select and integrate relevant information;
- 3) Creative Mind to develop new products and new approaches to problem solving;
- 4) Respectful Mind to appreciate diversity; and
- 5) Ethical Mind to ensure integrity and justice.

Conscious attempts to develop the Five Minds in students may help to promote global citizenship.

Developing Global Citizens through Gardner's "Five Minds for the Future"

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Who Can be Called a Global Citizen?

Someone who has travelled round the world on business or holiday?

Can someone be called a global citizen without stepping out of Singapore?

According to Daisuke Ikeda, the following characteristics are essential for global citizenship:

- The wisdom to perceive the interconnection of all life and living;
- The courage not to fear or deny differences, but to respect and strive to understand people of different cultures and to grow from encounters with them;
- The compassion to maintain an imaginative empathy that reaches beyond one's immediate surroundings and extends to those suffering in distant places.

Compassion consists in the sustained and courageous effort to seek out the good in all people, whoever they may be. It means striving, through sustained engagement to cultivate positive qualities in oneself and in others. Engagement requires courage, as compassion without courage, remains mere sentiment.

Becoming Citizens of the World

The future is here. It's multiethnic, multicultural, and multilingual. But are the students ready for it?

- Vivian Stewart -
Educational Leadership
Summer 2007, Vol. 67

What Global Competence Looks Like?

To be successful global citizens, workers, leaders and students will need to be knowledgeable about the world, be able to communicate in other languages other than English, and be informed and active citizen.

Howard Gardner created a stir in 2006 when he published his book “Five Minds for the Future”.

He spoke of citizens needed to populate the planet in the future. He warned that individuals without one or more disciplines will not be able to succeed at any demanding work place and will be restricted to menial tasks.

- Individuals without synthesizing capabilities will be overwhelmed by information and unable to make judicious decisions about personal or professional matters.
- Individuals without creating capacities will be replaced by computers and will drive away those who do not have the creative spark.
- Individuals without respect will not be worthy of respect by others and will poison the workplace.
- Individuals without ethics will yield a world devoid of decent workers and responsible citizens: none of us will want to live on that desolate planet.

Howard Gardner introduced his Five Minds to be cultivated for survival in the future full of unpredictable challenges.

1. The **Disciplined Mind**: mastering of major schools of thought (including science, mathematics and history) and of at least one professional craft. The disciplined mind also knows how to work steadily overtime to improve skill and understanding (life-long learning).
2. The **Synthesizing Mind**: ability to integrate ideas from different disciplines into a coherent whole and to communicate that integration to others.

3. The **Creating Mind**: ability to put forth new ideas, pose unfamiliar questions, conjure up new ways of thinking and arrive at unexpected answers to problems.
4. The **Respectful Mind**: notes and welcomes differences between human individuals and between human groups, tries to understand others and seeks to work effectively with them. In a world where we are closely interlinked, intolerance or disrespect is not an option.
5. The **Ethical Mind**: fulfillment of one's responsibilities as a worker and a citizen.

Education for Global Citizenship in Singapore

What initiatives/policies has Singapore instituted to develop global citizenship in our young citizens?

- At the national level, “respect for the individual” and “racial and religious harmony” from our Shared Values and “filial responsibility”, “mutual respect”, “commitment” from the Singapore Family Values state clearly our stand and commitment to the characteristics of global citizenship outlined by Ikeda and Gardner’s “respectful” and “ethical” minds.

- There are other initiatives/programmes to foster global citizenship in our students and youths. These are some of the existing programmes in schools:
 - Character education
 - Civics and moral education
 - SEL (Social Emotional Learning)
 - CIP (Community Involvement Programme)
 - Service-learning (local and overseas)
 - IT Master Plan I, II, III (synthesizing mind)
 - CCA – Co-curricular Activities (especially uniform groups)

- Curricular reforms to cater to the needs of the academically weak and strong students. Integrated programmes, niche schools (Sports School), NUS Mathematics and Science High School, Northlight School, Assumption Pathlight School)
- Multilingualism and multiculturalism
- Special events – Racial Harmony Day, International Friendship Day (respectful mind)
- Project work, problem-based learning, innovation and enterprise (creating mind)
- Singapore Thinking Programme
- GESL (Group Endeavours in Service Learning) A compulsory module for all trainee teachers at the National Institute of Education.

What is Happening in Our Disciplined-Based Classroom?

An observation...

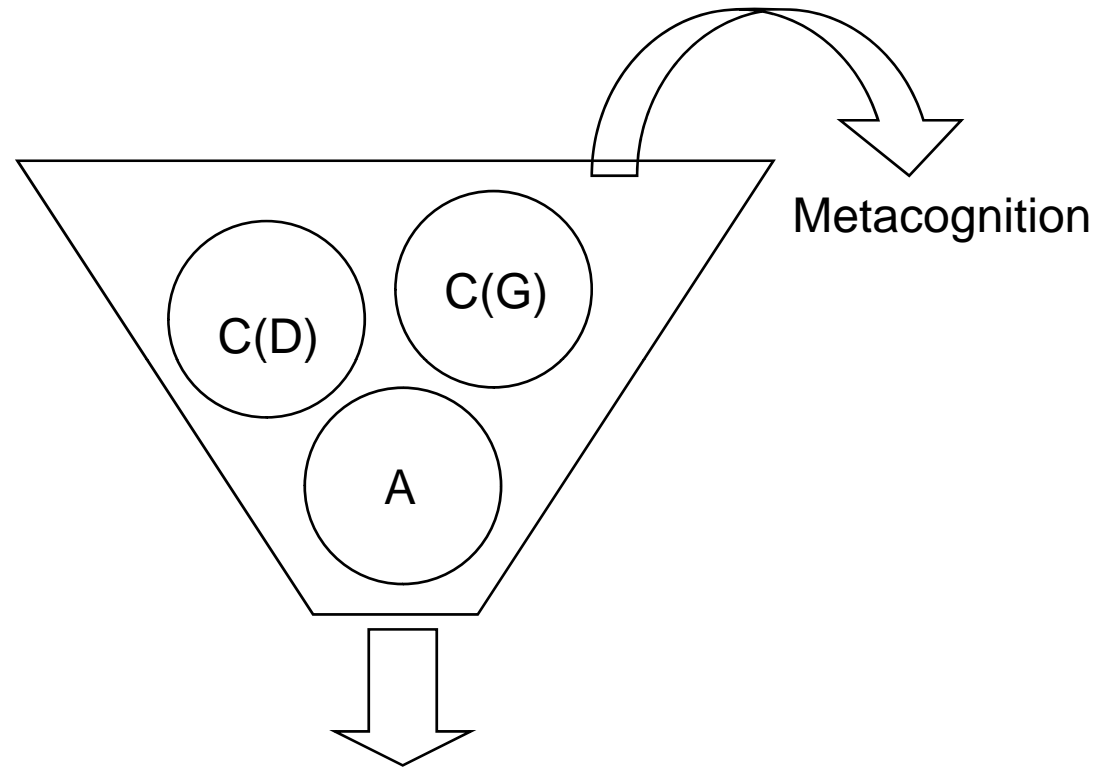
The disciplined mind is often addressed exclusively such that the other four minds are not appropriately / explicitly dealt with or dealt with independently from the disciplined mind.

What is Happening in Our Disciplined-Based Classroom?

Two vignettes to ponder on...

1. The case of the girl who masqueraded her mathematical talent.
2. The case of the boy who did the homework for the whole class.

A Proposed Framework?



Dispositions of Children of
the Globalised Community

C(D) – Disciplined-based cognitive skills

C(G) – General Cognitive skills

A – Affective Skills

The Sixth Mind?

The Minding Mind?

Questions?

New?

Challenge?

Thank You