

"Challenges in Educating the Millennials (TGIF & FANG) Generation"

In today's "Flat World" Age and CSM (Cloud, Social Media and Mobile) Decade, the competitive GloCal (GLObal Vision/Trends, LoCAL Adaptation/Action) marketplace requires different and new mind-sets, competencies & skills from the Millennials Generation. To maximize the potential impact of the Demographic Dividends, the age-cohorts of 15-25 need timely and appropriate learning experiences that will be relevant in the 2020 decade!

It is a challenge for educational institutions to provide relevant learning programs for these TGIF (Twitter, Google, Instagram and Facebook) and/or FANG (Facebook, Amazon, Netflix and Google) Generations whose learning objectives, needs, styles and/or methods/habits may be different from previous generations of the 20th Century.

The "GloCal" K-Economy & Society even today will need new competency profiles for human resource who can work for new types of enterprises which are considered as industry "DISRUPTORS", such as UBER, NETFLIX, AIRBNB, TESLA, AMAZON, PAYPAL, KICK-STARTER, etc. These types of innovative "Disruptors" have radically changed many other GloCal business strategies, management & operational practices worldwide requiring new types of trained personnel who are still rare and in short supply.

Furthermore, the rapid economic, social & cultural, demographic and esp., technological changes affecting GloCal K-economy & society have put increasing pressures to learning organizations for undertaking significant educational curricula reforms & changes to meet the new/different market demands. Forecasting 5-7 years ahead, monetizable "NICHE" learning areas may include, among others, robotics, genomics, stemcell tech., gerontology, cyber & forensic-security, "blue"-technologies, mega-batteries, actuarial science, neuroplasticity-based sports/fitness, etc.

In the "Flat World" era, characterized by information & communication-enabled Knowledge Democratization, the main value of education institutions is no longer as a "purveyor" of "explicit" knowledge (mainly taken over and monopolized now by Google). To be valuable, learning organizations need to transform into "Tacit" Knowledge Brokers which can facilitate and monetize knowledge management, sharing and utilization, esp. on practical best/poor practices of lessons learned from real-life experiences.

To ensure market-demand relevance and cost-effective management of Universities or Learning Organizations, the use of a "Quadruple Helix" model for K-economy & innovation development in the context of a Knowledge Society & Democratization should be considered. Thus, strategic collaboration and partnerships among (i) University, (ii) Industry/Private Sector, (iii) Government/Public Sector, and (iv) "People/Community-based Initiatives/Inputs (e.g., through mass & social media-assisted Crowd-Sourcing and Crowd-Funding, etc.) should be forged.

In this KeyNote Presentation, some contemporary illustrations will be discussed re. the various global trends, generational life-styles, changing communication patterns & modalities and the educational/learning needs in the 21st Century. And how these holistic competencies and skills-set can manage the "disruptive" GloCal political, economic, social and cultural changes landscape, including a proposed Conceptual Framework of an Interdisciplinary Education Curriculum.