Educating Otherwise UnConference

Saturday Apr 27, 2024 11-12:00

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Session Title

Community Empowerment

Summary

Questions / Inquiries

- How do people define community?
- How to "meet your tribe"?
- What connects us all?
- How can people identify separately from what they produce?
- How do we come together to create things with the freedom we have – adaptively to make the world a better place?
- How can I benefit other people?
- How can we use venues (online & in-person) to connect?
- How do we form a community where we can multi-task together?
- How do we value different types of communities, especially generationally?
- How do we engender commitment to one another?
- How to make the idea of community "boring" again – get back to grassroots?
- How could we teach children to be good active participants of communities online and in-person?

Ideas / Concepts / Themes

"People who think differently don't always think the same way."

Concentric & intersecting circles – intermixing groups based on interests

Defining community

Community Roles

Connectors – welcome new people

Facilitators

Pollinators

Leader / point-person – is this needed for sustaining communities?

Ecosystem
- Non-violent communication – open space technology
- Concept of forced proximity
- Shared projects – special interests, topics

Hybrid communities - an _in-person_ connection helps sustain communities thereafter _online_

Research – how we understand community – for GenZ & "digital natives", generally, community is online

Sustainability of communities – connected to Casper's idea of 'carrying on'
- Takes investment – burden on organizer
- 30-100 people will turn up at any one session (Ben's experience)
- New people can be welcomed by welcomed by 'connectors'
- Need some kind of consistency – online newsletter, blog, social media, etc.

Self-directed learning
- Build on peoples' skill sets – recognizing others' skills
- Character development
- Focus on life skills instead of "filling heads"
- Summerhill / East Kent Sudbury – freedom within school system – meetings where they sort things out, accountability to others with results – leaving without resolving – transferring problems
- Campaigns to bring about change – common projects – everyone is a contributor
  → Could UN SDGs be central ways of uniting?

Communication in communities
- authentic listening & sharing – e.g. [council](#)
- relationships require work
- many have a fear of trying to start something
- isolation has developed (pandemic increased this)
- tools that we've had forever but they're not being tapped into
- depth of communication – e.g. sign language versus emojis

Problems to solve
- Having a local community is the dream
  → Logistics make this difficult – e.g. childcare
  - Not compromising without _____

- Not alienating neighbors

- Greater community events – frequency & feasibility
e.g. this conference – perhaps annual?
- Perhaps mini-conference meetups
- Funding & demand – donation scheme?
→ What would be a helpful expectation/scheme?
- the "unmentionable" – people need to pay bills
- organizing takes labor
voluntary – church

- Economic reality – where do you get support from?
Theos-based – religion, secular
"There is something greater than us"
Common purpose – faith-based communities have this

- Deregistration, fees

Resources

- **Links**
  - [Worldschooling Quest](#) – an easy-join link to Jess & James's CIC's global community aiming to connect people around the world around social impact projects
  - [Progressive Education](#) - Jo's community
  - [Summerhill](#) school (Suffolk) / [East Kent Sudbury](#) – in-person communities
  - [Center for Council](#)
- **Books**
  - *[Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life](#)* by Dr. Marshall Rosenberg
  - *[The Four Agreements: A Practical Guide to Personal Freedom](#)* by Don Miguel Ruiz
    1. Be Impeccable With Your Word.
    2. Don't Take Anything Personally.
    3. Don't Make Assumptions.
    4. Always Do Your Best.
- **Videos** (mentioned in another session)

- ○ [Sir Ken Robinson's TED Talk - 'Do Schools Kill Creativity?"](#)

Actions

- ☐ Jess to create an Education Otherwise space in Worldschooling Quest?

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