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The University of Hong Kong



Title	Education Leadership: the post-industrial challenge
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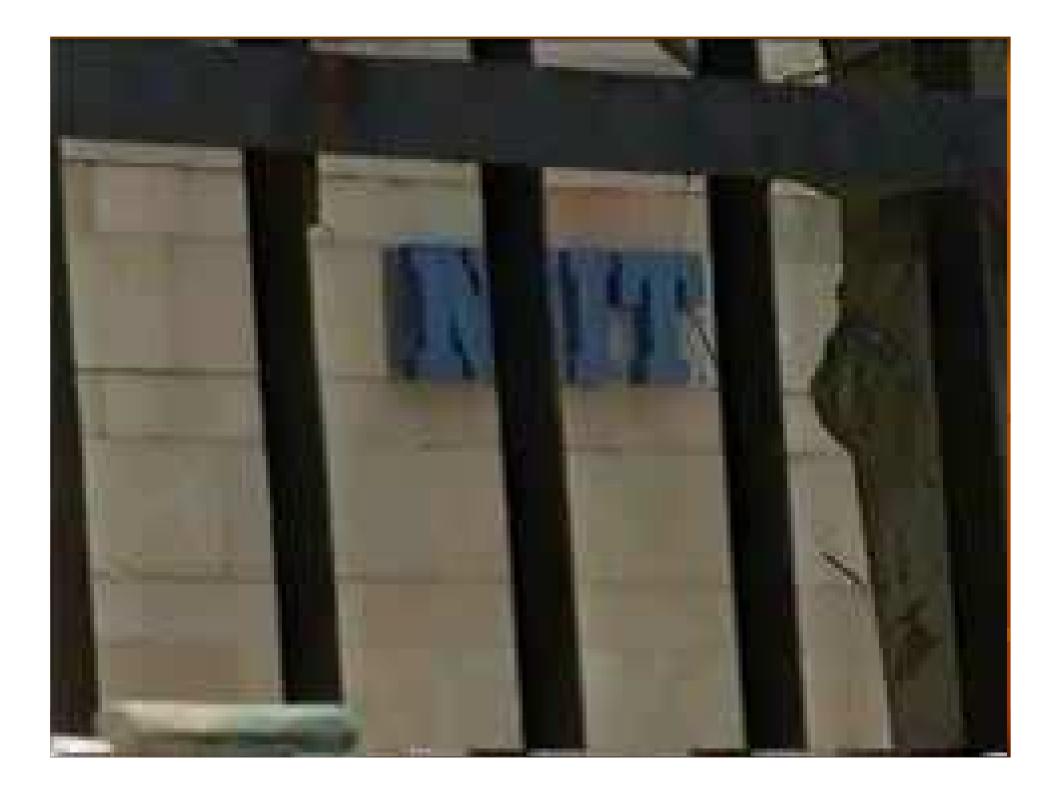
Education Leadership the post-industrial challenge

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CITE conference: eLeadership Stories
November 25, 2006

Learning without "Education"?

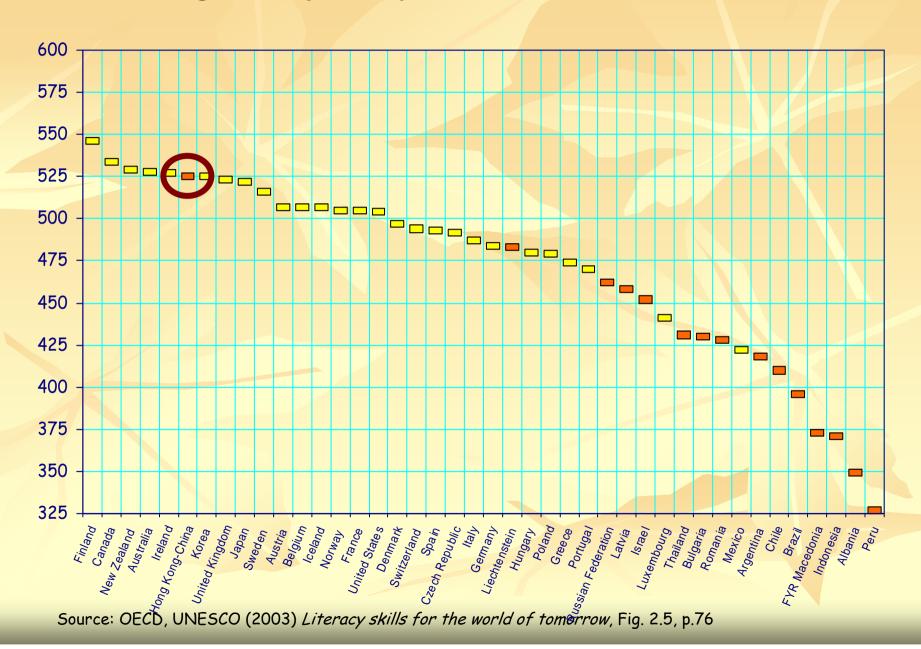
- Children's games
 - Underdeveloped societies
 - Games everywhere
 - Children heritage
 - Sophisticated
 - Developed societies
 - Games only in Schools
 - No game, or teachers' games
 - Simple and naïve







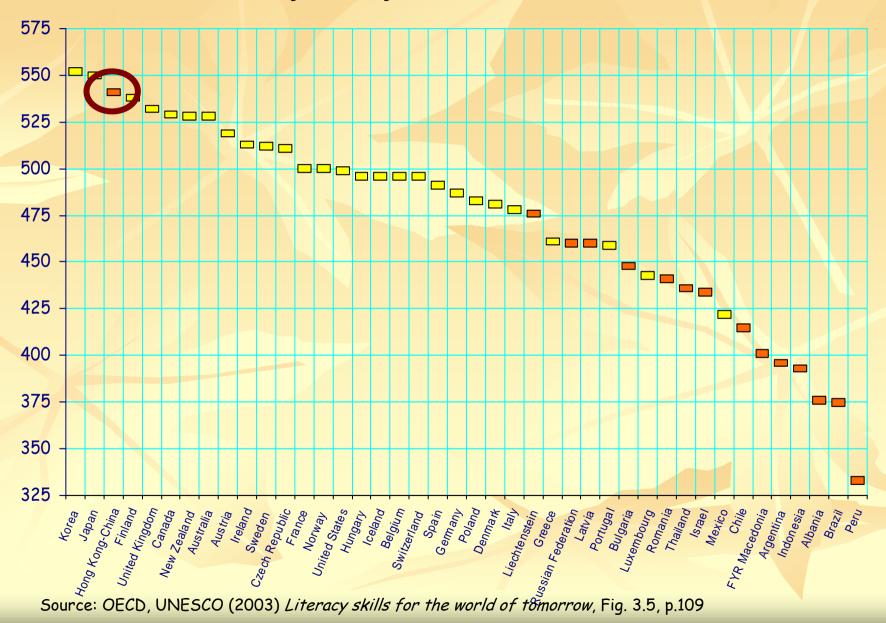
Mean Reading Literacy of 15-year-olds



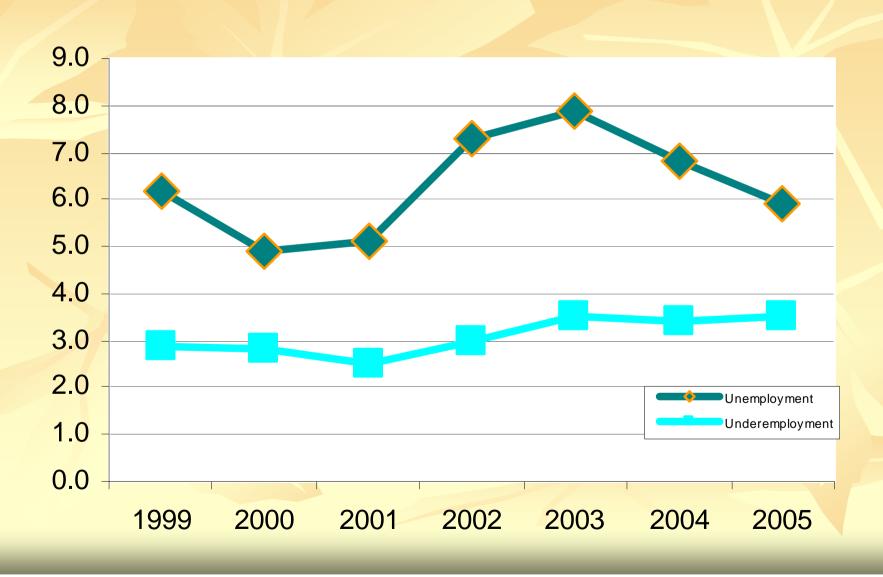
Mean Mathematical Literacy of 15-year-olds



Mean scientific literacy of 15-year-olds: All



Unemployment



Hong Kong: As it is!

- 19% (15-19 yr-olds) double-disengaged
- 100K (40s-50s) newly unemployed
- High-achievers not competitive in workplace

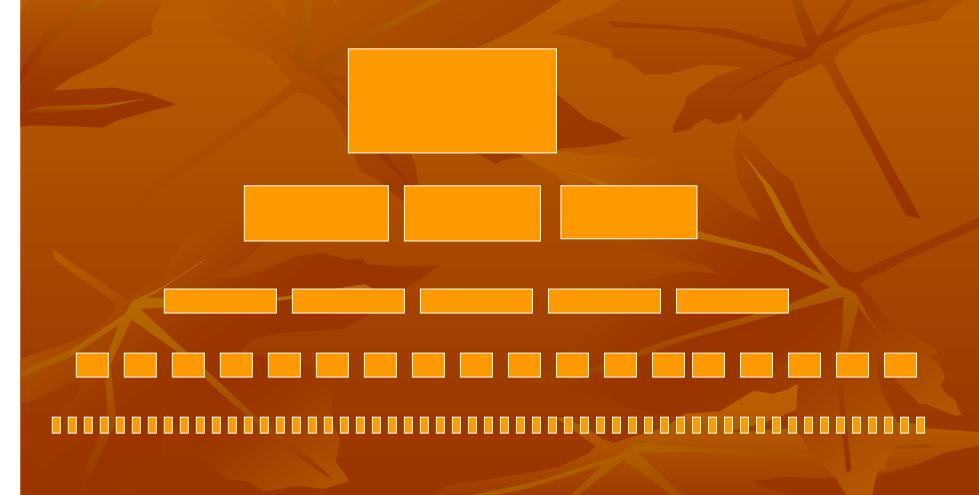
The Hong Kong case reminds us:

Are we going to do more and better of what we are doing?

Or are we to do education that is fundamentally different?

- Case 1:
 - Wellington School, Hong Kong, 1976
- Case 2:
 - Fløtestad School, Oslo, 2006

Wellington School, Hong Kong, 1976





Case 1:

- Efficiency in administration
- At the expense of student learning

Case 2:

- Concentrating on learning
- Complexity in administration

Good reminder:

- Why schools?
- Why classes?
- Why classrooms?
- Why subjects?
- Why timetables?
- Why syllabuses?
- Why public examinations?

Industrial Society

- Structured society based on division of labor
- Human beings are specialized, classified and ranked
- Credentials as signals and labels for social status, organizational membership and occupational identity
- Education provides credentials based upon "knowledge", meaning exams, hence syllabuses, subjects, classes, ...
- Students are therefore "processed"
- Education leadership is about processing

Industrial Society: the Pyramid

Industrial Institutions

Engineers

Degrees

Technicians

Diplomas

Craftsmen

Vocational Training

Operatives

Basic Education

Society has changed ...

Mobile phones

CEO of Samsung:

"We are not producing telephones. We are producing fashion!"

Restaurants: Maxim's

Cantonese Cuisine
Chaozhou Cuisine
Peking Cuisine
Other Chinese Cuisines
Miso, Kiko

m.a.x. concepts: mezz, EXP, café Landmark, thai basil, can.teen, little basil, the basil, fresh basil, rice paper, Café Express, Deli and Wine, Curtain Up, Concerto Bar & Cafe

Starbucks Coffee

Over 320 shops

■ G2000 (fashion retail)

Michael Tien:

"When it works, It's obsolete!"

"Customers don't know what they want!"

Hong Kong ...

Around 300,000 registered companies (June 2006)

- 99% under 100 (SME)
 - 69% of employees
- 94% under 20
 - 40% of employees
- 86% under 10
 - 33% of employees

The United States

Business Enterprises

98% under 100 86% under 20

National Bureau of Economic Research, 2002

■ Free-lancers 220,000 estimated vis-à-vis 2,200,000 in registered companies



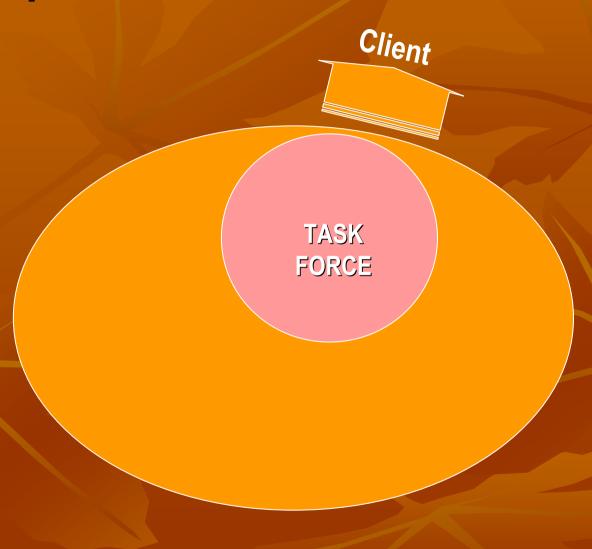
Project Groups/Task Forces

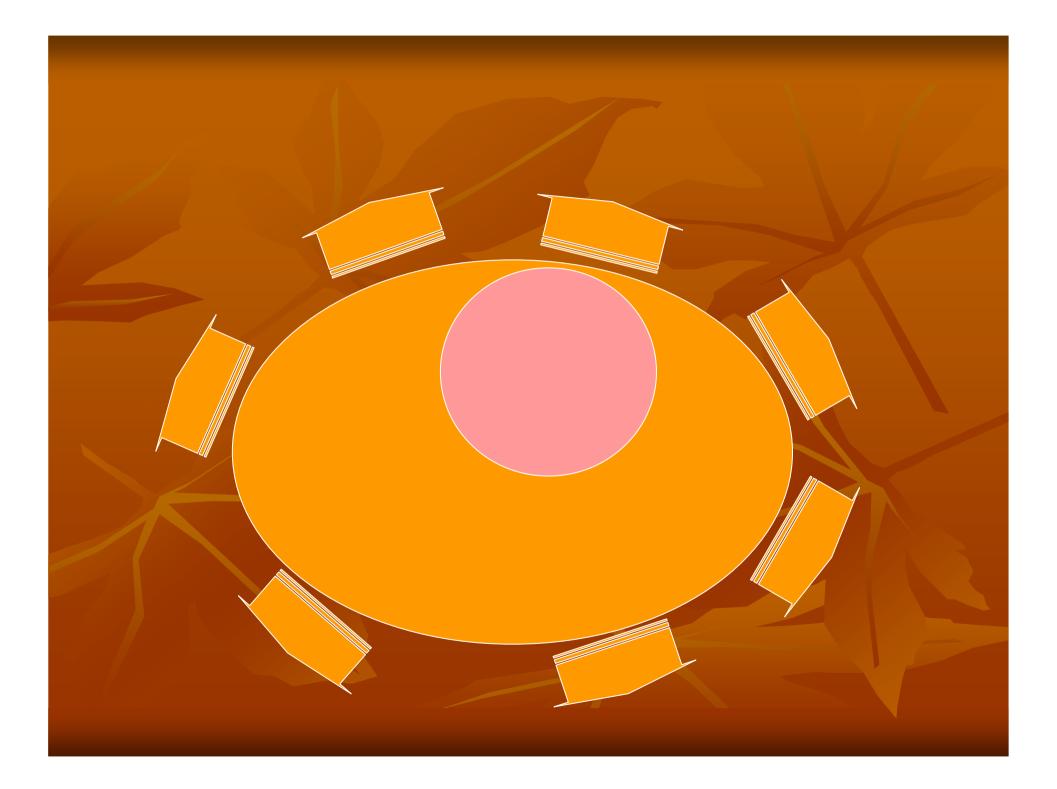
Small Enterprises

Free-lancers

The Civil Service (Traditional)

Example III: Investment Banks







Post-industrial: Large Organisations

Project Groups
Task Forces
Production Teams
Client Groups
"Accounts"
Deal Team







Organisations

Industrial

- Large pyramids
- Producer-centred
- Departments
- Hierarchy
- Tight structure
- Design at the top
- Assigned procedures
- Rules & regulations

Post-industrial

- Small companies
- Client-centred
- Project teams
- Flat organisations
- Loose & fluid systems
- Design at front-lines
- Improvised actions
- Fit-for-purpose acts

Working Modes

Industrial

- Division of labour
- Individual tasks
- Specialist duties
- Administrative links
- Credential-based appointments
- Appraisal by seniors

Post-industrial

- Total solutions
- Team work
- Integrated expertise
- Human interactions
- On-demand, just-intime learning
- 360⁰ appraisal

Individual Lives

Industrial

- Lifelong career
- Long-term loyalty
- Occupational identity
- Work-study consistency
- Org membership
- Stable employment
- Escalating salaries
- Upward mobility
- Foreseeable retirement
- Constant networks
- Stable relations
- Security, certainty

Post-industrial

- Multiple careers
- Multiple jobs
- Blurred identity
- Work-study mismatch
- Possible free-lancing
- Frequent off-jobs
- Precarious incomes
- Fluctuating status
- Unpredictable future
- Varying networks
- Changing partners
- Insecurity, uncertainty

Work Activities

Industrial

- Paper work
- Circulars
- Minutes
- Documents
- Instructions
- Written reports

Post-industrial

- Communications
- Brainstorming
- E-mailing
- SMS
- Blogs
- Seminars
- Debates
- Conferencing
- Negotiation
- Presentation
- Confrontation
- Lobbying
- Retreats

Expected abilities

Industrial

- Special skills
- Planning & implementation
- Navigating the bureaucracy
- Following the heritage

Post-industrial

- Communications
- Team-working
- Human relations
- Problem-solving
- Design & innovations
 - Personal responsibility
- Self-management
- Ethics, values, principles

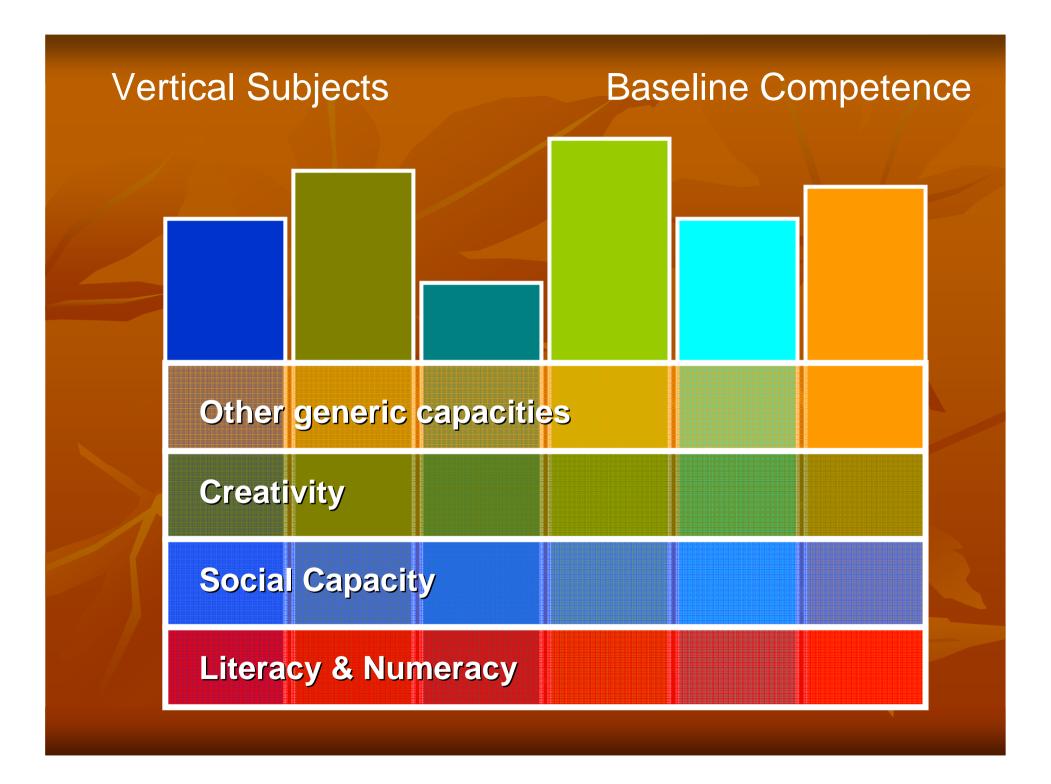
After all ...

Industrial

 analytic, regulated, structured, clear-cut, uniform, convergent, normative, neat, assertive and reducible to parameters

Post-industrial

 holistic, flexible, loose, fuzzy, plural, divergent, liberal, complex, speculative and tolerant of multiplex concepts



Lifelong attributes

- Optimism about life
- Passion about nature
- Commitment to society
- Commitment to nation
- Perseverance amidst odds
- Readiness to expand one's capacity
- Broad base experiences
- Experience in organising
- Appreciation of arts and music
- Attitude of helping and caring
- Seriousness about the details
- Willingness to take risks
- **....**

Lifelong attributes

- Eagerness to interact with people
- Love for peace
- Sense of justice
- Consciousness of equity
- Awareness of the deprived
- Comfort with other cultures
- Basic understanding of sex and family
- Understanding and facing moral dilemmas
- Rudimentary analysis and synthesis
- Belief in rationality
- Tolerance of diversity and plurality
- **....**

Back to the Oslo example:

Assumptions now:

Back to basics:

Human Learning

- Learning is complex:
 - Beyond "study" and exams
- Total solutions for students:
 - Beyond structures and processing
- Leadership to capture the complexity:

Nomad versus Plantation

Subjects? Examinations? Credentials?

Challenges to conventional notions

What role does education play, ...

- Tasks and jobs are more specialized, but people are not. What do we do in education?
- If people are increasingly less discriminated through "education", will credentials still be a useful signal?
- If credentials are no longer the main objectives of schooling, do we still "process" the students?
- If we no longer process students, how should schools be organised, and what kind of education leadership should be expected?

After all ...

The core business of education

- is to prepare young people for a changing future;
- is not only about more specialists;
- is to liberate them and empower them to create and master their own future!

Trends ...

Education policy concerns:

■ 1960-70s Systems: planning

■ 1980s School: management

Since 1990s Students: learning

It is now the capacity of learning that counts above all!

Thank you! kmcheng@hku.hk