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# Education Leadership the post-industrial challenge 

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## 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

- Hong Kong ...


## Mean Reading Literacy of 15 -year-olds



Source: OECD, UNESCO (2003) Literacy skills for the world of tomerrow, Fig. 2.5, p. 76

## Mean Mathematical Literacy of 15 -year-olds



Source: OECD, UNESCO (2003) Literacy skills for the fivorld of tomorrow, Fig. 3.2, p. 100

## Mean scientifific literacy of 15 -year-olds: All



Source: OECD, UNESCO (2003) Literacy skills for the world of +8morrow, Fig. 3.5, p. 109

## 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




Flatestad School, Oslo, 2006

## 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


- 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


## Post-industrial: Workplace

## Project Groups/Task Forces

## Small Enterprises

Free-lancers

## The Civil Service (Traditional)



## Example IJ: Investment Banks



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8
$$

## Post-industrial: Large Organisations

## Project Groups

## Task Forces

Production Teams
Client Groups
"Accounts"
Deal Team


Task Force

## Post-industrial: SMEs



## Organisations

## Industirial

- 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

## Industrital

- 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
- $360^{\circ}$ appraisal


## Individual Lives

Industirial.

- 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

## Industirial

- 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

Post-industrial

- Communications
- Team-working
- Human relations
- Problem-solving
- Design \& innovations
- Following the heritage 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


## Vertical Subjects

## Baseline Competence



## Lifelong attitributes

- 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:

- Since 1990s

Students:
management learning

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

Thank you!
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