

New Curriculum Design for Liberal Arts in the Global Era - Future Education Model for Liberal Arts for Lifelong and Life-wide Learning and Career in Collaboration with Corporations-

This presentation reports a successful hybrid liberal arts program for both company employees and university students, which has been conducted with the collaboration of corporations and universities for the last five years. In other words, it is a success report for a “win-win relationship” between the lifelong and life-wide corporate training and the liberal arts education at the university to nurture the lifelong and life-wide learning attitude.

In an effort to implement education for lifelong and life-wide learning and career, Kansai University and well-known corporations such as Fuji Xerox Corporation, IBM Japan, and ANA collaboratively engaged in series of negotiation practicum for advanced communication for long-lasting trust building with empathy. It is believed that such training will change the mindset of the employees in a long journey of their career and orienting students to a well-balanced adulthood.

So far, most educational programs as well as the corporate trainings have been conducted targeting at the same age groups, the same gender groups, or groups with common background/demographic features. As the result, the expected effectiveness in learning has not been reached and there was no change in attendees' performance and attitude even after the program.

In order to remedy such disadvantages, the workshop proposed here has double-barrel goals. For students, the program will bring the young generation ready for their career for life by learning the communicative negotiation process to build a long-lasting trust through learning working with the 5 to 10 years older generation, which makes them think of their future scenario planning. For corporate employees, they tend to lose sight of the career goal after working for 5 to 10 years and thus need reorientation in their career. They are also struggling in communication with different generations within the company as younger generations become populated in the workplace. This program offers them opportunities to reflect back their career through meta-cognition by sharing with students the experiences of successes and mistakes in life as well as values gained by such experiences. At the same time, both company employees and students have opportunities to acquire better communication skills that may lead to build and maintain a long-lasting trust.

This program offers opportunities for learning how to build trust through communication, which seems to be the fundamental drive for the lifelong and life-wide education. While elaborating on the intention of the program, this presentation includes the following:

1. Educational Model Explained
2. Negotiation Practicum for Building Trust with Empathy
3. Hands-on & Heads-on Workshop
4. What has been done: Workshop Programs, Artifacts
5. Reflection: Gained Experiences: Pros and Cons
6. Future planning

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