

Problem-Based Learning the Four Core Areas - Core Area of Universal Harmonious Values

Why universal harmonious values ?

1. Values

Values are what people find worth in one's life...principles worthy to follow and apply in one's real life. Always in real context !

What i am saying next may not be agreeable but please bear with me for a few minutes with some explanations why I say this.

Some values are not so right, some even wrong, while other values are more right based on individual's beliefs and experiences.

E.g. Some parents may find they need to cane so that their children follow their instructions and from their experiences of observed results, the children actually followed what they wanted. So they believe in this way, after applying the cane many times they are convinced. And this eventually becomes their family values..."pain is good and right." But of the parents may agree to this to a certain extent because it rhymes with their own experiences on their own children or students too, at times. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't when applying the cane. And yet, some of them may not agree at all on using the cane. Again based on their own beliefs and experiences.

So values, we may say, are principles we apply in life based on our beliefs and experiences.
Likert Assessment scale ...

Can be
"Right

...more right than wrong ...50% right 50% wrong...more wrong than right ...wrong"
.... for researchers' understanding. :~)

2. Harmonious values

A good guide towards learning what are good or right values is that they are harmonious, and that brings peacefulness in life when applied. This harmony and peace are in degree...in intensity & depth - qualitative, and in involving more people - quantitative.

This harmony can be felt inside the learner, and thus subjective, and can also be seen on others when these values are applied on them. Within and without, inside and outside.

For discussion, let's take a very clear one...hatred...it definitely does not bring harmony. People quarrel and fight and kill because of this. So too greed...and other unwholesome states. Let be reminded that greed can be a value held by people. They may think "In order to be rich and wealthy, we must be very greedy and accumulate money BY ALL MEANS ! And we know what happens to people with such thoughts, and from these thoughts, inappropriate thoughts, they apply them frequently in action and speech and at some time eventually they will see they will

get into trouble. The people around them, who they teach and practice greed together to con other people, will eventually fall victims themselves from these very people around them because at the bottom line, for getting more, they have a tendency to con each other too.

So this value based on greed is not harmonious but ultimately divisive, just like any Divisions we may work in. Some may want unity and harmony in their own selfish @ ... unity within the Division, but as we already know and experienced, it does not work well.

The harmonious values are still not good enough if they are restricted because restrictions means limited value. That brings us to the last word on the 4th core area in PBL4C. Last but not the least, in fact the most important area..

3. Universal Harmonious Values

Unity is a good value if it is harmonious. Unity is not a good value if it is not harmonious e.g. unity among a few robbers...the purpose is to rob, in unity. It will obviously not result in harmony but distress.

Courteous harmonious speech is a good value. But applying this only to the people you like but not with other people we do not like is not good enough. It is not universal enough value in practice. In theory it is good but in practice it is not good enough...that's where the learning is still is....for life long.

Let's take another e.g. Unity is a good value. but we found that Unity is a best value if and only if it is universal. This means unity must not be confined to 1 family; 1 community like Chinese, Malay, Indian; 1 country where wars are fought because of this unity which is now called patriotism but in essence it is unity. In recsam we cannot unite only Malaysians, or Thais or women only, or Asians only when teaching Colombo plan participants, etc because they do not work. It will not be holistic harmony. This wholism forms the framework of universalism... It goes beyond color, gender, beliefs, parties, nationalism, patriotism, families, ...etc....universal.

This forms the thought,

@Selfishness bears its ugly head ultimately. So beware of this egoness...that bears its ugly heads when words like " i, my, mine, myself " arise in our thought will know this without a doubt ! But must start to observe in order to know, inside not outside...but when we look inside, then the outside becomes very clear ...the doubts will disintegrate and disappear...

Sharing an African story:

An anthropologist thought he would test these African children. He placed a bowl of fruit underneath a tree and told them that the first one to reach the tree could have the fruit. When he told the children to run, they all took each others' hands and ran together. They all enjoyed the fruit together.

Sharing an African saying:

If You WANT TO GO FAST,
Go ALONE.

If You WANT
To GO FAR,

go
ToGETHER.

- african proverb

