

Prof. Rex Li's Writings

Category: Psychology

Sub-category: Multiple Intelligences

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Title: Summary and Review of Howard Gardner (2008)
Five Minds for the Future
Preface (xiii - xvii)

Year Written: 2020

Summary/ Abstract: In this paper, Gardner outlines his five minds:

- Disciplined
- Synthesizing
- Creating
- Respectful
- Ethical

Quite a broad conception of the human mind in its application in the contemporary world. Gardner is especially concerned with the respectful and ethical mind.

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Summary and Review of Howard Gardner (2008)

5 Minds for the Future

Preface (xiii - xvii)

xiii (1) 5 minds in summary

- (a) Disciplined
- (b) Synthesizing
- (c) Creating
- (d) Respect difference
- (e) Ethical

R: (1) Respect, but any ground rules / universal values / core values?

(2) Respect is a sub-concept under ethic / morality.

xiv(2) How to test

- (a) Can be assessed by the discipline (quantity and quality)
- (b) Can be assessed (He has examples)
- (c) Can be assessed after the fact (when child changes people's thinking)
- (d) Can be assessed subjectivity
- (e) Can be assessed by principles of a certain role.

xv(3) mind =capacities, perspectives



(thought / action / feeling / behavior by the brain)

R: He's less scholarly here

xvi(4) 5 minds draw on 8½ MI!

R: My paraphrase:

An accomplished poet must have a disciplined and creative mind. He / she draws on disciplined intelligence, coupled with intra-personal Intelligence etc.

xvi(5) Gardner criticized Danish paper (2020) ridiculing Islam (free speech issue). He was challenged.

R: He kept his position:

In an increasingly intimate and increasingly connected world, we need to bend over backwards to make sure that we do not gratuitously insult others, particularly those who have very different standards of religion, customs, publication, or humor. (xvi)

R: (1) Gardner is 'open-minded' – open to accept different standards, values.

(2) The issue:

How to cultivate common ground among extremists (left, right, religious, fanatics, fundamentalists)?

xvii(6) Gardner criticized technology, globalization, consumption (energy – exploiting technologies)

xviii(7) Gardner supports lifelong learning

The future belongs to those organizations, as well as those individuals, that have made an active, lifelong commitment to continue to learn. While the phrase "learning organization" has become virtually a cliché, such entities are still rare and precious (in the sense that even those once on the right track can easily stop learning). Those individuals who can continue to learn and who can help preserve a zest for learning in organizations are at a special premium going forward. (xviii)

xviii(8) He believes disciplined mind can be speed up by computer pedagogy from 10 years to 5

years in a discipline mastery.

xix(9) Nurture respectfulness in children

Even young children are parts of communities - home, school classroom, church – and such young persons can be inculcated into the ideals, attitudes, and behaviors appropriate to their roles within these communities. Indeed, sensitivity to “institutional culture” – the norms of a particular group as manifest in daily operation – is certainly within the ken of the child in the elementary school. (xix)

xix(10) Synthesis, creative, existential intelligence, big questions go together.

I offer the suggestion that powerful synthesizing builds on the candidate intelligence that I have been studying most recently: “existential intelligence,” defined as the “capacity to raise and address the largest question.” And when these questions (and candidate answers) are new ones. Synthesizing blends into creating..... To relate synthesizing to the human search for the widest possible, most existential forms of meaning. (xix, xx)

xx(11) Daniel Pink: *A Whole New Mind*

A Book addressing the same topic with different views. Gardner saw change → ideology
→ isolation → meaning:

I endorse Pink’s discussion of meaning. The faster the changes the weaker the ambient religious and ideological systems, the more isolated the individual, the greater the thirst for meaning. I believe that the newly suggested link between synthesizing, on the one hand, and existential intelligence, on the other, captures Daniel Pink’s interest in meaning. (xx)

xxi(12) Gardner's good work project and meaning.

Through voluntary seminars on the general topic "meaningful work in a meaningful life," my colleagues and I have sought to help students achieve a broader perspective on the decisions that they are making now and the implications of those decisions on their personal and professional lives going forward.

It is way too early to determine the effectiveness of these sessions (for updates, see <http://www.goodworkproject.org>, particularly discussions of the GoodWork toolkit). But I am learning a lot about how young persons are thinking about the future – how their minds are being prepared for the future. This immersion will contribute to my own understanding of the world in which I live. (xxi)

- R:
- (1) Gardner became a popular book writer; this is not scholarly work.
 - (2) Not much to pick for my purpose on education. Apparently he's too hasty putting respect and ethics together for mass consumption.
 - (3) Maybe it is better to have 4 minds (put respect and ethics to gather as one).