Pragmatic Knowledge Generation
- Precursor to Project-based learning & Action research

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Setting the Directions for Adaptive Development: An urgent need in achieving a sustainable Asia-Pacific

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Is knowledge composed of a correct representation of what works in practice?
Thinking skills: Capacity building

VISUAL thinking: Keen observation

Source: http://sdtc.tdt.edu.vn

Source: http://www.mindmapinspiration.com
Self Traits

Thinking steps: Teeny move big decision

1. Observe the data collected and identify the main issue
2. Focus on data which relates to main issue
3. Interpret data and transform into information
4. Form beliefs
5. Draw conclusions
6. Estimate consequences
7. Make assumptions
8. Take action
9. Set goals

Source: http://www.cct.umb.edu
Pragmatism

Pragmatism asks its usual question(s)

– What concrete difference will its being true make in anyone's actual life?
– How will the truth be realized?
– What experiences will be different from those which would obtain if the belief were false?
– What is the truth's cash-value in experiential terms?

“Grant an idea or believe to be true”

Source: http://cfpm.org (Dewey, 1907)

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Acting and knowing

- if pragmatism can advance collaborative research and methodology?

Adapted: Friedrichs and Kratochwi (2009)
Pragmatic approach

• Recognition of knowledge generation as a social and discursive activity
• Orientation of research towards the generation of useful knowledge

Knowledge revolution

A fundamental change from adding value by producing things (which is ultimately limited), to adding value by creating and using knowledge (which can grow indefinitely).

*Ability to create, access and use knowledge is fundamental determinant of global competitiveness*
## Knowledge revolution

**Elements of “Knowledge Revolution”**

- Increased codification of knowledge and development of new technologies
- Closer links with science base/increased rate of innovation/shorter product life cycles
- Increased importance of education & up-skilling and life-long learning
- Investment in intangibles (R&D, education) greater than in fixed capital

Adapted: World Bank Institute

## Knowledge revolution

#### ....elements of “Knowledge Revolution”

- Greater value addition such as branding, marketing, distribution, information management
- Important to competitiveness (innovation and productivity)
- Increased globalization and competition

Adapted: World Bank Institute
Necessities

• process - not a linear process from research to market
• source - key role of clients’ needs, suppliers’ ideas, etc.
• technology - its use which matters; a technical culture
• innovator - not an individual, but a group of people with complementary functions
• Government’s role is crucial

Innovation agenda

• Good institutional and incentive regime
• Capable public sector (sense of mission, public-private entrepreneurship)
• Good but small innovation programs
• Emerging sense of urgency
Nurturing innovation

- **Watering** (finance and other supports)
- **Removing weeds** (competition, deregulation)
- **Substratum** (research, education, information)

Steps a-head

- developing pragmatic innovation agenda
- from good programs to coherent innovation and enterprise upgrading system;
- instituting ‘new industrial policy’ as a process of discovery
- shared vision as innovation-based economy

Adapted: World Bank Institute
Examples

Take home message

I keep six honest serving-men:
Their names are WHAT and WHERE and WHEN
and HOW and WHY and WHO

- Rudyard Kipling