

The Best of Global Learning

Celebrating the real work of development education and awareness raising

DEEEP final conference
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WRITTEN REPORT

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THE METHODOLOGY – The Appreciative Inquiry

The objective of the conference was to create a collective learning space for harvesting the best of Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR), based on practitioners' experiences.

The methodology used was Appreciative Inquiry (AI).

AI is a co-evolutionary search for the best in people, their organizations, and the relevant world around them. In its broadest focus, it involves systematic discovery of what gives "life" to a living system when it is most alive, most effective, and most constructively capable in economic, ecological, and human terms. AI involves, in a central way, the art and practice of asking questions that strengthen a system's capacity to apprehend, anticipate, and heighten positive potential.

(source: [Appreciative Inquiry Commons](#))

DISCOVERY - Learning from the best in the past

The participants were invited to reflect back on their experience: what was the most effective educational project/campaign they were ever part of that truly made an impact towards global justice? Sharing their stories in pairs, they identified the key factors/ingredients; as well as how that experience changed or reinforced their own approach to global learning.

Connecting with another pair, groups of four participants then shared the key insights from their stories. All the key factors were brought together on a common wall; clustered to reveal shared meaning. Here is an overview (other ways of clustering are of course also possible!):



- Strong emphasis on decolonization of our minds!
 - Unlearning – breaking the bubble of stereotypes etc. - deconstruction in order to learn, especially with adults!
 - About true meaning of development
 - Where is cognitive dissonance in ourselves and in our organizations?
 - Aware of euro-centrism; aware of own attitudes, aware of own ego
 - Aware that learning is a long-term process
- And importance of personal passion, beyond professional role or project
 - Driven by inspiration, indignation, harvest rage into action
- Be open to the unexpected
 - Think big and outside of the box
 - Take risks, get out of your comfort zone, do things differently
 - Discovery of the unknown, see the invisible
 - Create spaces of love, acceptance – and laugh!
- Ownership inspires and creates action
 - Learning happens in the direct action
 - Finding the right access point to achieve change
 - Importance of emotion-reflection-action (Paulo Freire)
- Act local, think global
 - Start with real practice and small alternatives
 - Local topic is part of the bigger, global issue – is empowering
- Work inter-, cross-, multi-sector
 - Interconnected grass-root initiatives
 - Multi-sector mobilization
 - Intersectional feminist leadership
 - Common issue across different countries

DREAM - What is the world calling for?

After sharing their wildest dreams of how their collective work - across sectors and boundaries - contributes to global justice, participants were asked to craft powerful questions that can lead towards the desire future.

The following inspiring, daring and provocative questions emerged from World-Café-style conversations in groups of four:



- How do we spread consciousness for:

- systemic change
- global justice
- global citizenship
- decolonisation ...

...not among the 'converted' but to the other NGO's and citizens ...

... and then convert that consciousness to

- willpower
- action
- IMPACT?

- Is it possible to change values?

- How do we engage with all those who do not care about global justice?

- How can we achieve global change if we are stuck in an inter-national system:

- economy
- politics
- identity
- lack of democracy?

- How to secure the integrity and the purpose of 'our mandate' without blowing up the process?

- What are the concrete changes needed? What are we waiting for? How do we find a keep on radical edge when we have our project 'day jobs'?

- What are the local expressions of global justice?

- How clear is the role of different stakeholders in driving social change?

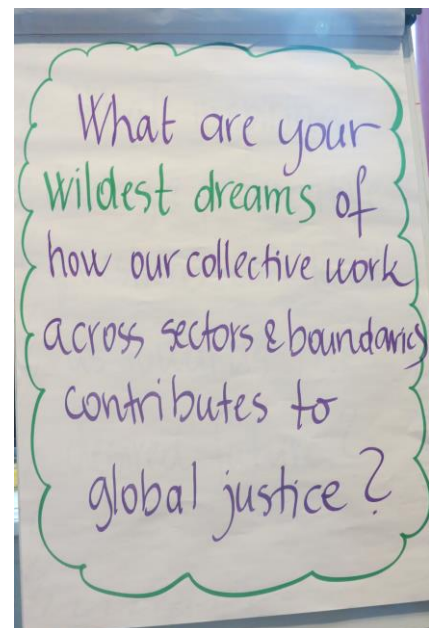
- How to work coherently with systemic change for the change that is needed?

- How to facilitate & co/ordinate the work of different actors?

- Are we effectively working together – Global North and Global South? Are we assuming that we know everything about the world issues?

- Whom do we never ask (and listen to) what they think the world needs (to achieve global justice)?

- How to overcome topics in order to reconnect with people and their realities?



- How do we break the strong-hold of lazy liberals & build solidarities against lonely struggles?
- Is global justice even possible? Even if it's not possible, would it still be relevant? Desirable? Why? What does it mean to us?
- Where is the delete button of greed and growth?
- How can all citizens of the world live together the way everybody wants without imposing values/beliefs on each other?
- What if all humans are citizens from birth with the right to live wherever they please?
- To what extent and how do we get out of our comfort zone (and what we need to do that), and compromise personal interest in order to contribute to social justice?
- Who am I?

DESIGN – Exploring innovative ways to co-create desired future

In an Open Space format, participants were invited to raise and discuss topics and questions that could take their engagement to a next level. The following topics were called (for greater legibility, key insights and contact persons from most of these sessions are scanned and shared in a separate document):

- How to turn teachers to agents of change? (Sanna)
- How can we transform the fear of refugees into an opportunity to connect with each other? (Inka)
- How could the Barefoot Guide Alliance better connect local places with global challenges and initiatives? (Christina / Charlotte)
- Bridge 47 – under construction (Rilli)
- Triple C (Complementary Community Currency) – playing with money to actually challenge the system (Claire)
- The power of the narrative of humanity: citizenship of humanity; governance of humanity; community of humanity (Alexandre)
- Where does spirituality (even concepts of 'the divine') fit in our work? (Martin)
- How can we oppose to the status quo and ensure checks and balances to those in power?
- Global citizenship education strategy for EU – yes or no? (Mari)



- Are the global goals a useful global learning tool & if so, how can we use them? (Tom)
- How can we catalyze and strengthen (intersectional) diverse feminist leadership? (Joanna, Biraj & Sophie)
- Looking for sharing inspiration on innovating education (Adela)
- Buen Vivir and other cosmologies of transformation – change the story (Bayo, Marta and Manish)

