

## Fancy Geometry??

Written by Klaas  
Monday, 16 January 2012 18:59

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◆ <p><strong>◆◆ <span style="text-decoration: underline;"><span style="background-color: #fdada5;">Our education sector has much in common with the ANC and it's 100 year bash:</span></span></strong> Desperately poor planning, a huge waste of money and◆unimaginative excuses for non-performance. When new Education Minister Nzimande◆blurted out that 8 Billion Rand (a◆stack of 100 Rand notes with a height of 9 km!) of public education funds had been wasted recently - the words corruption, foolishness and greed◆were not mentioned by him -◆nobody was surprised, except maybe at his bravery.◆◆But there is another reason for our plight which is◆less obvious...</p> <p>◆</p> <p>◆◆◆Education has been deemed <strong>'in crisis'</strong> because◆the◆50% (officially 25%) unemployment◆ has been linked to terrible◆matric results particularly in the technology-related subjects.◆There is an assumption that good maths and good science results would◆greatly reduce unemployment.◆</p> <p>◆</p> <p><strong><span style="background-color: #ffff99;">Good education achieves any or all of the following objectives: </span></strong></p> <p><strong><span style="background-color: #ffff99;"><span style="background-color: #ffff99;">1. Provision of a <em>safe environment</em> for young people.</span></span></strong></p> <p><strong><span style="background-color: #ffff99;">2. <em>Competence</em> to do things. </span></strong></p> <p><strong><span style="background-color: #ffff99;">3. Acquisition of a <em>useful attitude/mindset</em>.◆</span></strong><strong><span style="background-color: #ffff99;">◆</span></strong></p> <p><strong><span style="background-color: #ffff99;">4. Learning a <em>useful</em> <em>sense of self</em>.◆</span></strong></p> <p><strong><span style="background-color: #ffff99;">5.◆Membership of the old-boy network◆with a <em>background◆of known quality</em>.</span></strong></p> <p><strong><span style="background-color: #ffff99;">◆</span></strong>◆</p> <p>Anyone can have their own ranking, but I believe Number◆3 is key, probably in conjunction with Number 4, rather than Number◆2 on its own. Because competence is useless if combined with a poor work ethic or destructive personality, while incompetence can always be rectified with learning, given the will to learn.</p> <p>◆</p> <p style="text-align: left;"><span style="background-color: #fbcaba;"><span style="background-color: #b0effb;">Discussion of a useful◆attitude/mindset is probably only advisable once everybody wears assault </span><span style="background-color: #ffffff;">protective gear and/or remembers that 'beauty is in the eye of the beholder'.◆Attitude/mindset may be influenced by cultural values, group thinking, competitiveness of the environment, personal quirks,.... - but in the National Interest surely◆◆◆◆◆</span></span></p> <p style="text-align: left;"><span style="background-color: #fbcaba;"><span style="background-color: #ffffff;"><strong>good work ethi</strong></span></span><span style="background-color: #fbcaba;"><span style="background-color: #ffffff;"><strong>c,◆◆◆◆◆</strong></span></span></p> <p style="text-align: left;"><span style="background-color: #fbcaba;"><span style="background-color: #ffffff;"><strong>willingness to learn </strong>(even the famous 'enquiring mind')◆◆◆◆◆</span></span></p> <p style="text-align: left;"><span style="background-color: #fbcaba;"><span style="background-color: #ffffff;">and <strong>positive social awareness</strong>◆◆◆ stand out.</span></span></p> <p>◆</p> <p><span style="background-color: #ccffff;"><span style="background-color: #ffffff;"><span style="background-color: #95f192;">How to go about achieving this admirable mindset? Well it helps to take cognizance of a few parameters.◆◆</span> </span></span></p> <p><span style="background-color: #ffffff;"><span style="text-decoration: underline;">Firstly</span>, by

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age 2 years, personality seems to be largely set, broadly, into

the more common Type B (lifestyle orientated)

or the less common Type A achievement orientated, neurotic

and depends upon genetics, family and environment happenings.

Secondly, Types B and A need different stimuli to perform.

Thirdly, the focus of a person's energy depends upon the information available to that person. A very admirable mindset may turn to crime, drugs or emigration if there is a perception that it is futile to hope for a desired career.

Interestingly enough, and this will discomfort some readers, traditional mass education systems have purposefully beavered away at Number 4 above - learning a useful sense of self - to perpetuate the existing order:

By teaching mathematics at a level which ensures that 80 out of 100 pupils abhor the subject (and none of them ever need Algebra or fancy Geometry in everyday life or at work), a useful inferiority complex with respect to technology and much respect for the 'more intelligent' academics was achieved. Result: Winning MATERIALISM and GLOBALISATION! And winning big companies and technology countries!

Strangely, South Africa has chosen to go the same route, to a ridiculous extent, by getting 50% of all learners to write a university entrance exam (our matric) when there are only university places for ~13% of all learners (in Germany, 30% of all learners write matric and 27% of all learners can go to university). Failure by Design.

Thus the Recipe for Education has the following ingredients:

- No corruption.
- 11 and 13 year school leaver diplomas.
- Well-paid teachers.
- Different Teaching Methodologies for Type B and A personalities targetting an admirable mindset.
- History, culture and sport content which support a good sense of self.
- And a political leadership which gives hope for the future and inspires teachers, learners and parents to perform. Because unemployment will drop drastically if company taxation seriously advantages local

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lekker',</strong>◆if import◆regulation◆advantages locally made goods, if more than half the police is clean and stops crime, if the state president and his power brokers demonstrate a social conscience.◆</p> <p>◆◆</p> <p>◆◆◆◆ <span style="background-color: #a6fb9c;">Of course, it is highly unlikely that the ANC will implement any worthwhile changes -</span> judging◆by their actions and utterances the only point on any agenda is their internal power struggle. And one doesn't really want to bankrupt South African Airways by voting them out.◆◆◆◆◆◆◆</p> <p>◆◆◆◆◆ Maybe the only hope is the emergence of a new party, like the ruling Workers' Party in Brazil, founded ◆in a meeting of the minds between trade unionists, socialist church intellectuals and left wing intellectuals. When Lula da Silva, a trained machinist, departed as the country's president after 8 years, his approval rating was a phenomenal 83%.◆Inspiring stuff.</p> <p>◆◆◆◆◆◆◆And don't forget our hole card: We've got resources◆everybody needs.</p> <p>~Letter to The Star, Mail◆& Guardian in Jan 2012</p> <p>◆</p>