

**“Fostering  
positive attitudes  
to  
meet challenges  
in Higher Education”**

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SLAIHEE - SDC

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# What I will talk about on: Attitudes

- Student.....parent....teacher....employer
  - Time course..changes
- -ve to +ve: Changing – one / all of the above
  - HE example: training.....& development....life
- A bit more
  - EFFECTS - some attitudes: Teachers – Admin ...
  - You – some changes,
    - + what are we doing and what can we do
  - who is the cog in the wheel..the hindrance
  - Changing them / us – training.....& development
  - A simple tool - The serenity prayer

# The 3 Domains of Learning

- K..... - 1
- S..... - 2
- A..... - 3

Attitude is the way you mentally look at the world around you. It is how you view your environment and your future. It is the focus you develop toward life itself.

Anywhere is paradise; it's up to you.

No life is so hard that you can't make it easier by the way you take it.

"The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot..." [or: are you?]

# Attitudes on HE – what can they be ?

- HE Student.....
- Parent....
- Teacher....
- Employer...Public
  - At Start ..... At end: *Time course..changes: yes*

A case - an example - *change in attitudes....life...*

- Unemployable Sri Lankan graduates
  - Humanities
  - early-mid 1990's
  - What will you do....? What can you do?

# EFFECTS – of some attitudes

1. HE Teachers
2. HE Managers ...Admin ...
3. HE Students

# HE Teachers;

1. If the student cannot learn what I teach, then s/he should not be there in class.
1. What I teach is so interesting, students should have no problem in learning it.
1. They are 'rubbish' students; they cannot learn what I teach.....
2. What is important is not (only) 'what' is taught, but also 'how' it is taught.
2. What is more important is what the student does, rather than what I do
2. I ask myself, is the learnt content or the learning process more important

Negative Attitudes – of;

HE Teachers;

Effect on their students;

- Inattentive.....absence..... leaving

HE Managers ...Admin ...

Effect on their subordinates;

- Hide.....Ineffective.....transfer request.....  
.....leaving....credibility loss... downfall

# YOU as HE Teachers;

- some changes,
  - ..... attitudes
  - + what are we doing and what can we do
  - How can these changes be brought about... Fostering .....
  - through “constructivist” approaches..



# Critical Incidents to YOU\*\*

- “all teachers want to make a difference.”
  - Sure they do!
- But that’s not why they are paid for
  - They are expected (& paid) to actually make that difference
- ..the CTHE.... + Multi-level SDC changes
- Also - if **attitude/s (whose?)** do NOT allow you to take up new practices.... then....the path to follow!

# Concepts ↔ attitudes..methods

## – changes YOU have made with CTHE

| Type of conceptual change  | Type of transformation & Integration  | YOUR attitudes | YOUR STUDENTS + learning   |
|--|---|----------------|--|
| <b>1 Basic</b>   | ‘ <u>from discipline</u> - everyday personal classroom experiences - transformed through integration with ideas - Critical Incidents to YOU** |                |  |
| <b>2 Discipline</b>  | <u>other subject discipline</u> ideas integrated and transformed through acquisition of <u>theoretical perspective</u> .                      |                |  |
| <b>3 Procedural</b><br>(how are models of teaching methods ‘constructed’ to your discipline, evaluated used) | Ability to construct <u>discipline</u> specific narratives and arguments transformed through acquisition of <b>ways of practising</b> .       |                | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">from Carey (1991)</div> |

# What your attitude change have brought about;

- **A conceptual change... in attitudes...**
  - for using new methods in teaching....
- **Teaching for Learning – through its *Repositioning***
- **Establishing 'systems' & 'processes'**
  - Sustaining your own changes beyond....
- **With attitudes..such as:**

# Some +ve beneficial 'attitudes'

- **Optimism** - an attitude of +ve expectancy. An optimist operates assuming that whatever challenges will eventually result in favorable consequences
- **Enthusiasm** - a sense of intense, purposeful passion inspiring to cultivate your abilities, to move forward despite obstacles placed in your way
- **Kindness** - a desire to help others without any evident promise of reward. Also benefits giver - removes your attention from worry and places it on how you can positively affect the world around you; repairs injury & removes contradictory emotions like hate, contempt and resentment.

# Attitudes needed ? - for fostering change

- Crisis in HE ? – yes, of course
- Crisis in HE Boardrooms? – should that be so?
- What ails HE?
  - what attitudes are needed -for development?.....
  - Changes to be fostered in..... several stakeholders
- Do you think +ve changes are held back by;
  - 1.Management & Admin
  - 2.Lecturers
  - 3.Students.....

In at the deep end – starting to  
teach in higher education

UgTM Book: From a student to a professional educator



Scholarly Defense....!

Teaching Vs Board rooms  
Training Vs Development

Click to **LOOK INSIDE!**

**The Fish rots from the head**

The crisis in our boardrooms:  
Developing the crucial skills of  
the competent director

Bob Garratt



Positive Attitudes  
..... Development..

Tomorrow's Leaders  
.... A better tomorrow  
& for our HE

## Convert Negative to Positive Attitudes

- STEP 1 - list - the negatives happening in life
- STEP 2 - assess how you feel about them
- STEP 3 - check & sort – items that you can be changes & irreversible items (+a critical friend)
- STEP 4 - let go of irreversible items (bale out)
- STEP 5 -. make a strategic plan on how to turn the negative things around (that you can still change)
- STEP 6 – make a proactive ‘tasks’ list
- STEP 7 - time-line & do...down to ‘daily tasks’



# Change....!

## The Serenity Prayer

(God) grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change;  
the courage to change the things I can;  
and wisdom to know the difference.

- Reinhold Niebuhr (theologian - in the 1930s/40s)

Thank you  
&  
Good Luck