

RP Pedagogy

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The reality demands, for the
betterment of all ...

- that individuals reason, negotiate, share knowledge, form considered opinions, defend one's position, show respect and tolerance to others, etc;
- that application of knowledge is within a value system;
- that individuals have process skills of intellectual engagement to achieve meaningful outcomes through teamwork and collaboration ...

We want our students to become ...

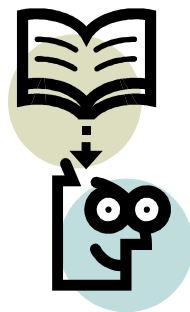
- We want to make our students knowledgeable.
- We have to make them inquirers and thinkers.
- We are quite certain that they wouldn't succeed unless they are open-minded risk-takers.
- They need to become good communicators too.
- We wouldn't be happy if they do not turn out to be caring and tolerant individuals with a balanced outlook and good values.
- ...

A thing to keep in mind

- We do not know any of our student's future workplaces in detail. We can only guess the general nature of a future workplace.
- We shall not expect our students to be called upon to recall facts and repeat the procedures that we currently have in our curriculum. Yet we know that they will be expected to make good decisions and asked to deliver whatever the situation demands.
- We need to learn-enable our students.

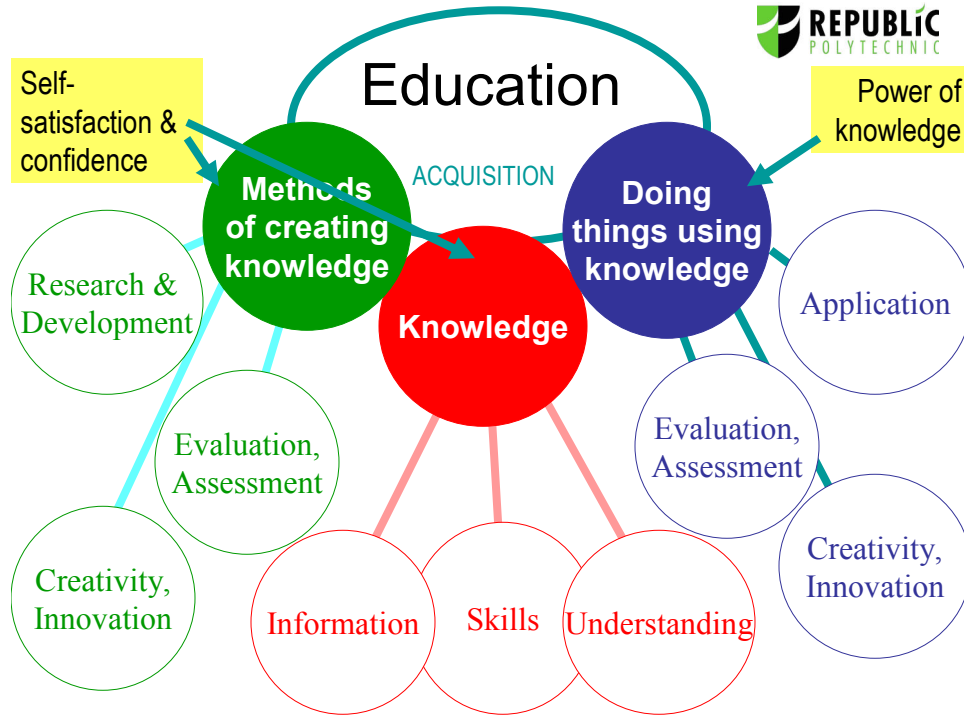
Education is easy for
those who do not know,
but very difficult for those
who know.

- Paraphrased from Edgar Degas



Education is not the filling of a
pail, but the lighting of a fire.

- William Butler Yeats



Our Guiding Ideals:

- Formal education is to organize the minds of students.
- Mental advancement is always by resonance with what one knows, but occurs only when some cognitive dissonance is resolved.
- Learning is a dynamic social process.
- Much needed broad-based integrated learning happens due to institutional cultural features.
- Curriculum is something that runs a course, not a list of topics to cover.
- Knowledge is deeply humanistic and contextual, and can be meaningful only within a value system.
- Grades need to have a long term meaning.
- Students should be assessed on the basis of corroborated evidence, not from one data point.

We have implemented an education strategy that makes students

- » evaluate a given scenario,
- » identify, search & gather relevant information,
 - » work in teams,
 - » reason & justify to form opinions,
 - » apply diverse tools,
 - » communicate,
- » convince others and get convinced by others,
 - » reflect on the learning.

This is where PBL is.

One-Day One-Problem

- Learning driven by a problem-trigger given in the morning (one problem per day) and by scaffold-guided exploratory processes through the day.
- Maximum 25 students per class.
- A facilitator assigned for the day for each class.
- Students work in teams of max size 5.
- Three meetings a day, and the third meeting is for team presentations followed by a special presentation by a the facilitator.
- The day ends with a quiz and a written reflection by each student.

Holistic assessment

- Module grade is derived from 16 daily-grades and 4 understanding tests
- Daily grade is awarded based on contributions to the team response to the problem, effectiveness of the debate and defence of one's position, the reflection journal, assessment by the peers etc.
- Understanding tests are to measure the depth of understanding manifested in the personal response to a set of tasks.

Balanced Curriculum

- Structure for all diploma programmes
 - A three-layered curricular framework
 - Ten common modules to all RP diploma students, strongly addressing general education needs
 - Discipline based modules (4~8)
 - Specialisation modules (4~8)
 - Two projects (one semester long each)
 - Two special modules
 - creative engagement
 - professional profiling

Centres and Schools at RP

- Schools focus on specific discipline areas
 - Applied Science
 - Engineering
 - Infocomm Technology
 - Technology for the Arts
 - Sports, Health & Leisure
- Centres have a curricular and a community mission
 - Culture and Communication
 - Educational Development
 - Innovation and Enterprise
 - Science and Mathematics

We take advantage of technology

- Wireless campus with free Internet access
- Library operated by NLB
- Campus-wide online platform for all learning activities and assessment
- All students and staff carry notebook computers
- All classrooms are equipped with projectors