“The Interpersonal Relationship in the Facilitation of Learning”

Carl R. Rogers

A reading overview by
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…It is in fact nothing short of a miracle that the modern methods of instruction have not yet entirely strangled the holy curiosity of inquiry; for this delicate little plant, aside from stimulation, stands mainly in need of freedom; without this it goes to wrack and ruin without fail--Albert Einstein
Freedom of the Person

• "Humanistic psychology developed from a reaction to Behaviorism" (Elias & Merriam)
"Teaching, in my estimation, is a vastly overrated function"

- It raises all the wrong questions
- It must assume that what is taught is what is learned
- It only makes sense in an unchanging environment
Facilitation of change and learning

"The only man who is educated is the man who has learned how to learn; the man who has learned how to adapt and change"
...Reliance on process rather than upon static knowledge, is the only thing that makes sense..."

"Advancing an individual's personal control and autonomy [through] the capacity to think critically, included in which is the recognition that all knowledge and value systems are culturally constructed." (Elias & Merriam)
"Interaction with others is essential ... The growth of self does not occur in isolation from others"  (Elias & Merriam)

- Pestalozzi
- Group work
"I see the facilitation of learning as the function which may hold constructive, tentative, changing, process answers to some of the deepest perplexities which beset man today" (92).

- Humanist Manifesto I... (Elias & Merriam, 117-123)
"When I have been able to transform a group--and here I mean all the members of a group, myself included--into a community of learners, then the excitement has been almost beyond belief. To free curiosity; to permit individuals to go charging off in new directions dictated by their own interests...here is an experience I can never forget."
A New Approach to Education

"My answer is that we possess a very considerable knowledge of the conditions which encourage self-initiated, significant, experiential, "gut-level" learning by the whole person" (92)

- Rousseau
- Maslow's characteristics of a self-actualized person
The initiation of such learning...

Is not about

• A teacher's knowledge
• Curricular planning
• AV aids
• Lectures or presentations
• Books
• . . . though each of these may be important

It is about the personal relationship between the facilitator and learner.
References


References: Images


