Worldmindedness: Taking Off the Blinders

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Abstract

A dynamic web of global interconnectedness has expanded the engagement and political efficacy of citizens in the 21st century. The acceleration of knowledge creation, the dynamics of electronic communication and the resulting availability of global perspectives are changing the nature of public discourse and action. As more and more people gain access to information and interact with individuals and communities across the planet, they acquire new worldminded ways of learning, debating, and creating which in turn expand the scope of civic consciousness and responsibilities beyond national borders. In this article we look at ways in which teachers in Hong Kong, Japan and the United States are preparing young people to become worldminded citizens.

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What is Worldmindedness? Definition of Worldmindedness: A term coined by Merryfield and colleagues (2008) that refers to a person's disposition to think and care about how his or her actions and decisions affect and are affected by other people around the world. Subscribe to the latest research through IGI Global's new InfoSci-OnDemand Plus. InfoSci®-OnDemand Plus, a subscription-based service, provides researchers the ability to access full-text content from over 93,000+ peer-reviewed book chapters and 24,000+ scholarly journal articles covering 11 core subjects. Users can select articles or chapters that meet their interests and gain access to the full content permanently in their personal online InfoSci-OnDemand Plus library. Subscribe. Will they take off the blinders of ethnocentrism or ignorance and. see the entire world? Will they learn from other cultures and care about the rest of the. planet? In this article we examine the theory and practice of developing worldminded. citizens and define worldmindedness according to Lawthong (2003): 1. Acceptance of different cultures: The appreciation and awareness of the values. and issues of other cultures and communication with people of different. concerned with worldmindedness. In general, global issues (1) are significant and. enduring challenges that affect the lives of persons in many parts of the world, (2).