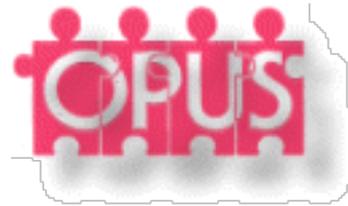


AN ORGANISATION FOR PROMOTING UNDERSTANDING OF SOCIETY (OPUS)

Estonia and the World at the Dawn of 2015 Report of a New Year's Listening Post



Encouraging The Reflective Citizen

Part 1. THE SHARING OF PREOCCUPATIONS AND EXPERIENCES.

In this part of the Listening Post participants were invited to identify, contribute, and explore their experience in their various social roles, be those in work, unemployed, or retired; as members of religious, political, neighbourhood or voluntary or leisure organisations, or as members of families and communities. This part was largely concerned with what might be called, 'the stuff of people's everyday lives', that relating to the 'socio' or 'external' world of participants.

The participants were feeling good and the confidential atmosphere of the discussion was thought to be important. One of the participants said that 'it feels liberating to speak about things that have really lingered on [their] mind, when nowadays it's all about being careful what you say'. They have been a part of LP discussions three times.

Part 2. IDENTIFICATION OF MAJOR THEMES

Analysis and Hypothesis

Themes 1. Simultaneous nature of different realities. The unconscious state of being greatly affects one's action.

Analysis

One participant told that they have trouble falling asleep at night, which is causing them problems at work in daytime. Their head aches and their mood is not good. They take medicine, but it isn't the best way to solve it. They have a lot of work due to the concept of the firm – customers are being served, even at night-time, depending when the clients have time. They work as a driving instructor.

A participant told that a 16-year old boy wanted to move out of the house to live with his girlfriend. The girlfriend's parents are divorced, mother moved to America and father to St.Petersburg. They both have new significant others. The 16-year old girl has the whole house for her that she is unable to sustain. Therefore both children eat and sleep at the boy's parents and go to school from there. They believe that they wish to become more independent, but the reality is that they still

proses the desire of affection and being taken care for.

Hypothesis

Humans have basic needs and a natural tempo to take care of one's affairs. In the different stages of development people have different needs. If the pressures of the environment become too big to handle, one often forgets to take care of these subjective needs and instead takes action to the direction of the environment's demands. In a conscious level things are proceeding, working is good, but the subjective, unconscious level still reminds one, in its own 'language', of one's basic needs that have been disregarded. Language of the unconsciousness can be seen as illnesses, like the aching of a stomach or another part of the body.

Themes 2. Description of the Experiential feeling – as if there's a wall in front of me

Analysis

The participants were talking about a strange feeling that they experience. Something is missing – the feeling. On the other hand, they own products and are well-maintained, but it still doesn't make them feel whole. Plenty of products exist in the market that they can buy with money that they have, but the good feeling the purchase evokes is only temporary. After that, the yearn for a good feeling comes back. Nothing is enough. The experiences and phenomena that used to exhilarate, now feel ordinary. Physical action doesn't feel as exciting as it used to. There are many changes in the workplace. Everything is constantly changing. Co-workers change. There was a lot of talk about the inability to express one's true opinion in their workplace, which feels frustrating.

Hypotheses

Humankind is before a great and indispensable change. Evolution has brought the human into a state in which the 'old way' simply isn't possible anymore. One must find a new direction, a new way of coexisting in order to not perish. However, change should first happen in the individual's personal level of thought, understanding and action. After that it is possible in communities and larger systems. This kind of change is difficult to carry out as it is hard for the human to redirect their thinking and actions. That process can be impossible for some.

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