



An Organisation for Promoting
Understanding of Society

LISTENING POST

Turkey at the Dawn of 2019

PART 1: THE SHARING OF PREOCCUPATIONS AND EXPERIENCES

In this part, the Listening Post participants were invited to identify, contribute, and explore their experiences in their various social roles, be they: in work, unemployed or retired; as members of religious, political, neighbourhood, 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': the 'socio' or 'external' world of participants.

PART 2: IDENTIFICATION OF MAJOR THEMES

In Part 2, the aim collectively was to identify the major themes emerging from Part 1.

Theme 1: Rise of disruption

We live in an age of disruption. Refugee crisis, climate change, economic inequalities, technology dependency, youth unemployment, terrorism, Erdogan, Trump, Putin. Polarisation, political-spiritual-ecological splitting, convinces us that the rate of disruption will continue to go up, not down. If we cannot control exterior disruption, what, if anything, can we control? As citizens, what are our roles, how do we show up and what is the future of our societies and how and what we can shape or really control? 'While the exterior disruption in any fields feels to me uncontrollable, as an individual, as a person I ask to myself, Heeyyyy you, who are you, what are you doing in this world, what is your purpose here....When I feel lost and when I feel myself depressed, then I try to control my inner voice and step back from societies madness and take care and listen to my inner response.' 'I feel frozen and I feel stuck from repeating patterns around me. In march we have local elections. I don't want to vote. Same dynamics around me. Splitting, polarisation, enemy creations, us versus them, ideology splitting, national security problem and exc. No one touches the deeper level of the problem. I lose my intention to vote, I lose my believe to political effectiveness. I lose my meaning to my work. Maybe the problem is in us, in our interior design. We must begin with ourselves. We must repair ourselves. As a citizen, as a person with political identity, as a father, I don't want to be stuck in

one identity, identity that is pushed on me from outer world. I want to be who I am, I want to be comfortable with all my different identities. Feeling of being stuck in between outer and inner responses, reminds me Leonard Cohen's song; There is a crack in everything that's how the light gets in. That's how I see myself; letting go the old and the dying parts, letting come the new and the living parts...(deep silence)

Theme 2: The state of disconnecting from others and ourselves; destruction of others and destruction of ourselves

Societies system is broken. Stuckness is the common situation that participants shared. Stuck is one truth, stuck in one collective skin. While societies 'social and civil' level is open for differences and plurality, societies 'governance system, finance system, education system' is not able to hear and sense this and continue to act on the same old way. Instead of building a bridge, building a wall that separates us from them is the common interest of the 'stuck closed system (governance, politics, bureaucracy, education, finance...). Disconnecting from others, disconnecting from ourselves results with destruction of others and destruction of ourselves. ' We need to stop and look at the mirror. What is happening with us, what is happening inside us? How we become like that? What we forget and what we still remember? What if everything that is happening outside is reflection what is happening inside us? We need to look at the mirror again and again and again, individual mirrors and collective mirrors.' 'Political process is disconnected from the real needs of citizens. We need to reconnect our closed political process to real needs of communities. But how? Disconnection between self and nature, disconnecting between self and other, disconnection between self and self.'

Theme 3: Youth and education in minds; aimless, desperate, technology dependent youth and old era education system

Many of the participants share their experiences relating new era youth. Generational differences make difficulties of understanding each other. Youth in minds are associated with shared loneliness and no holding spaces in between families and children, school and students, youth and youth. Schools are unable to meet the needs of the children. 'It is not possible to be local, national without being a global. Unfortunately, rapidly changing educational system is not able to meet the needs of 21st century. Schools are based on scores, tests, competition but real life is based on social and emotional learning and internalizing. I am worried about my child while I am witnessing her loneliness, loneliness that she is not aware of. After school hours, she is mainly chatting with her social media friends. No face to face interaction, no place for sports, no place for plays...I am comparing with my childhood and school years. We were playing outdoor games with our friends; we like to discover the nature. My daughter doesn't want to go the wild, she is scared. She prefers to share time at Mall's instead of nature and wilderness. As a parent I am very worried about that. I see that all her friends are in the same situation. As a parents we need to think on that. 'I have a son who is an engineer. He didn't find a job after he finished school. And now he is sitting at

home. Many times, he tried to find a job in his profession. He lost his believe to education and to be educated person. He said that for employers it is not important what are your talents, what are you good at, what you want to do, the only important thing is how less money they can paid to you. He experiences conflict between his own value system and value system of the workplaces and employers. He wants to go and work abroad.' 'What we need is helping students, youths to manage their emotion, develop empathy with them and build new relationships.' 'I become aware of that for young people it is not easy to find a meaning in this disruptive context. Many of them are using drugs. Bonzai is very common in-between teenagers. Alcohol dependency also. Social media is a way to escape from their deepest loneliness and a kind of connectedness where they felt accepted and valued. Video games and computer games are new kind of addictions. Also as I know in the past fifty years, suicide rates have increased by %55-60 percent worldwide and it is a second leading cause of death after accidents. We need to take care not only to math scores and competition between their friends, but also for their emotional, psychological and social wellbeing.'

PART 3: ANALYSIS AND HYPOTHESIS FORMATION

In Part 3, the participants were working with the information resulting from Parts 1 & 2, with a view to collectively identifying the underlying dynamics both conscious and unconscious that may be predominant at the time; and developing hypotheses as to why they might be occurring at that moment. Here, participants were working more with what might be called their 'psycho' or 'internal' world: their collective ideas and ways of thinking that both determine how they perceive the external realities and shape their actions towards them.

Analysis and Hypothesis 1.

Feeling stuck and frozen; looking deeply to the spiritual, social, political crack and searching for a light that gets in (there is a crack in everything that's how the light gets in, L. Cohen song); letting go of the old and letting come of the new, death and life side by side; rethinking, re-sensing, reshaping the inner source vs. outer; systems (governance, politics, education, finance) unable to perform his function; searching for a new kind of leadership that is able to activate inner sources When we look at ourselves in the light of these shared thoughts and experiences, we recognized that as a group main feelings that we are surrounded are feeling of boredom, stuckness and frozenness from the repeating patterns into the society. This feeling of boredom opens a space for reflecting and searching for an inner space, inner source where spiritual self wants to emerge. Leonard Cohen's song acts as a metaphor for that inner space: ' there is a crack in everything and that's how the light gets in.'. We are surrounded by disruptive dynamics, by death instincts, but where is the light, where is the life that is emerging at the same time from inside the crack side by side. Can we open space for letting go of the old, of disruptive dynamics that doesn't serve to us anymore and open space for letting come to the new, to the constructive side of life. What is my place in creating that? This shift was very obvious into the group. 'We need to stop and look at the mirror. What is happening with us, what is happening inside us? How we become like that? What we forget and what we still remember? What if everything that is happening outside is reflection what is happening inside us? We need to look at the mirror again and again and again, individual mirrors and collective mirrors.' While old kind of leadership that is based on hierarchy,

on ego, on splitting, on polarisation, on us versus them version is dying, at the same time new kind of leadership which is based on empathy, humanity, eco based, wholeness wants to emerge.

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