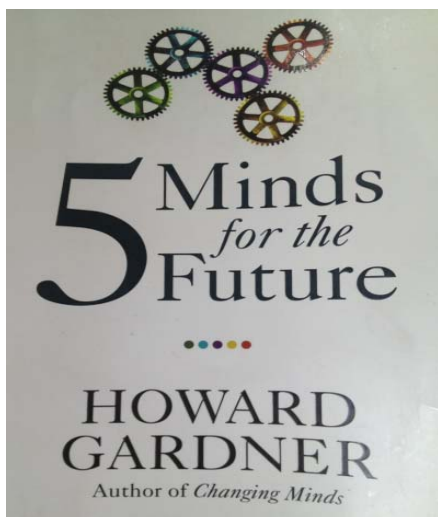


Book Review

Five Minds for the Future

Pattamavadi Lehmongkol, Ph.D.

Faculty of Education, Kasetsart University



In *Five Minds for the future*, well known author Howard Gardner shows how we will each need to master the “five minds” that the fast-paced future will demand. With these minds, as Howard Gardner refers to them; a person will be well equipped to deal what is expected, as well as what cannot be anticipated; without these minds, a person will be at the mercy of forces that he or she can’t understand, let alone control. Gardner describes each mind in the book and explains how it works and how it can be nurtured in learners across the age span.

1) **The disciplined mind** has mastered at least one way of thinking—a distinctive mode of cognition that characterizes a specific scholarly discipline, craft, or profession. Much research confirms that it takes up to ten years to master discipline. The discipline mind also knows how to work steadily overtime to improve skills and understanding. 2) **The synthesizing mind** takes information from disparate sources, understands and evaluates that information

objectively and puts it together in ways that make sense to the synthesizer and also to other person, value able in the past, the capacity to synthesize becomes ever more crucial as information continues to mount at dizzying rates. 3) **The creating mind** puts forth new ideas, poses unfamiliar questions, conjures up fresh ways of thinking, arrives at unexpected answers. Ultimately, these creations must find acceptance among knowledgeable consumers. By virtue of its anchoring in territory that is not yet rule-governed, the creating mind seeks to remain at least one step ahead of even the most sophisticated computers and robot. 4) **The respectful mind** noted and welcomes differences between individuals and between human groups, tries to understand these “others”, and seek to work effectively with them. In a world where all are interlinked, intolerance or disrespect is no longer a viable option. 5) **The ethical mind** ponders the nature of one’s work and the needs and desires of the society in which one lives. This mind conceptualizes how works can serve purpose beyond self-interest and how citizens can work unselfishly to improve the lot of all.

Gardner mentions that the five minds just introduced are the kinds of minds that are particularly at a premium in the world of today and will be even more so tomorrow. *Five Minds for the future* provides valuable tools for those who are looking ahead to the next generation of leaders –and for each one of us who is striving to excel in our increasingly complex world.