

Open Space

Convening meetings on what interests us most



“A leader is best when people barely know he exists, when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves.” Lao Tzu

“True leaders understand that leadership is not about them but about those they serve. It is not about exalting themselves, but about lifting others up.” Sheri L. Dew

Tag/Category: Social - Communication Skills - Facilitation

Challenge:

Often, the most interesting interactions and conversations take place during the coffee breaks of more official conferences and meetings. However, most conferences are structured with ‘experts’ presenting to a passive audience. How can we unleash the creative potential of all the participants? Insight and innovation is created amongst people, deeply embedded in real life, and cannot be downloaded from key speakers, books or the internet (though all those may be of help).

Solution:

Harrison Owen created a social technology that enables people to convene meetings about the topics that are most alive in them and allows for cross-fertilisation of ideas. Participants make sure they do what inspires them most, as they move between the spontaneously emerging landscape of conversations and interactions arising from the group.

References:

www.openspaceworld.org

Handout on Open Space

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