

**From Academic View, Asking Questions is Good.
Prime Minister Prayut is not wrong but he has to adjust some questions.**

Some people say that Thailand is a fake society. People do not pay attention to what is good and important. They care only for something fun. They have negative views. This has been shown in his 6 questions.

When I firstly taught at Thammasat University, I gave opportunities to my students to ask questions in class. In the first stage, the students asked a lot of questions. Sometimes, it was above expectation. It was also learning. I am proud to have smarter students. The questions without fixed answers stimulate us to think and learn.

I never develop my exam question based on rote learning. Nowadays, those who study with me and can remember 8K's and 5K's may fail in exam. Besides copying, they must analyze and apply to the reality including expanding development. I will be very happy. This leads to my Learning Theory called "4L's".

- 1.Learning Methodology
- 2.Learning Environment
- 3.Learning Opportunities
- 4.Learning Communities

Many people try to compare this theory to Peter Senge's theory.

- 1.Personal Mastery
- 2.Mental Models
- 3.Shared Vision
- 4.Team Learning
- 5.System Thinking

Some of mine are similar to Senge's Team Learning and Shared Vision.

Nowadays, some groups of media do not have learning culture. They cannot get the main points. The elected politicians seriously attack Prime Minister Prayut. They think that it is his recession. Therefore, they attack him without looking at themselves as it is now.

Do you know I take several of my team members to help me run valuable workshops when I teach? It is called "Knowledge Exchange". I develop open-ended question exam for everyone to think.

I wrote 12 Rules of Chira's Way Workshop Process as follows.

1. Group members select a qualified member to lead the group as the chairman.
2. Group members select a member who can well summarize the discussion result and take notes as the secretary.
3. The chairman explains the topic definitions, expectations and activities
4. The chairman manages time for discussion.
5. The chairman cares for every member and studies every member's strengths and capacity.
6. The chairman stimulates every member's participation.
7. The chairman creates an environment to promote every member's dignity.
8. The chairman creates a safe environment for everyone to fearlessly and politely speak.
9. The chairman fills in the gap of discussion, stimulates and creates main inspiration.
10. The secretary summarizes and prepares a presentation.
11. The group selects the members with leadership skills like chairman or others to present the workshop results.
12. There should be at least 3 presenters to promote Value Diversity.

There are also 2 cases I would like to share. It is the values of questioning.

Before Peter Drucker died at 95 years of age, James Collins asked him what he thought as the 2 important issues during his work life. Peter Drucker replied as follows.

- (1) Interesting questions without any fixed answers
- (2) Learning from the students

I am lucky that I have been applying Drucker's recommendations. For example, I like asking interesting question to my students or being asked by them. I give exam guidelines to the students for preparation. For example, I give them 20 questions but only 4-5 questions are actually shown in the exam. Instead of copying, they must use their brains to think of the answers. It is a great learning. The students exchange ideas every day. They have about 2 weeks for preparation. There are no fixed answers. It depends on their analysis methods. Their ideas may differ from mine. They may have better recommendations and analyze based on the different assumptions.

Drucker's analysis methods focus on Reality and Relevance. He did not firstly focus on theory. Finally, the important theories are compared.

The other is Maxwell is another world guru. He wrote "Good Leaders Ask Great Questions" Book.

In this book, Maxwell revealed that asking good questions greatly changed his life. When his students asked him difficult questions, he could learn a lot. From this book, asking good questions gives him 4-5 benefits as follows.

- (1) He can learn and grow with high quality.
- (2) He can connect to a lot of people by that such question.
- (3) He can always develop new ideas.
- (4) He can change his life.

I remember that I teach Debsirin School students every year at Knowledge Camp. The participants are 3 kinds of students: school activity lovers, academic talents and sport talents.

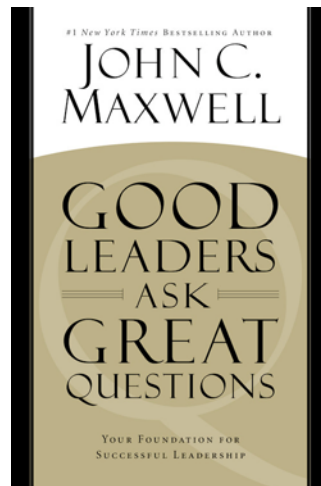
A question which can stimulate most Debsirin School students is what they will be and do at 40 years of age. Some of them never think about this. Generally, high school students think about passing the university entrance exam and taking tutorial courses. If they can think of long term, they can understand more about themselves for self-adjustment. For example, their parents want them to be doctors but they do not like this job. When they become 40 years old, they cannot adapt themselves in time. Instead of asking about Physics or English score range they get, the academic talents should ask why they study and how they can apply this to their lives. Some cannot answer these questions.

My Ph.D. Class 15 students of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University get special care from me because I have been continuously teaching them. I asked them what 2 lessons they got. Instead of telling me that they got knowledge for doing dissertation, they said that they took care of their staffs and gave them honor and dignity after learning about HRDS. They spent more time taking care of their children. Those who did not have children showed concern for broken families. If children of 0-10 years of age have poor ethics, they will fail at 25-60 years of age. Despite Thailand 4.0, all of them become corrupt.

If Prime Minister Prayut would like to change attitudes or questions, he can make it in several ways. The most serious one is avoiding stereotyping the elected politicians. He should well refine them because there are also good elected politicians. Sometimes, these people can help sustain our country. An example is Mr. Chuan Leekpai.

I would like to warn some groups of politicians that any of their expressions should respect Thais. They should not attack Prime Minister Prayut during his recession without realizing his government's kind contributions which have been sustaining the country up to the present.

Remember that several Prime Ministers who did come from elections made valuable contribution to the country. The examples were Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat, Prof. Sanya Dharmasakti, Mr. Anand Panyarachun and Gen. Prem Tinsulanonda. They did well or better than elected politicians.



Good Leaders Ask Great Questions Book by John C. Maxwell

Prof. Dr. Chira Hongladarom

Source: Learning from Reality with Dr. Chira Column. **Naewna.**
Saturday 18 November 2017, p.5