Excellence in Education versus Substance Abuse (Accomplishment)

David H. Cook
Hills-Cook Outcomes Consulting Company

Abstract

**Purpose:** This paper is about institutional betrayal that is driven by the focus on bottom up versus top down mental processing, with no progress towards the resolution of substance abuse a collateral issue to include participation in lethal criminal and terrorist organizations.

**Design/Methodology/Approach:** This paper’s base is an application to a U. S. Dept. of Health & Human Services funding opportunity that was about “Job Opportunities for Low-Income Individuals”, an application that was not approved. The funding opportunity was based on candidate individuals as being immediately employable failing to recognize rampant lack of employability. The application was about the molding of employability to comport with employable. Tacit admission of problematic issues is a current U. S. Dept. of Education funding opportunity which states in part “…that achieving powerful outcomes is still sometimes inhibited by obstacles”.

**Research limitations/implications:** This paper approaches top down mental processing by merging the results of modern data collection with the work of Sigmund Freud, causing one to wonder if there is real-world value in the current emphasis given to bottom up mental processing.

**Findings:** The methodology developed in this paper is extensible to persons regardless of income and other personal demographics who are at risk of a sense of alienation to include disenfranchised thus are prone to pursue an avocation/ideology that makes the person feel important on the strength of a stated purpose and orientation, at the expense of excellence in education that hones a person’s right to notable accomplishment.

**Social implications:** The focus on college as an objective creates a ‘have’ versus ‘have not’ environment, which in turn results in diversions (crime, substance abuse) as the analgesic versus an alternative safe-harbor solution.

**Originality/value:** Sigmund Freud’s intellectual origin in neurology, particularly his “Project for a Scientific Psychology”, is parallel to today’s Cognitive Neuroscience. Freud’s overall top down focus on mental procession needs to be merged with this era’s emphasis on bottom up mental processing.

**Keywords:** Education, Social policy, Public policy, Public health, Economics, Sociology, Community health services.

**Paper type:** Original article.