Senait Fesseha May 13, 2003

Process Review - What I learned in CCT 693

Action Research:

I learned that the review and evaluation segment of the process is continuous. Change of direction or focus is subject to discovery through research, reflection, or dialogue. It is important to have ongoing dialogue and reflection throughout the process so that one discovers or learns about issues that were not visible at the onset of the process. I also learned that it is very helpful to have a broad question with 'if' scenarios incorporated at the beginning of the process. When the question is very narrow in scope and the answer is a simple yes or no, then the action research is done, which is fine if that is the desired outcome. However to learn more about a situation and possible associations and factors that could come to light, then it is good to have the research question address that possibility. Having constant dialogue and reflection is invaluable, as it will be a guide; it will re-focus the research and shade light on issues. It is a great strategy.

Evaluation Clock:

Through the evaluation clock, I learned to be conscious of my critical thinking. I had to examine an outcome and go back to the starting point. It forced me to question the outcome and find related issues, motives, conditions, and other hidden facts. This in turn broadened my thinking. I learned to focus my reflection from narrow angle to wider and vice versa.

Evaluation:

I learned to design a program after deep reflection. I will have the opportunity to experience (step by step active participation) the process of evaluation after implementing my program in few months time. The research and self-discovery through reflection has been a great personal growth.

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Focused Conversation:

Focused group discussions helped us learn from one another. It opened up the dialogue process where the group members gave and took ideas from each other. It allowed us to broaden our perspective and think differently by accepting that we have diverse thinking and points of view. I learned the value of focused discussion to facilitate the development of ideas and the learning process.

Lessons To Develop Farther:

I need to integrate the reflection processes in all aspects of my life until it becomes an effortless activity. My knowledge about focused conversation needs further development. This useful tool can be used in any domain. I understand the basic concept of the dialogue process is applied. However, I need to know it well so that I can facilitate such a discussion or to bring it to life where I work. If I have to select one lesson that I want to expand farther, it would be the ability to focus-in and to open-out. It was a challenging exercise, which I know I need to practice to master the process. It is linked with the reflection process and the whole concept of critical thinking.