

Engineering the act of Presencing

As an engineer and more of a faculty of an engineering institute I had the privilege to experience the engineering process both as a student in the past and now on the other side of the class room as being an engineering faculty. The journey feels very satisfying, growing, enthralling and challenging. All put together I call it as a process of Presencing.

Now, Presencing is a word that was coined by my former President Dr D N Rao as a process of Sensing, Observing, Experiencing and Extrapolating to the future Fig. (1). At the same time, the Presencing Institute (PI) of MIT defined Presencing as building solutions leading from the emerging future. They defined it as a process of Co initiation, Co Sensing and Co Creation involving multiple stakeholders that work towards designing Eco friendly solutions moving away from the present-day approach of Ego based designs. The PI institute has developed tools, processes and frameworks that can be used to explore the vast space of Presencing phenomena.

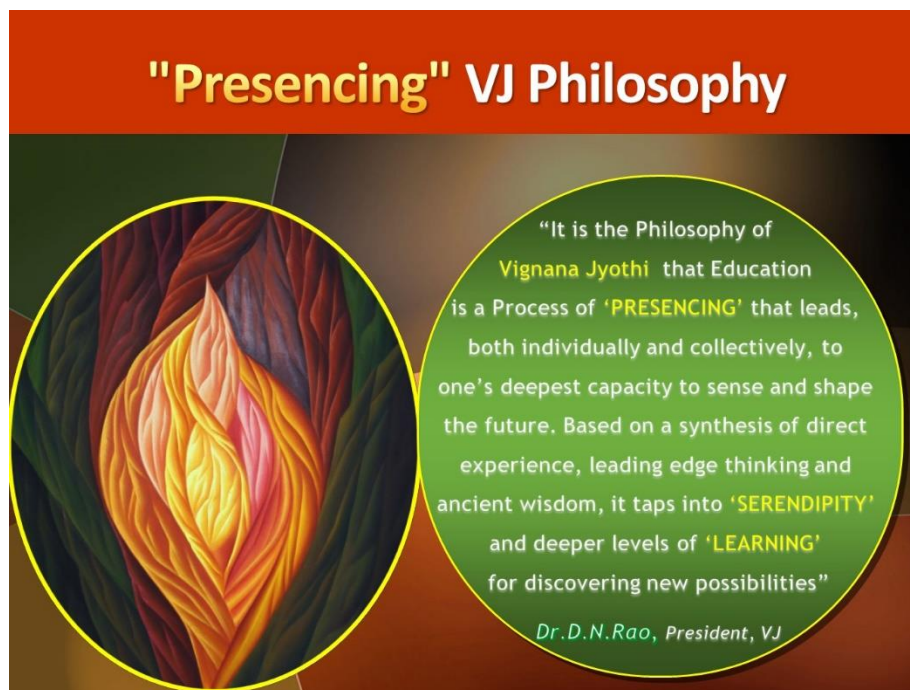


Fig. (1): Presencing Process

The PI institute founded by Otto Scharmer; a Senior Lecturer at MIT have devised a set of principles calling it as Theory U - Leading from the Emerging future: from Ego to Eco Fig. (2). As can be seen, Industry 1.0 and 2.0 had majorly focussed on developing efficient and cost-effective products and solutions without understanding the user needs or requirements and its impact on nature.

Coming to Industry 3.0, systems and technologies that were built were more user centric leading to higher customer satisfaction. But this has led to a long rift between humanity and The Earth. The current Industry 4.0 is more focused on building solutions that are highly sustainable and Eco friendly.

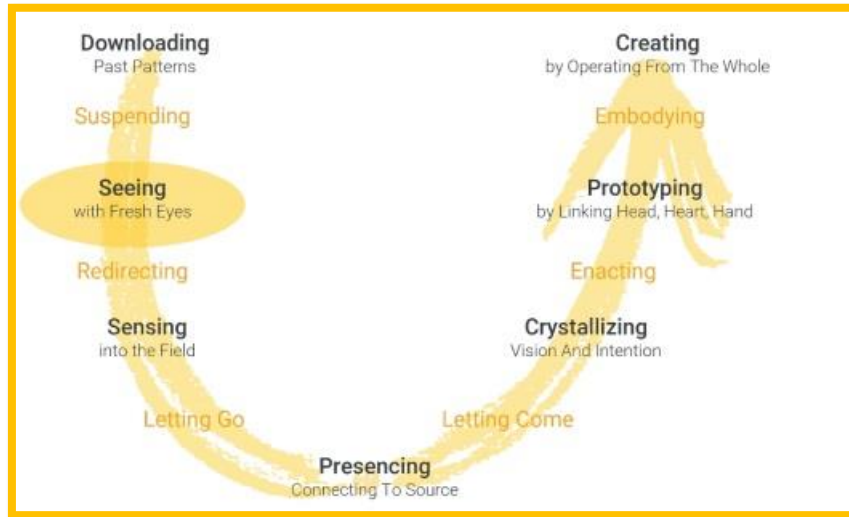


Fig. (2): MIT PI's Presencing Process

As we can see the seventeen sustainable development goals (SDGs) Fig.(3) defined by UN organisation of No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good health & Well-being, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Clean water and Sanitation, Affordable and clean energy, Decent work and Economic growth, Industry, Innovations and Infrastructure, Reduced inequalities, Responsible Consumption and Production, Climate change, Life below water, Life on Land, Justice, Peace and Strong Institutions, and lastly Partnership for Goals.



Fig. (3) 17 SDGs

Recently I had the opportunity to attend foundation program on Presencing in Berlin, Germany in the month of June. The program was attended by 85 members from almost 30 different countries of the world. The platform provided all of us to share our problems, challenges and limitations that we are facing as an individual and as a nation.



The Darwinian theory of Survival of the fittest seems to lose its sheen as humans have encroached into all territories of other species on the planet Earth. With all the technological advancements like AI, Robotics, Bio information, Supercomputing etc we have reached the zenith but at the same time endangered the survival of other species leading to a substantial imbalance of life sustained by mother Earth. Let us unite together again as just humankind overcoming all boundaries of Geography, Languages, Culture and thoughts to heal our Mother Earth so that life sustains. Let's do Presencing.