Systems Practice

Systems thinking and practice is a 21st-century skill that helps us as humans to understand and navigate the complexity of the world around us and the way we relate to it. The earlier students learn to think in systems the easier it would be for them to tap into their capacity for adaptive leadership.

Systems thinking and Practice lectures for students

2 sessions x 3 hours - 10-30 participants

Purpose: Introduce Systems thinking and practice to the students so they can apply it in their approach to design businesses with purpose, creating value for the people and the planet.

Desired Outcomes:
-Become aware of the systems embedded in the environment and society
-Gain mindset of systems thinking and practice
-Understand the value of systems thinking and practice in navigating complexity
-Start thinking in systems
-Gain skills and tools for disruptive systemic interventions

Mode of Delivery:
face-2-face or digital (using Zoom and Miro)

Resources used and shared with participants:
Systems Practice | The Omidyar Group
Thinking in Systems | Donella Meadows
Disruptive Design Method | Leyla Acaroglu
SYSTEMS THINKING | An introduction for Oxfam program staff

Learning Experience:

Session 1
- Engaging participants in an activity that enables them to experience systems dynamics themselves and from there explore and build awareness of the systems around them.
- Defining what systems are, and the urgency why systems thinking is relevant to navigate complexity.
- Tapping into mindsets that support systems thinking and practice
- Unpacking clock and cloud problems linked to systems practice
- Practical assignment to start with identifying components of the system: Actors/stakeholders, forces (inhibitors or enablers), causes and effects, create loops
- Home practice to build awareness of systems around

Session 2
- Introducing the Disruptive Design Method
- Explore different systems mapping techniques
- Practical exercise in small groups to map a system
- Sharing and feedback – identifying points of leverage
- Sharing resources

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