

# General Education at DUT: Building Communities of Practice

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- What is General Education at DUT?
- Building CoP
- Self-study Action Research Framework

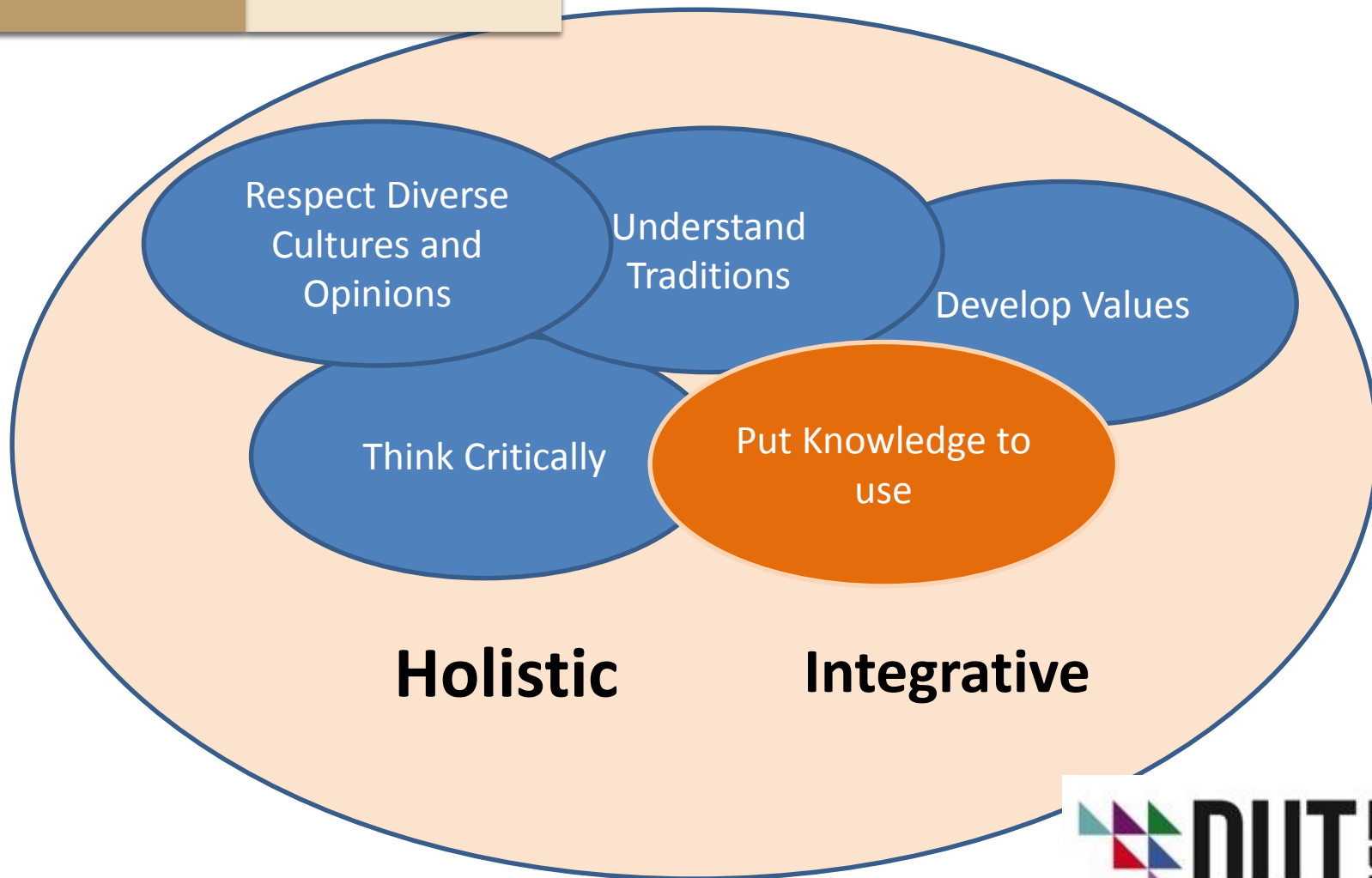
## AIMS OF GENERAL EDUCATION

1. To build a **student-centred educational experience** embedded in the local context.
2. To prepare students for an increasingly diverse and **complex globalised work environment**.
3. To cultivate an engaged and **critical citizenry** in the context of an emerging and fragile democracy in an ever changing world order.

**Definition**

**Helps  
Students to**

develop such attributes as the capacity to cope with daily challenges, master the self and understand their role in the broader context through social interaction.



Gen Ed  
@ DUT

Components  
For  
3 or 4 Year  
Diploma and  
Degree

Faculty Specific  
modules  
*36 Credits*

## Institution-wide Modules

- Cornerstone –  
*Compulsory- (12 Credits)*
- 3 Electives – *(8 Credits each)*

Programme  
Modules/Outcomes  
*36 Credits*

UNDERGRADUATE STUDY  
ACROSS ALL Years & HEQSF levels

VENUES

Fulltime/part  
time lecturers

Qualifications  
of lecturers

Multi-campus  
delivery

Academic  
advisors

Assessment-  
timing and  
marking

Student: staff:  
teaching  
assistant ratio?

Online support

Teaching  
assistants



# What is CoP?

- Groups of people that share a concern a set of problems, or a passion about a topic and who deepen their knowledge and expertise in the area by interacting on an ongoing basis.
- Knowing colleagues who understand each other's perspectives and belong to interesting group of people.
- Common sense of identity, body of knowledge, practices and approaches
- We need to be intentional and systematic about “managing” knowledge

# Jack Whitehead's living theories methodologies

- “A living educational theory is an individual's explanation of their educational influence in their own learning, in the learning of others and in the learning of the social formations in which we live and work.”
- Passion to see my values lived as fully as possible. Values give meaning to my life.
- Generate valid explanations of educational influences in learning.
- Self-reflective enquiry to improve the rationality and justice of :
  - My own educational practices
  - My understanding of these practices
  - The situations in which the practices are carried out
- I need to recognise the creativity and uniqueness of the other
- Grounded in relational dynamics of everyday life

# my lived experiences...

It is imperative that we study the living in its living form...

Man plays out what was played in him, plays out his receptions, his intussusceptions...

Ex-pression of im-pression through elements of human body

Memories are gestures involving the whole human...

*Marcel Jousse*

# What matters to me in the building of community of practice?

- First level of community - Connections with family, friends and own life form a core of belonging
- Second level of community – experiences of campus life and relationships
- Third level of community – broader societal realm in which citizenship, individual rights and responsibilities define roles and values of communal life
- Fourth level – global dimension(Nash, 2002 )

# What am I concerned about regarding building CoP?

- Are there shared values that connect staff and students to issues and involvements in the world beyond their personal and campus relationships?

# What did I do? Why?

- We know more than we can tell!!!
- Tacit aspects of knowledge consist of embodied expertise – complex, interdependent systems, dynamic responses to context specific problems
- **Storytelling, conversation, coaching, apprenticeship provided by communities of practice**
- CoP's combine tacit and explicit aspects of knowledge – eg conversation with finance.. with ITS... timetabling...
- Our experience of knowing is individual but knowledge is not

# What did I find?

- Belonging, acceptance, shared emotional experiences of individuals who participate together in common endeavours.
- Amajita
- GASVA

# So what?

- Welcoming, supportive, just and caring place for staff and student
- Listening, especially to those who seldom have voice.



THANK YOU

