



While it sounds a cliché that we live in a diverse world, it is true that the things we most often talk about we mostly take for granted. As adults we often have superficial or narrow perception of the true diversity and its global impact of our world. So when we want to include living in a diverse world as a key skill we teach kids and appreciating, taking advantage and nurturing diversity as a key value we need to first closely look at what we mean by diversity what are its impacts and meanings for us.

When we speak of diversity we mostly refer to culture in its social aspect and to different ways in which students learn and process information. We look far away and we speak of global diversity a diverse world and so forth. But can we first look closer to gain a better understanding of diversity? We are diverse as professionals but do we always respect that? Do we respect the colleague next door who is so different and often annoying? We first need to step in that person's shoes and see where he or she comes from and the microcosm that he or she is and how it functions. This is not something that can happen in one moment from one glimpse. It takes deep psychological and sometimes even spiritual insight to see someone.

And we are diverse in the way we perceive others. Sometimes we just look and judge, sometimes we analyze too much, sometimes we do just fine by seeking a deep connection and true understanding of the human being that stands in front of us.

How do we understand the other if we don't understand ourselves and some fundamental processes and phenomena of human being. Which leads me to my first key point: we firstly need to look inward and gain an insight of who we are. Only then we will have the curiosity and capacity to know the other. Those who don't know themselves well are more than often interested primarily in themselves. And although knowing yourself is not a linear process and we will never be done with it or stop being interested in ourselves primarily, some initial understanding of who we are opens us up to others.

Then we can't speak of diversity global if you don't understand the neighbour next door. Maybe across the hallway is teaching someone who is really annoying you - a way to ambitious colleague, someone who speaks a lot without saying anything or someone who seems careless about their work.