

Self-Sustainability

An adult is expected to live in community self-sustainably, harmoniously and responsibly.

*Parents are expected to prepare their children to do so,
to help them learn how to learn and to guide them in developing their sense of self.*

The first several years of a child's life are their formative years.

A child experiences self-recognition around 2-3 years age after which they begin developing a sense of self.

Some are prepared more adequately than others.

History suggests we exist to evolve.

*The human reproduction process is random within a context,
aptly characterized as "let's try this and see what happens".*

*Evolution is predicated upon one striving to be the best they can be in which
only those whose best is good enough, that is, are able to live self-sustainably,
are intended to survive to procreate the next generation. For some, their best is not good enough.*

*We are each unique with different wherewithal, that is, inherent physical and intellectual capabilities and
circumstantially acquired knowledge, skills and sense of self.*

Some have more than others and some, not enough.

*Not all newborns are born with the inherent physical and intellectual capabilities
to live self-sustainably when an adult.*

*In every civilization, there are explorers, pioneers and settlers. There are leaders and
those to whom others defer, persons in positions of power or influence, change agents, practitioners,
providers of goods and services, workers, laborers, soldiers, artisans, clergy and thieves.*

*One's life may be important to another to be for their benefit and remains so as long as it does so
Some have more wealth than others, some not enough..*

*One cannot be held responsible for whatever over which they have no control
We are not responsible for those who have insufficient wherewithal or wealth,
whose best is not good enough or whose parents did not adequately prepare them.*

*We are born with conscious and subconscious memory, the ability to think deeply, to reason inductively and
to have feelings. A newborn quickly learns about differences, how A is different from B, mother/woman has
milk, father/man doesn't and causality, that D always follows after C, fussing gets attention.*

A newborn begins learning the first time it is brought to its mother's nipple. It experiences pleasure and begins developing expectations.

Governments provide K-12 public education to enable one to become the best that they can be. Some do not take advantage of the opportunity. For those who demonstrate sufficient wherewithal and sense of self, additional learning opportunities become available.

Learning how to learn begins by learning how to question.

*"I keep six honest serving-men. They taught me all I knew. Their names are
What and Why and When and How and Where and Who."*

Rudyard Kipling, The Elephant Child.

Unless one is born into wealth or acquires sufficient wealth, one's financial security lies in their ability to secure their next employer, customer or client.

Self-Sustainability

A proven strategy towards self-sustainability is to seek to be a practitioner, that is, to acquire a body of knowledge and the skills to apply it for which another will pay to do on their behalf.

Emerging technologies enable us to do things that we were unable to do before or do things "better" than we are currently doing them. Automation, robotics and artificial intelligence enable work to be done heretofore done by humans. As their capabilities increase while the cost to acquire and operate them decreases and the cost of human labor increases, it becomes easier to make the business case to replace human labor with technology. Work that doesn't involve creativity or intuition will be readily done with technology. Technology does not have feelings. It does not create. It constructs.

The rate of technological change is accelerating.

There will be those who will do what technology can yet do, those who use technology creatively, those who use technology to do what they currently are doing but now doing it "better", those who will do what technology can do but will do it more cheaply and those for whom technology is beyond them.

For some, one day is pretty much like the next. There are little or no opportunities to acquire new knowledge, to deepen or widen their understandings, to learn new skills or to enhance existing ones.

For others, they maintain an awareness of changes that may impact their ability to live self-sustainably or that may offer opportunities for adventure and learning experiences or for facilitating living self-sustainably.

Given the rate of change of technology it is no longer cost effective to retrain existing staff. It is more cost effective to replace it if a new technology is needed.

It is the responsibility of the individual to maintain the relevance of their knowledge and skills.