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Seeding Innovation
Facilitation Guide

What is it?

Large-scale innovations that positively impact a society often emerge from small-scale prototypes, driven by an individual who seeks positive changes for one person, one family, or a single classroom. In this viewing (8 minutes), participants reflect on the potential growth that can emerge from a single act of altruism.

Why use it?

Altruism—seeking to help others, even at a personal cost to ourselves—is a building block of Principled Innovation. While altruism plays a crucial role in the process of democratic deliberation as we are called upon to compromise for the sake of building a better community (**Civic Practice C2**), it can often play a crucial role as a seed for large-scale innovations as well. Many community-level efforts that create what Principled Innovation describes as "positive change for humanity" get their start from a single individual seeking to help improve others' lives within their immediate—and often private and unseen—social contexts. The time and energy—the personal sacrifice—it takes to make these changes happen can be demanding, but the result of that investment is more equitable systems.

Altruistic actions provide societies with the opportunity to prototype solutions at a small scale, finding out what works for a single learner, a single classroom, or a single school, before attempting to take those ideas to a larger scale. In this viewing, the speaker describes her journey from working as a 12-year-old with a special needs neighbor to organizing a community organization that has brought change to the lives of hundreds of children in her country.
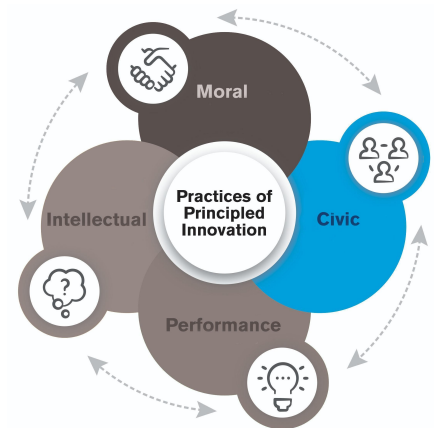
What you need

- Time: 10 minutes of participants' time
- Video: **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84pzO__sr0A**
- Individual activity or group participants

Instructions

Step 1: Situate

Explain to participants that the video they are about to watch describes the evolution of a principled innovation.
Ask them to watch the video with an eye toward describing the chain of events that gave rise to a change-making organization.

Step 2: Present

Present the video: **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84pzO__sr0A**

Step 3: Discuss

Here are some questions that may be used to prompt a discussion of this viewing:

1. At what point did Adi's principled innovation begin? What was the starting point?
2. What reasons might the 12-year-old Adi have had for getting involved in this organization? How likely was it that she was thinking about being a social innovator?
3. For Adi, what role did **perspective taking** play in altruism?
4. What role might altruism play in this story?
5. How might Adi's altruism have affected her **perspective taking**?
6. What are some real or imagined educational scenarios in which educators might be unaware of the fact that they, through acting to serve their learners or colleagues, are prototyping learning solutions that have the potential of growing into a much larger educational innovation?