

THE REAL PANDEMIC

Globally, we are dealing with a troubling pandemic which has been partially covered by the media for a long time. Today, there are millions of young people worldwide who have lost hope, are depressed, and even considering suicide. They no longer know who to turn to, to discuss their problems and worries. People are often too busy with their personal matters and, therefore are not able to provide these youth with advice and support.

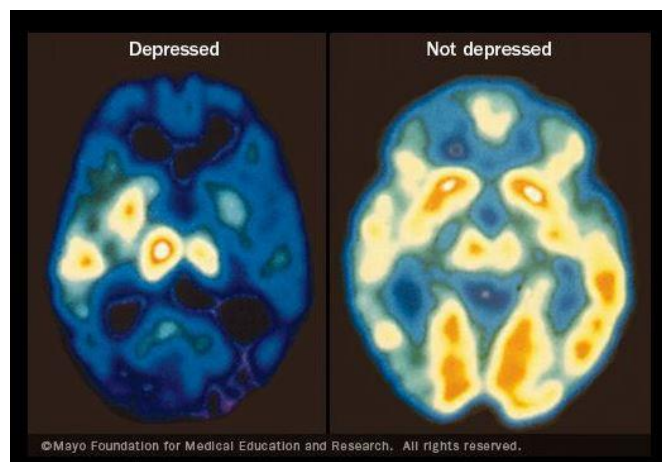
Let me introduce myself. My name is Havan Amin, 29 years old and living in the Netherlands. I am a political refugee and I have only been living in the Netherlands since 2001. I'll spare you the details, but let's just say I didn't have a normal childhood like all the other kids. I moved more than 10 times in the period from 2001 to 2009 and during this period we lived every day with the uncertainty whether we will be allowed to stay in the Netherlands or whether we will be sent back to Kurdistan. My father was a wealthy man in Kurdistan but lost everything when we came to the Netherlands. We had to start all over again.



Besides that, there was no one who could help us under the circumstances.

Those nine years have given me more than 30 years of life experience and have made me the person I am today. I went through hell to be where I am today. I know how difficult it is for young people when they have no one to share their problems with or seek advice from on how to get their lives back on track. This was the biggest reason why I became a certified coach a couple of years ago.

My goal is to motivate and activate these young people (regardless of their age) to develop a strong mentality that frees them from all obstacles and helps them to break through and overcome their insecurities and fears more easily. My focus is to enable them to come up with innovative ideas by changing the status quo so that they can develop new strategies and generate a more active mindset to tackle future and current obstacles more easily. The traditional development programs in schools and universities haven't been able to solve the problems of the youth, so I want to take a new approach to offer the youth new opportunities.



According to Michael Marquardt's book "Optimizing the Power of Action Learning", a new kind of leadership is needed in this competitive, global, knowledge-driven time. Recent leadership theories (e.g., Drucker, Collins, Mintzberg) point to a need

for leaders with transformational abilities, strong learning skills, emotional intelligence, ethical standards, problem-solving and project-management strengths, keen self-awareness, and humble yet confident capabilities. I know for a fact that not a lot of people in this world possess all of these skills as the book also describes. That was my main reason to use Action Learning to tackle the problems of the youth.

After I obtained my Certified Action Learning Coach certification, I immediately started coaching young people. In the beginning, it was challenging to instruct the young people on how to participate in an Action Learning session. I had to spend a lot of time explaining the principles of Action Learning to these young people.



They had never heard of it before, so it was tough for them to quickly master it. It was also demanding to have them continuously ask open questions and not just jump to conclusions. After a while, things got much better, and everything went much smoother.



The young people who wanted to bring a problem to light had a difficult time sharing their problem with the rest of the group, because they had never done this before. It gave me real and lasting satisfaction to see the happy faces of the participants after participating in the Action Learning sessions. They often did not expect the actual effect it would have on them.

The young people whose problems were solved sometimes could not contain their emotions and some of them were overjoyed with happiness. I am still in touch with some of them to this day. Almost every week I am contacted by one of the young people I mentored or others asking if I can help them solve a problem. This offers me more opportunities to expand my foundation and help them with their personal development.

Action Learning truly changes the lives of people. It is beautiful to see how it helps people solve their problems with the guidance of others. It is my honor to be able to help them through the application of the Action Learning method.

Last year I, received the WIAL Coaching Excellence Award, which I'm very grateful and honored for. Even though I received an award for all my hard work, I have not done it for the money or prominence. It is my ambition to help as many young people as possible to overcome their troubles and to offer them a better future. My ultimate aim is to have several locations in a number of countries where young people can go for help and guidance. Any help is welcome, so feel free to contact me.

Finally, I would like to thank my fiancée and parents for all their love and guidance. In addition, I also want to thank my mentor Twan Paes, Master Action Learning Coach for believing in me.

And remember, never give up on life. Let your first step be your motivation to take the others.

Havan Amin
Professional Action Learning Coach
The Netherlands
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