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HUMANISTIC PSYCHOLOGY IS HAPPENING IN EDUCATION

Many would agree that there is a tremendous need for change throughout our whole educational system. In our new and changing social climate, education must become both for teachers and for pupils, a personal, useful and satisfying experience. A change concerned with personal development and one that will make education extend far beyond the walls of schools and institutions. But who is to bring about this change? I believe that to be worthwhile, change must be initiated by those who are to be affected by the change at whatever level. If we are not to be confused and numbed by changes brought about by others we must be part of the initiative and not just pawns.

Being part of the initiative describes what about three hundred people in the 'Resources Programme for Change in Teaching' are about. They hold large Saturday meetings in London at monthly intervals as well as various smaller on-going groups.

The word 'Resources' in this context means, more than anything else, PEOPLE. A well established facility in the programme is the 'Switchboard'. The 'Switchboard' operates basically in three ways. As new people come in they are invited to fill in a card saying what they want and what they already have that could be shared. These cards are duplicated and sent to everyone else involved in the programme, there is a telephone service for enquiries about the cards and, especially at the Saturday meetings, the names on the cards become people contacting each other. A human switchboard.

The Saturday meetings usually consist of the interchange of ideas of smaller groups with various interests. Humanistic Psychology techniques are being used to help people function effectively in large groups - anything up to a hundred people. A small group of thirty people - students, lecturers, teacher-centre wardens, teachers and others - came together at the last Saturday meeting for a session, mostly practical, on Humanistic Psychology and an on-going group has come out of this with contact with Quaesitor. I hope that more people from the Human Potential movement will get in touch with the Resources programme. There have been many other groups involved in all kinds of interests.

The success of the movement so far has been because the meetings have been largely self-directing. As jobs or needs arose those interested did something about it. There has been a healthy absence of imposed structures and planning and, as a result, many good things have been happening.