

Introduction

“If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.”

Isaac Newton

The premise of *Up To The Challenge* is that many of our global problems have been created out of an insufficient level of awareness in the general population of the world. Developmental psychologists have identified stages of development that individuals go through as they mature. Research shows that most of us never reach the upper developmental levels. *Up To The Challenge* contends that in order to effectively deal with the complex challenges we are now facing perspectives gained at these higher levels are essential.

Up To The Challenge looks at the reasons why our personal levels of awareness are not up to the challenges posed by global problems and what we can do about it, now and in the long term.

Standing On The Shoulders of Giants

Throughout the book we will be discussing six levels of awareness. The levels of awareness are the result of a synthesis of existing work in developmental psychology. Several psychologists have identified, through their research, a number of developmental levels that human beings may pass through as they mature. Surprisingly, there is no significant conflict between the independent studies of these researchers. Each study approaches the phenomenon of human development in a unique way and each has contributed valuable insights into how we mature but they are in general agreement regarding the nature of the levels they have independently identified. This suggests that these levels actually exist and are not simply arbitrary divisions created for the convenience of the researcher.

One of the primary influences on the levels of awareness is Abraham