

Strengths and weaknesses of the All-Win Principle

Plus points

1. The all-win approach is deeply interwoven with the fabric of who we are beginning with the atoms, molecules and cells – the building blocks of our bodies--, as well as in the processes which drive us to live in communities and now to become one world. When someone acts in an all-win spirit, this resonates deeply with all others.
2. The all-win principle helps us to accept ourselves, feel empowered, motivated and to help others to feel the same. All-win relationships are therefore strong and durable, create feelings of benevolence and are automatically supported by all others of like mind;
3. The all-win spirit is the driving force behind globalisation which is at present an important force in human affairs; it helps to produce stability and a deep sense of security in a period of our history characterised by turmoil and conflict.
4. The all-win approach allows us to look at reality as consisting of interconnected wholes. This makes it possible to see solutions to global issues which are invisible when we look at reality in more fragmented ways. (A case in point is the sustainable basic income mentioned later in this section).

Minus Points

1. It can be difficult to see the power of the all-win approach. We are used to seeing reality from the perspective of conflict and problems which result from win/lose attitudes.
2. When we are used to relying on set patterns, the all-win approach can be hard work, since it requires a sensitivity and openness to things and people in the present moment, rather than to learned, automatic reactions to what has taken place in the past.
3. When we have been used to hierarchical relationships, the all-win approach requires an about turn in order to be able to listen to our selves and to take responsibility for what we, ourselves, do rather than obeying orders that come from without and allowing them to shoulder the responsibility. This is sometimes hard to do.

When we like to feel in total control, the all-win approach can be threatening. It requires, instead of deciding for ourselves and others, being sensitive to what is happening in a here and now which is in constant flux and taking that into heartfelt consideration. The resulting feeling of being *out* of control changes as we realise that insights, gleaned when we are sensitive and receptive, tend to be more accurate and far-reaching and therefore enable us to judge and respond more accurately to situations.