

A MENTAL MODEL IS ESSENTIALLY AN INTERNAL MAP OF THE EXTERNAL WORLD—A WAY OF REPRESENTING REALITY WITHIN OUR MINDS.

These models are believed to be crucial in how we think, reason, and make decisions.

ONE WAY PEOPLE THINK IS BY USING MENTAL MODELS.

THESE ARE LIKE MENTAL IMAGES WE CREATE FROM WHAT WE SEE, IMAGINE, OR UNDERSTAND FROM CONVERSATIONS.



"The image of the world around us, which we carry in our head, is just a model.

Nobody in his head imagines all the world, government or country.

He has only selected concepts, and relationships between them, and uses those to represent the real system"

- Forrester, 1971



OUR THINKING MAY RELY MORE ON THESE MENTAL IMAGES THAN ON FORMAL RULES.

Mental models have a significant impact on how we understand and interact with the world.

MENTAL MODELS INFLUENCE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF OUR LIVES AND THE WORLD AROUND US.

Here are just a few examples...

- **1. Education Policies:** Different mental models influence approaches to education.
- 2. Healthcare Systems: Mental models shape how healthcare systems are structured and operated.
- 3. Urban Planning: Mental models impact how cities are designed and developed.
- **4. Economic Policies:** Different mental models lead to different economic policies.

- 5. Technology Regulation: Mental models shape views on regulating emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and biotechnology.
- 6. Social Welfare Programs: Mental models impact the design and implementation of social welfare programs.
- 7. Environmental Conservation: Mental models influence approaches to environmental conservation beyond climate change.

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