## ISSUES FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN EDUCATION

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### Abstract

*Research word itself means trying to do something out of the box which is having quality and uniqueness. If such innovative research occurs, it will add some significant body of knowledge. If such research is promoted in education, it will prove to be beneficial for society. Innovative research can contribute to quality education for all while promoting a more equal and effective education system. In current competitive world, just having knowledge and understanding about facts and information is not enough to make long productive career. Instead person should show some uniqueness in their way of work to become succeed in their profession. Here research actually makes differences. Research provides base for innovations and help educators to understand what works better and why. Research gives birth to innovative teaching strategies and learning experiences. This paper focuses on how research in significant in field of education and what are different ways by which research and innovation can be promoted in educational institutions. Certain issues like quality, accountability, budget, etc.are discussed in this paper which many colleges and universities are facing today for promoting research. There is a need to foster experiments in the design of new educational programme. It is very important to replace the old academic activities with a new based on research followed by finding out the effects of these new activities on learning, innovation, and academic achievement.*

*Keywords: Innovative in education, educational research, issue in innovative research*

## Introduction

Research in education is very significant, as it leads to 'progress' in education, which further leads to 'progress of society. It is a well acknowledged fact that Research plays an important role in the economic growth of a country. Research refers to a creative work which is undertaken to in a systematic manner so as to increase one's stock of knowledge. In the context of education, it would refer to solving educationalproblems in a scientific and systematic way. Unfortunately, educational research in India is lacking proper research culture and showing a downward trend.

*"India holds an important place in the global education industry. The country has more than 1.4 million schools with over 227 million students enrolled and more than 36,000 higher education institutes. India has one of the largest higher education systems in the world. However, there is still a lot of potential for further development in the education system. India has become the second largest market for e-learning after the US. The sector is currently pegged at US$ 2-3 billion, and is expected to touch US$ 40 billion by 2017."*

This above latest information about education sector in India is stated by India Brand Equity Foundation. It describes the place of Indian education sector in the world and still there are possibilities for development. Such development takes place through research only. The important aspect here is not only carried out research but to do research which should be meaningful and significant with full of innovative application. There are many constrains appears while conducting research which can be overcome by deliberate affords.

## Significance of Innovative Research in education

The research function of academia remains a prime source of knowledge and innovation at national, regional and international levels. Behind the classroom door the key factor in the success of a lesson, in determining whether the students actually learn something that matters, is the creative ability of the teachers — their ability to combine theory and practical classroom experience. Effective teaching and learning therefore involves the practical application of new research/theory in a classroom environment.

The research is necessary to increase understanding of policies and procedures, instructional approaches, program curricula and content, and stakeholder involvement that contribute to learners fulfilling their academic potential. Through the innovative research, we will identify educational program components that successfully stimulate advanced academic knowledge and skills.

As per Report on the UNESCO Forum on Higher Education, Research and Knowledge (2001-2009), countries with robust innovation systems privilege research in a variety of contexts including universities and the private sector. In recent years, the changing external environment has seen OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) Member countries' governments place unprecedented emphasis on research as a key motor for national development.

Research has contributed immeasurably to our understanding of different cultures and the impact of culture on values, attitudes, ideals, personality development and human behaviour. Inspite of all these, research is needed that will aid education in the rediscovery of

educational purposes (Boykin, 1972). The search must continue for an optimal balance between purposes of individual and the purposes of society. We clearly need more sophisticated and innovative techniques for accessing the will of the people and to develop curricula that will produce an educated high school graduate who possesses the basic communication and occupational skills and personal competencies needed to adapt future unknown changes in society (Gupte, 2015).

**Innovations in educational research**

Among recent innovations in the education system, the introduction of computers in classrooms is often referred to as the most significant innovation. While the physical appearance of classrooms has not changed much since chalkboards were introduced in classrooms in the late 18th century, the arrival of computers, tablets, and the Internet has led to the re-thinking of many traditional teaching practices and is generally seen as an opportunity for improvement.

Different scholars have varying understandings of the notion "Innovative research". Innovation is often viewed as the application of better solutions that meet new requirements, unarticulated needs, or existing societal needs. Innovative research involves discovering new techniques and increasing working system of a educational institution (Mang and Falch, 2015). It could involve technological innovation or improvements in human resources. Following are certain educational areas which require innovative research:

- What kind of pedagogical knowledge and skills are central to teachers' efficacy?

- How does learning research, new expectations with regard to students' learning outcomes and skills, and changing value and belief systems shape the range of behavioural interventions of teachers? (Pramodini and Sophia, 2012)

- How can teachers more effectively orchestrate the learning environment to create optimal conditions for learning to materialise, both cognitively and emotionally? Geeta Ramanujan, founder director of Academy of storytelling experimented with "storytelling as a teaching tehnoque" to speak creativity and the spirit of inquiry within children (EducationWorld, 2015).

- In our technological society where each sex is expected to fulfil multiple roles, we must have more research studies to assist education in overcoming sex role stereotyping and in developing an environment that will nurture the ideal of female equality and promote goal of equal right for development of self concept.

- More intensive experimental evidences are needed and further investigation should be made on impact of internet on learning and behaviour.

- Our current knowledge is inadequate about curriculum decision making, learning and instructional programme designs and curriculum development especially with respect ro constructivist approach. There must be continuing research to generate knowledge concerning how to improve curriculum materials, instructional procedures and thr use of curriculum guides.

- Research is required to search effective educational planning and for what kind of schools, children and teachers, the innovations like team teaching, flexible scheduling, mini-courses, performance contracting, constructivist and programmed learning are appropriate and valuable.

The list of above knowledge gap which requires innovative research practice is still illustrative. But on the top of this, proper innovative research strategies especially suitable and appropriate for education field is required to develop. In Education world magazine there are 22 education innovations mentioned like social innovation labs, activity based learning pioneer in Tamilnadu, use of films as teaching methods, learning by doing by encouraging children in socio-economic activitie, etc. These are certain real life examples which by means research adding innovation in education.

**Issues in educational research**

Education systems are critically important for innovation through the development of skills that nurture new ideas and technologies. As mentined in OECD (2016), digital technologies are profoundly changing the way we work, communicate and enjoy ourselves. The world of education and learning is not yet going through the same technology-driven innovation process as other sectors.

Certain issues in innovative research are as follows:

❖ *Lack of strong innovative research culture and communities*

Many countries are pursuing a policy of setting up centres of research excellence within universities, as inter-university centres or stand-alone institutes, often as part of a strategy to improve not just research but also teaching and innovation. But centres of excellence may not always be a panacea for upgrading research and teaching in developing countries.

❖ *Lack of innovative research design*

This means that sometimes innovations fit poorly with practice. As research in social science carried out in different kind of labs which is incompetent to create control condition. So outcome of such research can not be generalised.

❖ *Lack of innovative research aptitude among education practitioners*

Productive innovations in the education requires researchers that are willing and able to accomplish smart experimenting (Meek, Teichler, and Kearney, 2009). Unfortunately, innovative skills of educators are hard to define and can hardly be directly observed. Since innovation processes include experimenting, there will necessarily be some failures during the process. This is probably the reason why innovative skills are not measured in the empirical literature and practitioners are not giving emphasis on innovative research skills

❖ *Lack f Research Funds*

This discourages research of all forms. Governments, institutions/organizations do not quite appreciate the contributions of research findings to economic development and therefore do not provide sufficient amounts for research.

❖ *Overdependence on eb based and online information*

Over dependence of cyberspace has dramatically reduced the capability of researchers to undertake research having attribute of originality. Plagiarism has already transformed into a more sophisticated form of context of today's electronic age.

❖ *Staying Motivated and Working Your Plan*

Sometimes, in the course of a large innovative research project, the biggest challenge can be internal motivation as the possibility of expected outcome of research work is very less due to uncertain and original of nature of innovative research. It is very important to maintaining the motivation to keep going despite obstacles in innovative and diverse research and the pressures of work and personal commitments.

❖ *Unavailability of experienced and qualified research guide*

The proper guide explores the possibilities of situations and thrives on creativity, which is very important for innovative research. . Creative and innovative guide constantly assessing, reassessing, and making decisions about the best possible means for obtaining trustworthy information, help in carrying out appropriate analysis, and drawing credible conclusions (O'leary, 2004). Research work quality and significance is also dependant on guidance by research guide. Due to unavailability of experienced and qualified research guide aspect of innovative research affects badly.

**Conclusion**

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) has become an important issue in society. The United Nations Decade for ESD has encouraged innovative approaches in education in order to contribute to the societal transition towards sustainability through both the formal education system and non-formal and informal learning settings (Cohen and Ball, 2006). Overall, it is not surprising that research on innovation has gained importance. It has become essential to understand why and how certain enabling environments encourage innovation and help optimize its various benefits. Among other things, research can identify how knowledge translates into innovative action and how diversity can drive positive change.

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