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INNOVATIONS IN EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES-AN OVERVIEW

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Abstract :

Education is the process that transforms a human being into a human being. It is the process that enables a person to lead a life. It builds our personality and makes us capable of earning a living. With time, a lot of changes are also seen in the context of education, the place of traditional education has been taken by education with technical resources. Due to this technological revolution, we have been able to transfer the learned knowledge, values, and skills to the new generation rapidly. This rapid change is possible due to the use of innovations in educational practices. Creativity and receptivity are related to innovation. Innovation is the creation and construction of new path or way. Innovations are ideas, practices or ways that are considered new by the users. Innovative ideas are used to make education more individualised, transmissible, accessible, and creative, if we look at the traditional educational system, today's education is very different.

At present, competency-based learning, blended learning, digital classroom, experiential learning, cooperative learning, ICT based learning, constructivist approach are the different innovations used in education practices so that teaching and learning can be made powerful. Although these innovative tools are helpful, their efficacy depends on the student, therefore giving them the right exposure to these tools will only advance their comprehension of how to use them effectively. It can be concluded that a constant process of beneficial change in various facets of education, such as educational organisation, instructional and methodological techniques, etc., is implied by innovations and experiments in education.

Key words-Education, Educational Practices, Innovation, Tools, Technology, ICT, Strategies.

Introduction

Education is the process that transforms a human being into a human being. It is the process that enables a person to lead a life. It builds our personality and makes us capable of earning a living. It is a lifelong process that leads man to maturity. The root meaning of education is the bringing out of man's innate powers. The word education has been defined in different ways by famous educationists, thinkers and philosophers. According to **Socrates** "Education is the process of drawing out the universal truths that are ingrained in every human being." Before going further about the educational system, it is necessary to know that it is because of education that we have progressed so much today, if there was no education, there would not have been so many inventions, nor are we making so much progress today, without it we would have become in the same Stone Age. With time, a lot of changes are also seen in the context of education, the place of traditional education has been taken by education with technical resources. Due to this technological revolution, we have been able to transfer the learned knowledge, values and skills to the new generation rapidly. This rapid change is possible due to the use of innovations in educational practices. Knowledge has been seen in a new perspective. To understand its meaning more deeply, it is necessary to comprehend the meaning of innovations in educational practices.

Innovations in Educational Practices

Will today's education be tomorrow's education? Educators must replicate present practices and policies and recognise ways to reconstruct educational practices to address new threats in an increasingly intricate world. We cannot depend on old, worn out teachings to prepare primary and secondary children for the future. We have to prepare a new thinking, and a new policy that will prepare the children for the future and mold the system of education in a new structure.

The educational system is intricate. It takes cooperation between families, educators, and decision-makers to enrol all youngsters in school and help them learn. It calls for common objectives and national strategies that prioritise education. To assist policymakers in determining what is working, who is gaining, and who is falling behind, data collection and ongoing monitoring are also necessary.

When we use innovations in the current process of education, then only we will be able to make it dynamic, efficient and capable of the future generation.

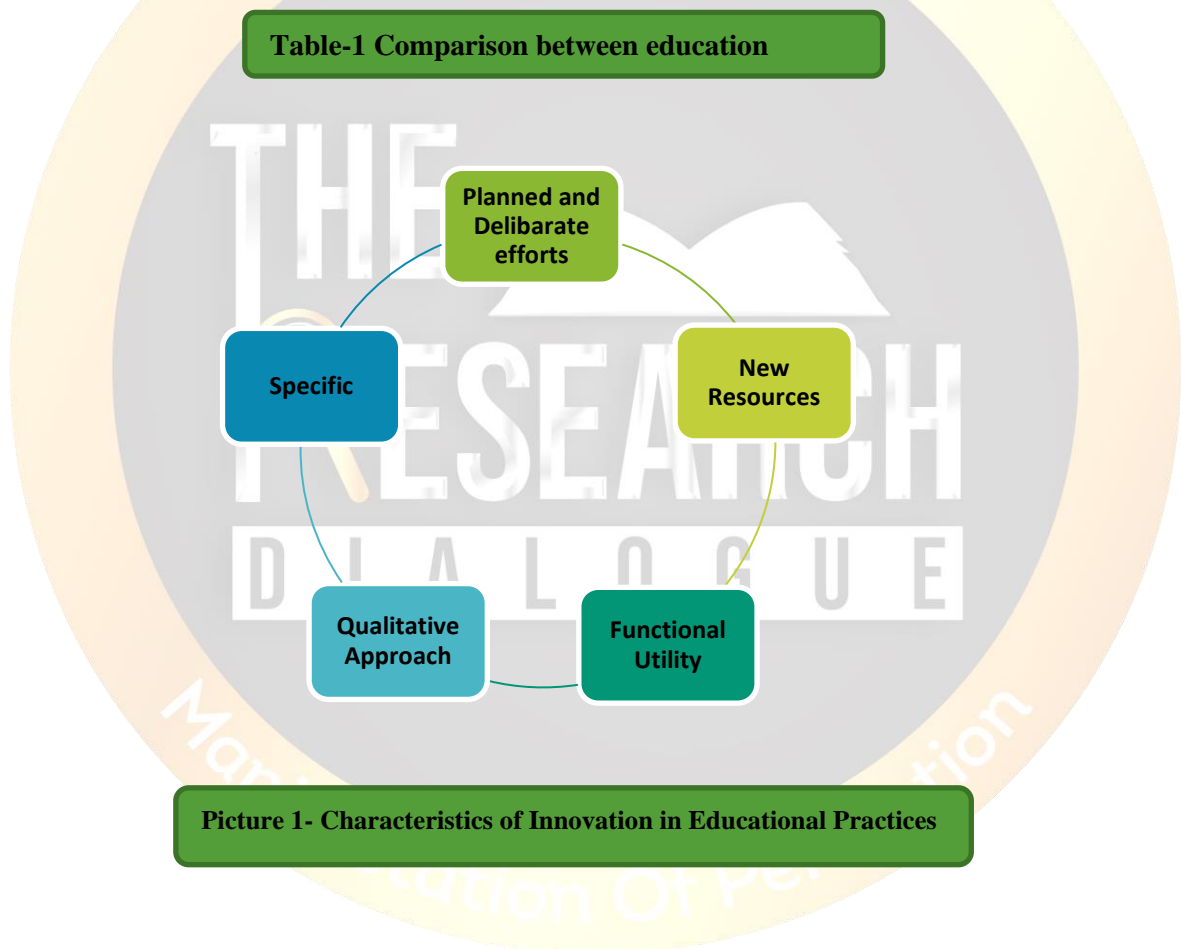
Innovation is a word we like to throw around whenever possible. Innovation means to bring changes or to do something new. We don't need to invent to innovate. Creativity and receptivity are related to innovation. Innovation is the creation and construction of a new path or way. Innovations are ideas, practices or ways that are considered new by the users.

As stated by E.M.Rogers, "An innovation is an idea perceived as new by individuals."

H.S.Bernett clarifies, "An innovation is any thought, behaviour or thing that is new and qualitatively different from the existing forms."

No understanding can be given to innovation with the help of any definition. To understand its real meaning, we will have to look at the problem with a new vision and a scientific approach will have to be used to transfer it. We have to keep our minds open to use new strategies. Innovation in the field of education can be observed vividly. If we look at the old and post-innovation education systems, we can clearly observe the difference.

Traditional Educational System	Innovative Educational System
Teacher more Active	Teacher as Guide
Learner role is passive listener	Learner role is as active participant
Autocratic atmosphere	Democratic atmosphere
Limited to Black board and chalk	Use of ICT and Different innovative Strategies



- 1- It is a planned process in which deliberate efforts are made.
- 2- It is a specific process in which special efforts are made to achieve the goal.
- 3- New resources have to be used in this process.
- 4- There is more emphasis on quality than quantity.

5- Another feature of this is that it has functional utility, due to which satisfaction occurs at the end of the process.

Curran & Peterson describes innovative practices as, "The practice with the new mind-set or new way with value in it. The instructor or educator refers to it as creative teaching

Different Innovative Strategies in Education Practices

Innovative ideas are used to make education more individualised, transmissible, accessible and creative, if we look at the traditional educational system, today's education is very different.

At present, the following are the innovations used in education practices so that teaching and learning can be made powerful.

1- Competency Based Learning

Making learning competency-based in educational practices is an innovative idea through which the student achieves excellence. The goal of learning with competency is to ensure that students learn to the highest level possible by having them demonstrate the knowledge, skills, mind-sets, and values necessary to deal with challenges in real life at the optimum stage for their age and grade.

2-Blended Learning

The term "blended learning" refers to the educational strategy of integrating digital learning resources with more conventional face-to-face instruction in a classroom. The student and the educator both should be physically present in the same place for a blended educational environment to be effective. This particular multichannel approach combines teacher-directed activities, pictures, video, virtual tasks, and in-person interaction.

3-Cooperative learning

Small groups that collaborate in such a manner that each member's success depends on the group's success are the main foundation of cooperative learning. Cooperation abilities, problem-solving skills, and resolving conflict are all enhanced by cooperative learning. Teachers can encourage cooperative learning through a variety of learning methods. This is a new innovation in educational practices

4-Digital Classroom

A digital classroom is one that improves student learning by utilising computers, smartphones, internet, and instructional software. The digital teaching can be a supplement to the physical teaching, offering more chances for study and cooperation. Students are able to learn from the convenience of their homes through electronic gadgets and the internet. These classrooms enable teachers to plan flexible class schedules and accommodate both live and recorded learning.

5-Experiential Learning

Experiential learning is the practise of learning by doing. Students have a better ability to relate concepts and information taught in the classroom to actual circumstances when they are involved in practical activities and reflection. Inquiry, critical thought, and synthesis are the guiding concepts responsible for the outcomes of experiential learning. The student actively participates in the learning process by asking questions, looking into things, trying things out, being interested, working through issues, taking ownership, being inventive, and creating meaning.

6-ICT Based Learning

ICT in education is the approach to education that makes use of ICT to enhance, improve, and accelerate information exchange. International researches have shown that ICT may improve teaching methods and student learning. ICT enables

students to grow creatively and acquire new abilities. ICT encourages the growth of initiative and imagination. Both in terms of form and substance, it is a useful instrument for creating art. It enhances students' academic achievement while also significantly enhancing their learning experience.

7-Constructivist Approach

According to constructivism, pupils actively develop their own learning rather than passively taking in content. People construct their personal representations of the world and integrate new content into their prior knowledge as they experience it and reflect on it. By encouraging group work and the exchange of ideas in education, constructivism fosters communication and interpersonal skills. Through participation in group activities, students must develop the ability to communicate their thoughts effectively as well as work successfully as a team.

Advantages of innovations in Educational Practices

Innovations in educational practices encourage instructors and students to investigate, experiment, and use all available resources to learn something new. Finding new approaches to problems and answers is what innovation entails. Additionally, it enhances education by requiring pupils to tackle complicated problems using higher-order thinking skills.

Innovations in educational practices can also simply mean carrying out tasks in a novel manner by using alternative methods, tools, products, or tactics. To address the needs of various learners, educational leaders constantly rethink the idea of education. This opens up the opportunity for innovation which is current, individualised, and sensitive to the children in our schools and classrooms today. Even though the technology is an important part of innovation, it is also crucial to keep in mind the human aspect of our students.

In the classroom, our students will be benefited from the critical thinking, sense of adventure, and adaptability that innovation in education fosters. It will offer them the competence and trust they need to continue adapting as well as the tools they need to face the difficulties of their new careers.

Students who are learning in innovative classrooms are increasing their peer involvement and gaining greater communication abilities. Key elements of educating students for a globalized, competitive workforce in the twenty-first century include personalised learning and differentiated possibilities for pupils as a result of innovative educational techniques. In this technological environment, students learning in cutting-edge classrooms may be able to comprehend knowledge at a profound level and retain greater amounts of it. Educational innovation extends beyond students and teachers. Communication applications, questionnaires, and other cutting-edge initiatives enable guardians and parents to be more involved in their children's education and can increase student, parent, and staff engagement.

Innovative educational techniques are essential to new development and expansion, much like in the consumer market. Innovation encompasses more than just technology advancements when it comes to new approaches in education. Innovative educational methods entail maximising the potential of technology.

Conclusion

Although innovative tools are helpful, their efficacy depends on the student, therefore giving them the right exposure to these tools will only advance their comprehension of how to use them effectively. While developing these technological advances into effective teaching and learning practices, we must take into account both the possible advantages and disadvantages. At last it can be concluded that a constant process of beneficial change in various facets of education, such as educational organisation, instructional and methodological

techniques, etc., is implied by innovations and experiments in education. It makes room for invention as well as putting new educational techniques into practise. Teachers and administrators can start it, as can the state through policy decisions at the institutional and organisational levels. It is frequently a conscious and planned endeavour to change existing behaviours by creating new ones, approaches to set up educational processes, new tools, and innovative techniques. It also entails the same use and dissemination. Individual acceptance, praise, and a systematic support structure are all necessary for innovation.

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