Between 2006 and 2016, Hong Kong, China, has experienced moderate innovation in education, with more change in primary than in secondary education practices. Innovation has been larger in science than in reading and maths, with a different pattern than in OECD systems where innovation typically came from changes in maths education practices. As in other systems, access to computers in schools and classes has dropped a bit, but mainly the use of ICT in class has not expanded as much in comparison to the average OECD system. The main areas of innovation were the expansion of teacher peer learning, the spread of rote learning practices and of practices that foster higher order skills. Succinctly put, most educational outcomes in Hong Kong have either improved or remained stable.

Practices that changed the most

**Primary**
- 58 less students in 100 had computers (including tablets) available during reading lessons, reaching a 35% coverage
- 47 more students in 100 had teachers collaborating in preparing instructional material, reaching a 70% coverage
- 33 more students in 100 had their teachers visiting another classroom to learn more about teaching, reaching a 33% coverage

**Secondary**
- 42 more students in 100 frequently observed and described natural phenomena in science lessons, reaching a 62% coverage
- 32 more students in 100 regularly watched teachers demonstrating an experiment in science lessons, reaching a 52% coverage
- 22 more students in 100 in science had their teachers visiting another classroom to learn more about teaching, reaching a 25% coverage

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Measuring Innovation in Education 2019

What has changed in the classroom?

Measuring innovation in education and understanding its process is essential to improve the quality of the education sector. We need to examine whether, and how, practices are changing within classrooms and educational organisations and how students use learning resources. We should know much more about how teachers change their professional development practices, how schools change their ways to relate to parents, and, more generally, to what extent change and innovation are linked to better educational outcomes. This would help policy makers to better target interventions and resources, better understand where they need to get better evidence, and get quick feedback on whether reforms do change educational practices as expected. This would also enable us to better understand the role of innovation in education.

Key findings for OECD education systems

- On average, there has been a moderate level of innovation in OECD education systems, perhaps more than one would often acknowledge, but probably less than what would be needed to really improve education systems.
- Many education systems have experienced high levels of technology-related innovation, with a slight decrease in access to computers and a significant increase of the use of ICT in pedagogical practices. Furthermore, on average, access to laptops increased by 17% points between 2009 and 2015.
- In many countries, peer learning has spread as a teacher professional development practice – increasing by 40% points for the OECD on average.
- While many policy debates have focused on “21st century skills” in the past decade, rote learning practices have spread to a similar extent as active learning practices, increasing by 28% and 26% points respectively.
- While in some practices there have been similar patterns across education systems, in most of them there does not seem to be an international convergence on pedagogical and educational practices.
- Innovation is not an end in itself, and some changes have not always translated into improvements in educational outcomes.

Methodology

The book examines the diffusion or contraction of about 150 educational practices from 2006 to 2016 by analysing data from three international education datasets – Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS), and the Programme on International Student Assessment (PISA). Beyond identifying the areas in which each education system has demonstrated emerging or changing organisational and pedagogical practices over a decade, the book synthesises education systems’ intensity of innovation by computing composite indices for countries for which enough information is available. Based on effects sizes (multiplied by 100), the education innovation indices propose a continuum, with innovation intensity being considered as relatively small when below 20, moderate between 20 and 40, and large above 40. More details on the methodology can be found in the report.