Innovation in education by type of practice

Between 2006 and 2016, the Russian Federation has experienced a relatively high level of innovation in educational practices, more than the OECD average. There was more innovation in primary than secondary, although both sectors experienced more change than OECD systems. At the disciplinary level, innovation in the Russian Federation followed the OECD pattern, with more innovation in maths practices, followed by science and reading. Innovation related to technology took the form of much more access to computers in schools, a big difference compared to OECD systems where there was a decrease, and also a much greater use of ICT in school. The most significant changes lay in the spread of teacher peer learning practices, in the expansion of independent knowledge acquisition practices in class, and the change in homework practices.

Practices that changed the most

**Primary**
- 62 more students in 100 had computers to look up ideas and information in reading, reaching a 75% coverage
- 56 more students in 100 had their teachers visiting another classroom to learn more about teaching, reaching a 70% coverage
- 50 more students in 100 in science and 40 more in maths had computers (including tablets) available for use during lessons, reaching a 66% and 62% coverage respectively

**Secondary**
- 60 more students in 100 in maths and 48 more in science systematically discussed homework in class, reaching a 67% and 62% coverage respectively
- 42 more students in 100 had teachers putting major emphasis on national or regional achievement tests in science, reaching a 92% coverage
- 39 more students in 100 had their teachers visiting another classroom to learn more about teaching, reaching a 52% coverage

**Some trends in educational outcomes**
- Academic outcome in primary and secondary science
- Academic outcome in primary and secondary maths
- Academic outcome in primary reading
- Student satisfaction in primary education
- Student engagement in primary and secondary science lessons
- Teachers’ collective ambition for their students in primary and secondary education
- Student satisfaction in primary and secondary education
- Teachers’ collective ambition for their students in primary and secondary education
- Equity of academic outcomes in primary reading
- Equity of academic outcomes in primary and secondary science
- Equity of academic outcomes in primary and secondary education
- Equity of academic outcomes in primary maths

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The indices indicate innovation intensity from small (below 20) to large (over 40). Higher positive and negative values show how much of the index corresponds to an expansion and contraction of the covered practices between 2006 and 2016. Authors’ calculations based on the PIRLS, PISA and TIMSS databases.

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Russian Federation
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 26% and 28% 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.