National Conference on Innovation (NAVONMESH) in School Education
(18-20 April, 2017)

Talking Points

- Innovation generally refers to change which brings out transformation in the system.
- Educational innovation aims towards improvement in the quality of the teaching-learning process, bringing out equity and equality and enhancing the efficiency of the system.
- The changes in the social, political, and economic conditions in a society create need for bringing out innovations and reforms in the system of education.
- Innovation depends on the context and situation in which innovation happens. However, innovations in school education in true sense make an impact on the learning of the students.
- Individual teacher/institution often explore new ways of transacting the curriculum in addressing the needs of students within their specific classroom context (including constraints of space, large numbers, absence of teaching aids, diversity in the student background, the compulsion of examination, and so on).
- These efforts, which are often pragmatic but also creative and ingenious, by and large, remain invisible to larger education communities, and are usually not valued by teacher and institutions themselves.
- It is utmost important for educational institutions and state functionaries that concerned teachers and institutions need to be given opportunities for sharing their efforts, which need to be further institutionalised/scaled up by the state/UT.
- This forum will provide us opportunities to reflect on the ways of encouraging and supporting the innovative and creative ways of teaching and learning by the system so that they can become a body of practice that can be brought to a stage when they can be built back into the system.
- There is a need to create structured spaces within schools, and at the level of the cluster and block where teachers are encouraged to share and discuss classroom practices and experiences.
- If seen as worthwhile, some of these ideas and practices can be systemically followed up. It is also important to bring together groups of teachers within and across schools and provide support to them in terms of resources as well as time to work together. There is also, a need for documentation and dissemination of identified 'good practices.
- Many states and national level organisations have carried out innovations, be it large or small which has benefitted the system. Some examples are NalliKali in Karnataka, Activity Based Learning (ABL) in Tamil Nadu, Multilingual Education Programme in Odisha, Children's Learning Acceleration Programme for Sustainability in Andhra Pradesh, B.Sc.Ed. (4-year integrated pre-service teacher education programme offered by NCERT), etc.. These have not only been appreciated in the states where they originated but have also been replicated by other stakeholders.
- States conduct innovations to achieve quality and equity in education. These innovations are seldom shared with other stakeholders, and are, thus, limited to small area and population benefitting them without being getting

recognition. Due to lack of mutual sharing of innovations (genesis, challenges, modalities for up-scaling, portability from one context/situation to another) being done by various individuals and institutions, often innovations in education do not automatically travel from one part of the country to another part. This makes innovations restricted to its place of origin only. This Conference purports to provide opportunities for sharing of innovations being conducted by the States and examining their scalability in other contexts.

Expected outcomes of the Conference

- o Identification of scalable innovations in school education and teacher education after mutual sharing among all the states/UTs, National level organisations and NGOs
- o Networking among states/UTs, National level organistions and NGOs for the scaling up of the innovations further.
- o Report on the collection of innovative /best practices in school education and teacher education for further sharing across districts in the country.
- o Documentation and development of a framework for implementation of innovative/best practices.