

EDUCATIONAL INNOVATIONS BANK

Building on the strengths within the system

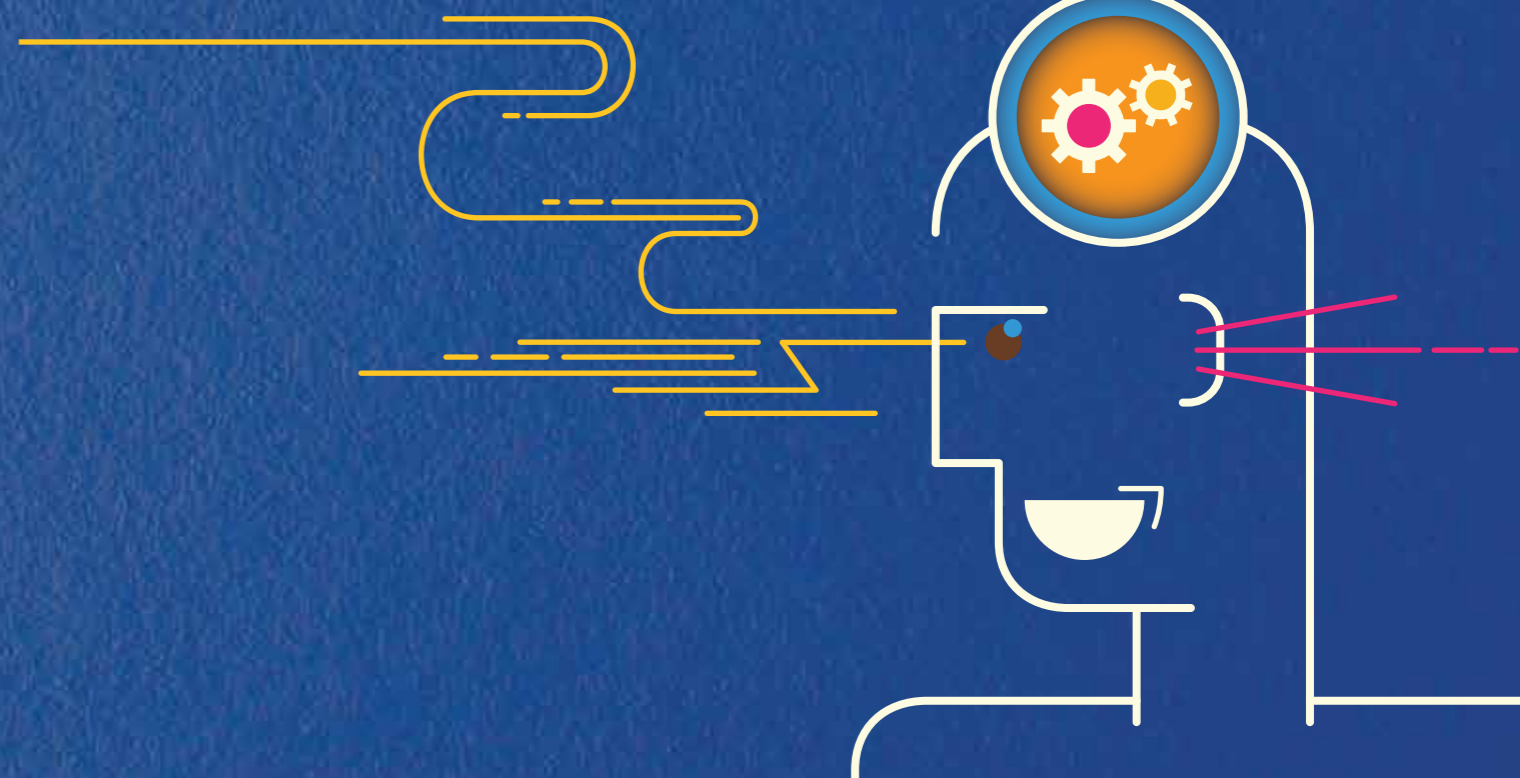
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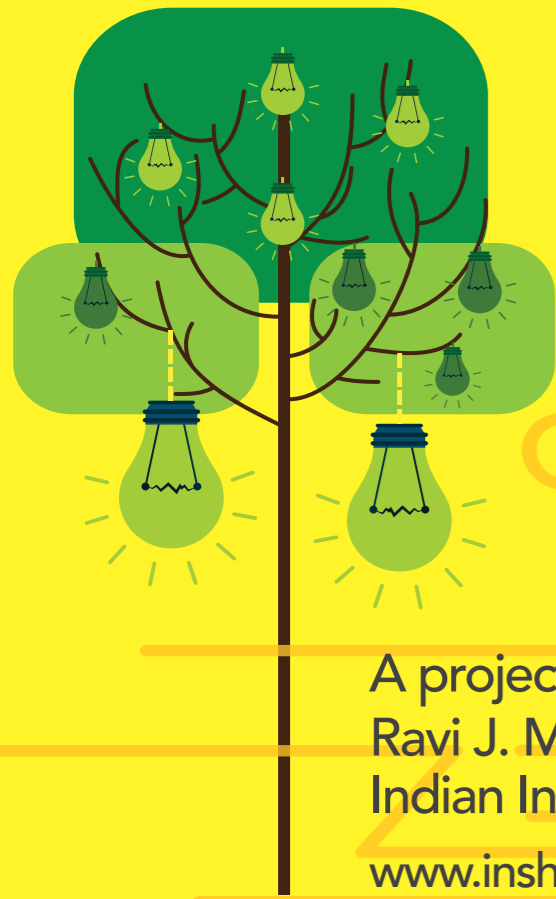
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A project of the
Ravi J. Matthai Centre for Educational Innovation
Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad
www.inshodh.org

The 'Educational Innovations Bank' (EI Bank) is dedicated to teacher-driven innovations in government elementary schools. Innovations of teachers who have achieved their educational goals in spite of facing the same constraints that thousands of others face. Innovations that are embedded in their local contexts and depend on the creativity and resourcefulness of their originators for their effectiveness. The EI Bank believes that such innovations and their developers can be the basis for an alternative decentralized and peer-driven approach to teacher development that can complement top-down reform.

As of late-2017, the EI Bank had developed a repository of about 10,000 such experiments or innovations of government school teachers, mainly from Gujarat and Maharashtra. These include in-school innovations in language, mathematics, science, social science, all-round development, extra-curricular development, regularizing attendance, testing and value education, and enabling innovations such as improving enrolment, developing school-community relations, bringing the differently-abled into school and resource mobilization. In Maharashtra, the EI Bank works through the State Innovation and Research Foundation, Solapur, a group of government school teachers focussed on supporting teacher-driven innovations.

Peer-driven decentralized professional development

The EI Bank believes that technology is a tool that can assist this repository in promoting decentralized peer-driven development. Thus, it runs a mobile phone-based discussion forum for both teachers of Gujarat and School Management Committee members. An SMS, every 10 days, carries a link to one of the repository's innovations and seeks responses. The best responses are fed back to the forum. About 10,000 teachers are members of this forum. Every day, on the project's Facebook page, one educational innovation is posted. Teachers respond with their innovative or creative initiatives. A similar activity is carried out through about 90 WhatsApp groups.

Facebook Pages

Educational Innovations Bank



Teachers' Innovations



Innovative Women Teachers



Building a culture of innovation in the public system

The EI Bank offers itself as a tool for developing a culture of innovation in the public system. Thus, it works with the Gujarat Council of Educational Research and Training in setting up Innovation Cells at the District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) and in using the EI Bank's resources to develop online training programs.

- The Innovation Cells have been conducting "Educational Innovation Fairs" across Gujarat since 2015. In each district, about 40 teachers, whose work has been validated by the DIETs, display their innovations for two days. The stalls are visited by one teacher from each school. All the visitors rank the innovations. The top three innovative teachers from each district are invited to a state fair.
- The EI Bank has developed an online training platform for in-service professional development of teachers on which a curriculum based on teacher-driven innovations can be implemented. Two pilots for about 1600 principals have been conducted during January to October 2017. The interactive training, which also included a small component of onsite training, has been well received.

Research and advocacy

Learning from innovative teachers, the EI Bank believes that sufficient attention to the ancillary systems that contribute to 'quality' in education has not been paid. These include, among others, the monitoring system, technology support, testing assistance, school-based governance and support to the non-cognitive competencies of children. However, it has focussed on understanding the non-cognitive development of children. A research project is studying the motivation, self-efficacy and learning strategies of 6700 children of 350 innovative teachers. The factors contributing to the innovativeness of the 350 teachers have also been studied. The quality of teacher-student interaction and the effect of innovative teachers on student engagement are also being examined. In partnership with UNICEF, Gujarat, the EI Bank's content has been used to improve the quality of decision-making among school management committee (SMC) members. A pilot in 50 villages which encouraged SMCs to undertake project-based decision making showed a significant improvement in 'vigilant' (thoughtful and careful) decision-making.

The EI Bank also believes in providing an opportunity to college students to augment the work of the innovative teachers. Thus, Scholars for Change is an online internship programme which has resulted in about 4500 videos, many with teaching manuals, to supplement Science and Math teaching in Classes 6 to 8 and language in Classes 1 to 5, and about 2500 projects in Science and Math for Classes 6 to 8. These are available at www.inshodh.org. Till date 812 students from various colleges of India have participated in the online internship. Packages prepared from this content are being distributed for offline use and on google drive via e-mail.

Apart from the innovations themselves, a number of documents are available on the website. These include Sampratay a casebook of 33 innovative women teachers in Hindi; a casebook of 100 promising innovations; the outcomes of the Educational Innovation Fairs of the DIETs, stories for children and a few video stories of teachers.

Acknowledgements

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