Educational Innovation
Successful Cases: Part 1

Francisco J. García-Peñalvo, GRIAL Research Group, Department of Computer Science, Research Institute for Educational Sciences, University of Salamanca, Salamanca, Spain

ABSTRACT

Educational innovation is a key factor to improve educational goals and learning outcomes. There are very good practices in different contexts that may be reused and adapted in other ones, however these good practices are difficult to find and share, this means teachers repeat again and again the same “innovative” practices with local results and an overall idea of reinventing the wheel than produce a valuable improvement or adaptation of an existing practice. This special issue (organized in two parts) tries to share some interesting teaching practices that may be adopted and adapted in other different contexts and subjects.

Keywords: Educational Goals, Educational Innovation, Learning Outcomes, Teaching Cases, Technology and Education

INTRODUCTION

We are living in a society in a continuous evolution. Some authors think we are in a transition moment from Industrial Society towards and Information Society (Tiffin & Rajasingham, 1995), other ones defend the idea of we are currently in an Information Society (Cabero Almenara, 2007; Castells, 1997), based on the conception about information does not mean knowledge, however, there are also authors that prefer to talk about a Knowledge Society, because of Information Society has capitalist connotations (Burch, 2005) or technological innovation orientation (Waheed Khan, 2003).

Independently of the name we use to refer current society, this is characterized by the strategic importance of the knowledge. Thus, the knowledge management, collaborative processes, ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) and new kind of skills related to informational competences are the real causes of the society changes and evolution.

In this sense, Education must evolve in the same way that Society does, trying to incorporate the those innovations that allow improving the learning and teaching processes, solving current problems in these educational processes and achieving a more students’ engagement.

Educational Innovation means introducing changes that allow improving the Education in a broad sense. But these changes must be sustainable, transferable, effective and efficient. Some of these changes are achieved throughout ICT, new trends, new processes or new approaches. However, it is very important disseminate and sharing the good practices and experiences about innovation in education (Sein-Echaluce, Leris, Fidalgo Blanco, & García-Peñalvo, 2013), this way we will be able to analyze their scope.

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