

SOCIAL SCIENCES AS A CATALYST IN EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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Abstract

The 21st century is marked by fast technology growth, global links, changes in people numbers, new social problems and new needs for knowledge and skills. These shifts put pressure on schools to find new ways that use technology, fit society and focus on learners. This paper looks at how the social sciences can spark innovation in the 21st century. By reviewing books and policy papers the paper shows how fields like sociology, psychology, economics, political science, anthropology and social studies help us see the cultural, institutional and social parts of school change. The paper says that educational innovation is not about new gadgets; it also means changes in what is taught how it is taught how we test how teachers grow, how schools run and how rules are made all to match new social realities. The OECD says social sciences are key to understanding how innovation happens and to breaking down limits to both tech and social innovation. Studies on studies show that adding tech can help students build learning and innovation skills read and use media get tech skill and learn life and job skills. The Technological Pedagogical Content Knowledge framework shows that real tech use needs a mix of content, teaching and tech not tech alone. In Nigeria research says pre-service teachers of studies are ready for digital tech but they face problems with school access and tools. This paper stresses that teamwork across subjects learning to use tech thinking sharply and creatively updating the curriculum helping teachers grow and making policy based on evidence are all needed. It ends by saying that putting sciences into educational innovation can make learning more fair fit the local context and put people first so students are ready, for the complex social and tech world of the 21st century.

Keywords: Social Sciences; Educational Innovation; 21st Century Education; Social Studies; Digital Technology; Curriculum Innovation; Critical Thinking; Teacher Education.