## Reshmi Educational and Charitable Trust ® Sri Murugharajendra Swamiji B.Ed and M.Ed College

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## Teaching learning process nurtures creativity, innovativeness, intellectual and thinking skills, empathy, life skillsetc. among students

Innovation in education encourages teachers and students to explore, research and use all the tools to uncover something new. It involves a different way of looking at problems and solving them. The thinking process that goes into it will help students develop their creativity and their problem solving skills. Creativity, innovation and learning Creativity and innovation are fundamental to all disciplines and an essential part of the learning process, forming an important dimension of learning how to learn. They are also fundamental to teachers improving their professional practice and to school development.

Learning involves challenging, refining and improving understanding by being made to think hard. Sometimes, to understand new concepts and broaden perspectives, our approaches to thinking need to be creative, imaginative and lateral, as well as linear.

One characteristic of the creative process that makes it particularly powerful is that it requires not only knowledge and understanding of the domain being investigated, but also a willingness to question and not be constrained by existing knowledge. Learners should understand how they can question or challenge established knowledge to help them to formulate their own understanding and imagination can play an important role: 'One cannot think creatively unless one has the knowledge with which to think creatively. Creativity represents a balance between knowledge and freeing oneself of that knowledge' For creative thinking to deepen and extend learning, rather than be an enjoyable but superficial activity, it must be grounded in understanding of the content being investigated. It is vital that learners have sufficient understanding of the material with which they are being asked to be creative. Creative practice needs to complement diligent and deliberate practice that develops foundational skills – not be a substitute for it.

An alternative, and probably more accurate, representation would be to include creativity as a process involved in skills at all levels represented in the taxonomy, and increasingly so with higher order skills. It might be thought that remembering factual information does not involve creative processes. Creative approaches can be very helpful in remembering information. The processes used by champions at the World Memory Championships are highly creative as they use the mind's capacity to recognize and remember chunks or patterns that have meaning to the individual much more effectively than isolated facts. In life skills education, Students are actively involved in a dynamic teaching and learning process. The methods used to facilitate this active involvement include working in small groups and pairs, brainstorming, role play, games and debates.

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