

Fostering Creativity in Education Exploring Leadership Perspectives on Systemic Barriers to Innovative Pedagogy

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Abstract : The ability to adopt creative pedagogical approaches is increasingly vital in today's educational landscape. This study examines the institutional barriers that hinder educators, in the UK, from embracing such innovation, focusing specifically on the experiences and perspectives of educational leaders. Current literature primarily focuses on the challenges that academics and teachers encounter, particularly highlighting how management culture and audit processes negatively affect their ability to be creative in classrooms and lecture theatres. However, this focus leaves a gap in understanding management perspectives, which is crucial for providing a more holistic insight into the challenges encountered in educational settings. To explore this gap, we are conducting semi-structured interviews with senior leaders across various educational contexts, including universities, schools, and further education colleges. This qualitative methodology, combined with thematic analysis, aims to uncover the managerial, financial, and administrative pressures these leaders face in fostering creativity in teaching and supporting professional learning opportunities. Preliminary insights indicate that educational leaders face significant barriers, such as institutional policies, resource limitations, and external performance indicators. These challenges create a restrictive environment that stifles educators' creativity and innovation. Addressing these barriers is essential for empowering staff to adopt more creative pedagogical approaches, ultimately enhancing student engagement and learning outcomes. By alleviating these constraints, educational leaders can cultivate a culture that fosters creativity and flexibility in the classroom. These insights will inform practical recommendations to support institutional change and enhance professional learning opportunities, contributing to a more dynamic educational environment. In conclusion, this study offers a timely exploration of how leadership can influence the pedagogical landscape in a rapidly evolving educational context. The research seeks to highlight the crucial role that educational leaders play in shaping a culture of creativity and adaptability, ensuring that institutions are better equipped to respond to the challenges of contemporary education.

Keywords : educational leadership, professional learning, creative pedagogy, marketisation

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