

## TRENDS and ISSUES in EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Educational leadership is the process of enlisting and guiding the talents and energies of teachers, students and parents toward achieving common educational aims.

Recently several trends have emerged in the field of educational leadership thus improving student learning. The trends are influenced by factors such as technological advancements and change in educational philosophies. Some of the notable trends include integration of technology. Schools are rapidly incorporating technological tools and resources which enhance teaching and learning experiences. It includes use of interactive whiteboards, online collaboration platforms, educational apps and multimedia resources which provides a wide range of digital resources.

Usage of Artificial intelligence and Machine learning. These technologies have the ability to analyse large amounts of data and identify patterns. They include adaptive learning systems and intelligent tutoring systems which can provide recommendations to students and personalized feedback improving learning.

Equity and inclusion within schools. School administrators are working to create inclusive learning environments to cater diverse needs of students. It includes addressing systematic barriers that hinder equal access to education and fostering a welcoming school climate.

Learning online through digital platforms. Schools have implemented virtual learning environments, online collaboration tools and learning management systems ensuring continuous education during remote learning models. Availability of digital resources such as educational videos, e-books and interactive learning platforms has immensely improved education.

Making decisions based on data. Administrators are using attendance records, student performance data and other relevant metrics to inform instructional practices and decision making process. Analysis of data enables identification of areas for improvement by administrators and evaluation of the effectiveness of educational programs and initiatives.

Conducting evaluation and assessment.

Administrators are exploring new methods of assessing student learning such as performance based assessments and portfolios. These assist in guidance and instruction thus promoting the growth of students academically.

Evidence derived by practice. This is the use of evidence based practices which are of assistance in decision making. By use of this the data that is taught is of proof as research has been conducted.

Educational administration also experiences certain challenges. These include:

Shortage of teachers. The leaders face difficulties in acquiring and retaining highly skilled teachers. Low salaries and unconducive working conditions attribute to the challenge. Strategic plans should be made to eliminate the problem as it will improve the educational services.

Changes in policies. These include curriculum reforms, assessment and accountability measures which are difficult to adjust and implement due to factors such as limited resources and difficulties in accepting change.

Financial constraints. Many schools are unable to offer quality services due to financial limitation as it may limit the resources the essential resources. Lack of funds may also cause presence of minimal and poor infrastructure and also even inadequate staff.

Through strategic planning and innovative approaches these challenges can be addressed effectively.