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# Education for Empowerment

(Papers presented at the  
Sixth National Conference of Teacher-Educators)



Estd. 1996

**Kanniyakumari Academy of Arts and Sciences**  
(A Multi-Disciplinary Researchers' Forum)

in co-ordination with



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Sixth National Conference of Teacher Educators  
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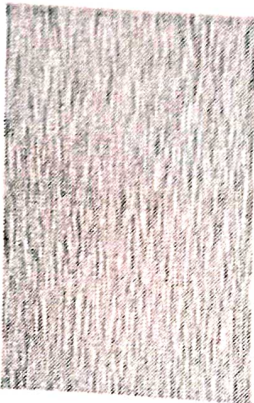
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தம்மின்தம்மக்கள் அறிவுடைமைமாநிலத்து  
மன்னுயிர்க்கு எல்லாம் இனிது - திருக்கு

Nothing is more pleasing to all parents  
On this great earth than that their children  
Should possess real learning  
- The Sacred K

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# **TECHNIQUES FOR FOSTERING CREATIVE THINKING**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The ability to think creatively is an essential skill for everyone. By applying creativity, it is possible to break out of usual routines and patterns of behavior and to increase personal effectiveness. Thinking creatively will show how to tap into innate creativity so that we can find innovative solutions to difficult problems. It will help to understand the process of generating and assessing ideas, and it will show how to benefit from sharing ideas with others in order to build consensus and commitment. This paper highlights the techniques for fostering creative thinking among students.

## **INTRODUCTION**

We are all the creation of God and every one of us possess creative abilities. Every one of us is a unique creation, but does not possess the same creative ability. Some are endowed with high creative talents and contribute to advancement in the fields of art, literature, science, teaching etc. and are responsible for propounding new ideas and bringing about social and cultural changes.

Creative thinking is a way of looking at problems or situations from a fresh perspective that suggests unorthodox solutions (which may look unsettling at first). Creative thinking can be stimulated both by an unstructured process such as brainstorming, and by a structured process such as lateral thinking. Edward De Bono says, "Creative thinking is not a talent; it is a skill that can be learnt. It empowers people by adding strength to their natural abilities which improves team work, productivity and where appropriate profits".

Creative thinking is much more than using our imagination to crank out lots of new ideas. Creative thinking is a lifestyle, a personality trait, a way of perceiving the world, a way of interacting with other people, and a way of living and growing - Gary Davis.

Creative thinking means the predictions and/or inferences for the individual are new, original, ingenious, and unusual. The creative thinker is one who explores new areas and makes new observations, new predictions, and new inferences - Skinner.

#### NATURE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF CREATIVE THINKING

- Creative thinking, in all its shapes and forms, is absolutely an internal mental process and hence should be considered as an important component of one's cognitive behavior.
- Every one of us is capable of creative thinking and hence it is a universal phenomenon.

- Creative thinking results in the production of something new or novel.
- Any creative expression as a result of one's Creative thinking is a source of joy and satisfaction for the creator. Although our creative abilities involving Creative thinking are natural endowments, they can be nourished and nurtured by training or education.
- Creative thinking in all its dimensions involve divergent thinking instead of the routine and fixed type of convergent thinking.
- The mind must have complete freedom to wander around to create a new idea.
- The field of Creative thinking and its output is quiet comprehensive and wide. It covers all the aspects of human accomplishments belonging to an individual's life.
- Psychologists, on the basis of their researches, have agreed on the presence of following elements or factors in one's Creative thinking:  
i) Ideational fluency, ii) originality, iii) flexibility, iv) Divergent thinking, v) self-confidence and persistence, vi) ability to see and build relationships.

#### CREATIVE THINKING TECHNIQUES

Higher order thinking skills in Bloom's taxonomy promote independent learning, thinking and creativity. Dr. Hogan says the current transmission and acquisition model of education is responsible for a creativity deficit in students, who ultimately fail to reach their full

potential. No teacher wants to be responsible for the failure of students. So fostering creativity is must in the classroom.

Some techniques for fostering creative thinking are given below:

- Brainstorm ideas on one topic onto a large piece of paper. Brainstorming technique allows the group to explore ideas without judgment.
- Use of gaming technique, in a playful spirit help the children in the development of creative thinking. These techniques provide valuable learning experiences in a relaxed spontaneous and evaluative situation.
- We should allow adequate freedom to children in responding to a situation. They should be encouraged to think out as many ideas as they can for the solution of a problem.
- Provide opportunity for ego involvement. Actually, a child can be expected to put in determined efforts in to creative activities only when his ego is involved.
- Provide a healthy atmosphere favourable for creative thinking in schools. Religious festivals, social get-togethers, exhibitions etc. can provide opportunity for creative expression. Even the regular class work can be arranged in such a way to develop creative thinking among children.
- The curriculum should be properly organized for the development of creative thinking ability among students. For this curriculum should

cater to the individual needs of each student rather than to the generalized needs of all students.

- Ask the same question at least twenty times and give a different answer each time. Teachers should increase the use of open ended questions.
- Make the students to change their routine work. Make them to do things in a different way.
- Make the students to combine some of the features of different objects or ideas to create several more.
- Be open to ideas when they are still new, look for ways of making things work and pushing the idea to its limits.
- Encourage divergent thinking on the part of students.
- Factors like faculty methods of teaching, rigid habits of work, unsympathetic treatment, over emphasis on school marks, authoritarian attitude of teachers and parents etc. may hinder development of creative thinking ability. So parents and teachers should avoid such blocks to creative thinking.

## CONCLUSION

Creativity is thinking new, innovation is doing new. There is no doubt that creativity is the most important human resource of the world. Without creativity, there would be no progress and we would be forever repeating the same patterns. In order to become more creative we need to be aware of how we usually respond to situations or issues. Notice our current behavior patterns and ways of thinking and test

creative we really are – be honest with ourselves. It becomes essential for teachers as well as parents to realize the need of creating an environment conducive to the development of creative thinking abilities of children. Parents and teachers should help the children in nourishing and utilizing their creative abilities. The educational process therefore should be aimed at developing creative abilities among children.

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