

Consequences of innovation

Consequences

- Are the changes that occur in an individual or social system as a result of adoption or rejection of an innovation

Implications of studying consequences of innovation

- Change agencies overemphasize adoption per se, tactically assuming that consequences of innovation-decision will be positive
- The usual survey methods are less appropriate for investigation of consequences of innovations
- Consequences are difficult to measure

Classification of consequences

- Desirable Vs Undesirable consequences
- Direct Vs Indirect consequences
- Anticipated Vs Unanticipated consequences

Desirable Vs Undesirable consequences

- Desirable consequences: functional effects of an innovation for an individual or for a social system
- Undesirable consequences: dysfunctional effects of an innovation for an individual or for a social system

Direct Vs Indirect consequences

- Direct consequences: changes to an individual or social system that occur in immediate response to adoption of an innovation
- Indirect consequences: changes to an individual or a social system that occur as a result of the direct consequences of an innovation

Anticipated Vs Unanticipated consequences

- Anticipated consequences: changes due to innovation that are recognized and intended by the members of the social system
- Unanticipated consequences: changes due to innovation that are neither intended nor recognized by the members of the social system

Achieving dynamic equilibrium

- What rate of changes allows a system to achieve the maximum benefits of an innovation and yet not produce disequilibrium in the social system
- Types of equilibrium
 - Stable equilibrium
 - Dynamic equilibrium
 - Disequilibrium

- **Stable equilibrium:** occurs when there almost no change in structure or functioning of a social system
- **Dynamic equilibrium:** occurs when the rate of change in a social system occurs at the rate that is commensurate with the systems ability to cope with it
- **Disequilibrium:** occurs when the rate of change is too rapid to permit the social system to adjust

Conclusion

- Innovation has far reaching implications
- Acceptance of innovations has implications
- Consequences of innovations influence process of adoption