

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

“Education has always been important but perhaps, never more so, in man’s history than today. In a science based world, education and research are crucial to the development process of a country, its welfare, progress and security”.

(Education Commission 1964-66)

Education is a process, which empower the body, mind and spirit of man so that he becomes a productive and responsible member of the family and society. The function of education is thus to equip each individual’s the skills and competencies for a successful living. It serves as an instrument for the economic and social development of a country. The Indian Education Commission (1964-66) rightly states, “The destiny of the nation is being shaped in its classrooms”. Investment in the education of youth is the most fundamental in all modern nations. Education is a unique investment in the present and future. The educational system of a nation is the backbone to its prosperity and that no investment is likely to yield greater returns than investment in the human resource of which the most important is education. Moreover, the future of any nation depends on the foundation of Education. The product of our schools and other institutions of learning are the future citizens into whose hands the responsibility of deciding the nation’s destiny is entrusted.

The day-to-day teaching learning process-taking place in the classroom is an important aspect of any school system. According to the Fifth survey of educational research (1988 -92) new researchers are setting up new trends in teaching learning process and a paradigm shift is being observed from teacher-centred classroom to student centred classroom, from passive to active participation of students. The basic principle that governs this paradigm shift is transmission and transaction of knowledge in a classroom that bring its practical utility. All these attempts make the child relate the classroom teaching learning to his immediate environment. Once the child is able to associate the learned concept with his day-to-day life activities, he is able to adjust and explore himself as a productive member in society. Therefore, teaching should include different classroom activities aiming towards the attainment

of goals and it depends on many factors such as nature of the learner, nature of the instructional material and the learning environment.

The report of the Education Commission (1964-66) laid great emphasis on making science as an important element in the school curriculum and therefore recommended that science should be taught on a compulsory basis to all pupils as a part of general education during the first ten years of schooling. However, the first attempt for making teaching of general science as a compulsory subject in secondary school was made in the recommendation of the report of Secondary Education Commission (1953). The Commission suggests compulsory inclusion of general science at middle and secondary level. It also suggested diversification of courses having science group subjects as optional channels at higher secondary level. As a result of above recommendation, science has been recognized as a compulsory subject until secondary level of schooling. At primary level, it is taught as general subject namely Environment, at secondary level as science & Technology and at higher secondary level, it is being offered as specialized subjects like Biology, Physics and Chemistry for students selecting Science stream. It is at the secondary stage that the foundations of these specialized subjects gets laid so that the student develops interest and attitude to take up special courses in various disciplines at higher secondary.

The 21st century world is termed to be a scientific world, advancing steadily in rapid strides in information technology, engineering, medicine, space communication and other allied discipline. Particularly in the view of the liberalization of the economy in the recent years, our country requires technically skilled work force. The importance of science in general and physics in particular has increased, as most of the technical field requires a strong base of physics and mathematics. Secondary stage is the foundation for all the major disciplines of science and physics is no exception. A strong base provided at this stage will motivate students to pursue a career in physics in future.

1.1 NATURE OF SCIENCE IN GENERAL AND PHYSICS IN PARTICULAR

Curiosity of knowing and exploring nature since the beginning of our civilization led to the understanding of the things around us. Gradually the curiosity to know nature and disclose the mysteries led to the establishment of certain knowledge based on facts. Initially the facts were formed based on once personal experience. Progressively

when the experiences got verified time and again with respect to different variables, the experiences got converted to established facts. These facts proved to help men to understand the laws of nature and simplify his daily life. Hence, basic nature of science remains experiencing and verifying.

Science word is originated from Latin verb 'Scere' meaning 'to know' and Latin noun 'scientia' meaning knowledge. Science can be defined as 'The systematic observation of natural events and conditions in order to discover facts about them and also to formulate laws and principles based on these facts'.

Hence, science is the concerted human endeavour to understand, or to understand better, the history of the natural world and how the natural world works, with observable physical evidence as the basis of that understanding. It is done through observing natural phenomena, and through experience that tries to stimulate natural processes under controlled conditions. The nature of science can be identified as an accumulated and systematized body of knowledge, the scientific method of inquiry and the scientific attitudes. The facts, generalization, theories and laws form the basic structure of science. In order to achieve the basic structure of science the process of science needs due emphasis.

Science as a subject at secondary level is in integrated form of the three different disciplines of science: physics, biology and chemistry. Physics as a fundamental science deals with the matter and energy in nature.

The word "physics" originated from the Greek word that means 'Nature'. It thus points out to the fact that physics is the branch of science that deals with the study of nature and natural phenomenon. Some of the important definitions of physics quoted by Aman Rao (1998) are:

'It is a branch of science that deals with that phenomenon's which are related to matter and energy'.

'It represents an accumulative and systematic learning of the natural phenomenon related with matter and energy'.

'It is a systematized accumulation of knowledge about matter through a scientific method of inquiry based on some scientific related values and attitudes'.

From the above definitions, we can say that physics is a branch of knowledge related to matter and energy but it is almost impossible to give an exact definition of physics. Actually, physics starts with the study of basic properties of matter and radiations and make an effort to explain various natural phenomenon in terms of the properties.

Physics is thus the science concerned with the elementary constituents of the universe and their interactions, as well the analysis of systems best understood in terms of these fundamental principles. It attempts to describe the natural world by the application of logic and the scientific method, through a process which includes both theories and experimentation.

1.2 LANDMARKS IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

To develop science as a part of school curriculum at secondary level and as a discipline at senior secondary level in schools, and later at college level, the government of India appointed a number of commissions to work out the syllabus, infrastructure, evaluation procedure, teaching aid, study material, qualification of teachers and other allied problem and thereby recommend suggestions. A number of eminent educationalists worked on these problems and their recommendations led to the science curriculum and established science as a important subject at various levels of education. Some important commissions and their recommendations have been discussed below:

1.2.1 University Education Commission / Dr Radhakrishnan Commission (1949)

The commission formed under the guidance of Dr. Radhakrishnan recommended for improvement of libraries and laboratories for science teaching. It advocated science curriculum to be relevant to the physical and social environment of the student. For higher education, it recommended that the three-year degree course should have two optional subjects as science and developing science education.

1.2.2 All India Seminar on Teaching of Science (1956)

The All India Seminar on the teaching of science held in Shimla Hills in 1956 dealt with almost all the problems facing the inclusion of General Science as a core subject in Schools. This seminar reflected in almost all the aspects concerning the teaching of science in schools. It recommended the evaluation of draft syllabus of physics, chemistry and biology. It examined the elementary science syllabus at primary and

middle school stage. It also consider the various other aspects of teaching such as equipment, apparatus, methods of examinations, teaching aids in science and other allied topics such as textbooks, science clubs, museum etc. It was one of its kinds to recommend the acquisition of the 'Scientific Method' and development of 'Scientific attitude' in the teaching of science at secondary level.

1.2.3 Indian Parliamentary and Scientific Committee (1961)

This committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri in August, 1961. The committee studied the problems of science education in school to explore the relation between the policies and the courses offered in the schools. The committee reported:

- Shortage of qualified teaching staff.
- Need for technically trained manpower.
- Need for changing the process and aims of science.
- Study the structure of school system and the required content of the subject.
- Bridging the gap between what is taught and what should be taught at various levels of science education.

1.2.4 UNESCO Planning Mission (1963)

Experts of the UNESCO Planning Mission visited in 1963 and gave the following recommendations on different issues of science education at secondary schools. It recommended for:

- Learning of science to be made compulsory in schools.
- More time to be devoted to impart elementary knowledge of modern areas of science like atomic physics, nuclear physics, solid state physics, electronics etc.
- More emphasis to be put on the practical applications of science.
- Activities to be involved in the teaching of science.
- Physics be taught as a separate subject from class XI.

The Mission laid emphasis on the activity based and practical applicability teaching of science at secondary school level.

1.2.5 Indian Education Commission (1964-1966)

It was established by the government of India on July 14, 1964 headed by D.S. Kothari. The commission reported the inferior quality of science education and a dire need to upgrade the school curriculum in science. The commission recommended that the methods of teaching science should be modernized stressing the investigatory approach and the understanding of the basic principles. There should be flexibility in the curriculum in order to cater the individualistic need of the learners. An experimental approach to learning of science should be stressed. Research in curriculum development, revision of the science textbooks and teaching learning process to be given prominence.

1.2.6 Ishwar Bhai Patel Committee (1977)

In June 1977, a Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Ishwarbhai J. Patel was appointed to examine the syllabus and textbooks recommended by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for secondary schools. The syllabus and the textbooks faced criticisms with respect to the scheme of examination, voluminous textbooks and no place for work experience in the curriculum. The Committee recommended for adequate time for experimentation, creative work and remedial instruction in science teaching at secondary level.

1.2.7 National Policy on Education (1986)

It was felt that our delivery system was not able to meet the needs and aspirations of the people. In this new policy, more emphasis has been placed on sound science education. It recommended science curriculum laid more emphasis on the scientific method and attempt to develop scientific attitude and scientific temper in students. Provision of science kits and assistance for scientific equipment and funds to establish libraries in secondary schools were the salient features of the scheme prepared for improvement of science education in schools.

1.2.8 National Curriculum Framework (2000)

The main emphasis of NCF (2000) on science education at secondary level was to encourage the learners to work both individually as well as in peer groups. Critical, creative and generative thinking has to be developed. Students need to be encouraged to explore their skills of experimentation. Science education at secondary stage should

focus on understanding of concepts and application in the areas of matter and its properties, energy, relationship of various physical processes and its technological applications of principles of science. Science teaching at secondary level should be an integrated approach, leading to the application of science and technology in areas like health and nutrition, industry, agriculture, animal husbandry and allied areas that would establish linkages of science to social aspirations. The practical activities chosen should have relevance for future life through acquisition of skills and values.

1.2.9 National Curriculum Framework (2005)

National Curriculum Framework (2005) specified that at secondary stage the students should be engaged in learning science as a composite discipline, in working with hands and tools to design more advanced technological modules than at the upper primary stage. Students need to be involved in activities and analysis on issues surrounding environment and health. Systematic experimentation as a tool to discover/ verify theoretical principles, the scientific and technological literacy model of working on locally significant projects are to be important part of the curriculum at this stage.

The recommendations of the various committees and commissions emphasize on teaching of science as a process rather than a product aspect. It stresses on the need to incorporate activities, observation and experimentation in teaching of science at secondary level. It encourages an active approach to science, connecting science with the world around the child rather than information based learning.

1.3 IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING PHYSICS AT SECONDARY LEVEL

Physics gives the power to predict and design, to understand and to adventure into the unknown. The natural phenomenon of lightning and thunder, the eclipse, the rainbow, the mirage and many such phenomenon are part of our day to day life. Physics enables us to answer the question ‘Why’ to all such phenomenon in nature. It helps to nourish the curiosity about the world which makes human so sharply different from other beings in nature.

Physics as a part of science at secondary stage need to focus on: concepts, skills and information. Concepts are related with the understanding of conceptual knowledge, skills are related with the procedural part and information is the factual knowledge.

Due emphasis is on the concept understanding and skill development which enables the application part possible. Physics is more of a functionary science. Enhancement of the scientific skills is achievable with comprehension of concepts. Hence, the mastery of basic concepts of physics at this stage is essential for better applicability in future learning.

The classroom teaching of physics at secondary level should take into consideration the basic conceptual understanding of the content. The teacher needs to promote the process skills and has immense scope of developing the problem solving in class, which ultimately lead to enhancement in the application of the physics concepts in daily life. Physics as a part of science has a number of abstract concepts. The students view physics as one of the difficult subjects to study at all levels of schooling. Secondary stage is the transition stage, the concepts developed at upper primary level need to be strengthened here, and a firm foundation for the further learning in the subject is to be provided at this stage. Expose of the learners to the different processes used in physics related industrial and technological applications is indispensable. Teaching of physics at secondary level should focus on the development of process-skills, experimental, observational, manipulative, decision making and investigatory skills in the learners. It should aim at promoting creative thinking in learners and develop conceptual competence in the learners.

Learning of the concept is all about how the students perceive and understand the world in relation to the concept. Physics learning involve mastering abstract principles, understanding proofs, relating the facts, reasoning, acquiring methods, techniques and approaches. Constructivist theory believes in the notion of continuous building and amending of previous structures, or schemata, as new experience, actions and knowledge are assimilated and accommodated. Learning involves inducting students into the modes of thinking to shift the focus from regurgitation of factual information to understanding.

Physics concepts at the secondary stage is the beginning made to introduce science as a discipline at higher secondary stage. Concepts, principles and laws are abstract and interconnected as compared to the physics concepts at upper primary stage. NCF (2005) specifies that at secondary stage concepts that are beyond the direct experience of the students may occupy an important place in the science curriculum.

Experimentation and activities should be an important part of the curriculum at this stage. The students at this stage if exposed to activities and participative learning can develop the critical ability to evaluate the epistemological status of facts that they encounter. Teaching of physics at secondary stage should thus excite, stimulate and motivate learners into doubting, questioning and investigating the information provided. It should thus encourage the learners to think independently and shape their conclusions rationally.

1.4 AIMS OF TEACHING PHYSICS AT SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVEL

Secondary stage of school education is a stage of transition from integrated science to general science. Physics teaching at secondary stage should enable the student to know their surrounding better and help them to develop scientific attitude and scientific temper in them.

From the reports of various commissions and committee the aims and objectives of teaching physics at various stages in India were recommended. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) have recommended the following aims for physics teaching in schools.

- To acquire the knowledge of terms, facts, concepts, definitions, fundamental laws, principles and processes in the field of physics.
- To develop an understanding of terms, facts, concepts, definitions, fundamental laws, principles and process in the field of physics.
- To apply the knowledge and understanding of physics in unfamiliar situations.
- To develop skills related to the practical aspects of recording observations and interpreting the observations.
- To develop scientific attitude and scientific temper.

(Source: Srivastava, 2006)

1.5 TEACHING AND LEARNING OF SCIENCE IN GENERAL AND PHYSICS IN PARTICULAR AT SECONDARY LEVEL

Science is a dynamic, expanding body of knowledge covering ever new domain of experience. The teaching learning process at secondary level should be geared to the needs, requirements, capacities and interest of the students. The purpose of classroom interactions should be to develop in learners the skills and abilities of independent

learning and problem solving. The classroom environment should be flexible and conducive.

While transacting the various phenomena of science in the classroom the attempt by the teacher should be at focussing: how, why and what of the scientific concept/ observation. The teacher and students should act as partners in the process of learning wherein they jointly explore aspects of the problem rather than teacher telling the students about the solution of the problem. The teacher's role should thus be to make materials and resources available to the students and help them identify issues, state the hypothesis, clarify and test hypothesis and draw conclusion.

Physics, at secondary stage (IX & X), is introduced around themes, such as; Motion, Gravitation, Laws of Motion, Work and Energy, Sound, Light, Electricity, Magnetism etc. The time allotted for teaching science at secondary stage is 13% of the total instructional time (Chandra 2007). The purpose of physics teaching in secondary schools is to enable students to develop well defined abilities in cognitive and affective domains, besides enhancing psychomotor skills. It should also help to foster an uninhibited spirit of inquiry, the curiosity to unravel the mysteries of the interrelationship between physics and day to day life activities. The basic principles of physics taught in the class should help the student to grasp systematically the knowledge of physics needed for the further study of modern science and technology and to understand its application. In addition, it should help them to acquire experimental skills, develop the ability to think, to use mathematics to solve the application based physical problems and understand the interrelationship between physics, technology and society.

Researches and reviewed literature finds that the present science classroom are more of teacher centred and rigid, Suthar (1998). Traditional approaches to teaching physics consist of presenting material through lectures while students are expected to quietly sit and listen. The teaching is mainly expository type in which the focus is on telling, memorization and recalling information. The students are passive recipients of knowledge. The participation is restricted to only asking and answering questions on what teacher has taught, Shelat (2012). The experiments or activities performed emphasize on obtaining the result rather than exploring the process aspect. This approach assumes that students can absorb scientific knowledge while passively listening to the instructions. The teaching environment remains formal and teacher

occupies a central position in the classroom. Umasree (1999) from her classroom observation of 240 lessons in secondary science revealed that in 185 cases (77%) the lesson was introduced by simply writing the topic on the blackboard and recounting the previous day's lesson. 80% of the classes observed by the investigator revealed the fact that the students participated only as a passive listener. The student participation if any was limited to seeking clarification on the teaching point. The teachers also felt that ultimately when it comes to examination, the students are expected to reproduce some sections of scientific information contained in the textbook, and hence they did not see the essentiality of conducting discussion sessions or participatory sessions. Malhotra (2006) supports that teachers often provide lecture and students largely observe the teacher rather than actively participating in the classroom. Classroom observations at all levels indicate that teachers seldom take into account the conceptual knowledge previously constructed by students. Further, student's ideas, predictions, and explanations of scientific phenomena are not probed to determine whether the concepts being taught are in conflict with student's prior notions. A majority of children thus have a sense of fear and failure regarding physics. Hence they give up at the early stage and drop out of serious physics learning at the latter stage. Jeyamani (1991) found that one of the reasons for low results in science is lack of participatory teaching learning process in the classroom. Another reason why students find physics to be dry and difficult is the application of mathematical concepts in derivations and computation of numerical. Students weak at mathematical concepts face difficulty in solving and deriving formulae. Brahma (1990) states that, the mismatch between the level of pupils thinking and the intellectual demand of the subject matter is one of the major causes of learning difficulty in physical sciences. It further states that a large portion of science concepts of basic and applied nature require students to operate at the formal operational level of intellectual development. But a large majority of the students at secondary and higher secondary level do not use formal operational thinking when dealing with abstract concepts and problems.

Bhuyan (2005) states that the prevailing situation in many of the schools still confirms to a mechanical routine, dominated by the old besetting evil of verbalism and thereby the entire teaching learning process in classroom remains dull and uninspiring. Umasree (1999) quotes that in the instances where the lessons were introduced through activity, the classroom instructions had participatory discussions, the students

responses were more in terms of number of student's active involvement. Though activity based teaching has been accepted as a paradigm shift for science education and is also reflected in some measure in the textbooks developed at the national and state levels, it has hardly been translated to actual classroom practice. Activities still tend to be regarded as a way to verify the ideas/principles given in the text rather than as a means for the open ended investigations (NCF- 2005). Science education in our classroom, even at its best develops competence but does not encourage inventiveness and creativity in the learners. For the qualitative change from the present situation, science education must undergo a paradigm shift. Rote learning should be discouraged and Inquiry skills should be supported and strengthened. Thus, it is the need of the hour that our approach to the teaching learning process be student centred activity based. Researches show that students made participant in the teaching learning process operate at the formal operational level of intellectual development by quoting examples and posing questions.

1.6 RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

“Real education has to draw out the best from the boys and girls to be educated. This can never be done by packing ill-assorted and unwanted information into the heads of the students. It becomes a dead weight crushing all originality in them and turning them into mere automata”.

(Mahatma Gandhi)

In the present age called ‘the age of Science & Technology’ knowledge of basic physics is essential to take up certain professional and applied courses. Physics, just as science in general, is not only about nature, it is also about people. It is human pursuit, as old as ingrained in our nature as our search for happiness. As a human activity, it shapes our intellect, mould our view of the world and of ourselves. The modern comfort of human life is indeed a blessing of science in general and physics in particular. The teaching of physics at secondary level aims to provide students with the knowledge, understanding and experimental skills which are necessary for higher level study in the discipline and which are a part of a general scientific education. It aims at the technical and cultural development in our society and strike a balance between scientific epistemology based on phenomenon, facts and theorems. The teaching of physics is endeavour to help students to learn how to talk about physics in a scientific manner, and to use their knowledge of physics in order to deal, quantitatively and qualitatively with the problems arising in working of everyday life.

Researches in science education shows that students enter science classrooms with previously formed explanatory models of the natural world: these naive mental models' have a substantial influence on their learning of the scientific concepts. Physics as a part of Science and Technology in secondary schools contributes a great deal in the development of scientific attitude, reasoning, skills, creativity and helps in satisfying our curiosity about the occurrence of many phenomena around us. If we look around us we will find a large number of electronic and electrical goods which all utilize one or the other principle or laws of physics.

Physics deals with many physical phenomena and experiences. They are not only exciting but also educative. The fall of an apple lead to gravitation. Beating of the drum causes vibration producing sound. Stars twinkle up in the sky while the planets do not. We come across diverse physical phenomena which are quite exciting and educative. All these phenomena are diverse and complex in nature depending on certain laws and theories of physics. Hence physics as a part of science occupies an important and unparallel place in our secondary school curriculum.

Present day science classroom functions in an artificial and closed environment where its top heavy structure lays a lot of emphasis on the past and fails to provide any positive input to a student to think aloud and construct his own knowledge. Umasree (1999) from her study supports that in 70% of the cases teachers talk predominates about 26 min out of 35 min, taking a major part of the period without students' participation. In only 6% of the cases the teacher talk to student talk was fairly distributed. The contents are not simplified and the language style used by teachers was the same in which the text has been written. Pienyu (2004) found many of the science teachers at secondary school in Nagaland were ignorant about the innovations in science teaching. Text books are referred as the only source of knowledge by the teachers Bhuyan (2005). Shelat (2012) from the situational analysis phase of standard VII classroom observation found that the no group discussions were carried out in class. None of the classroom observation had activity based teaching or inquiry based teaching. Science classrooms were teacher centred classroom wherein teachers are the authority and students are mere passive listeners. The students are never made a participant in the teaching learning process. They remain as mere recipient in the classroom. Looking at the present scenario of teaching science the basic aim of

developing process skills, experimental, observational and investigatory skills in learners is hardly achieved.

Standard IX is the threshold of secondary education; it is at this stage wherein the students are exposed to the basic foundations for the different disciplines of science to be taken up at higher secondary level. They are expected to acquire the basic experiment skills, develop the ability to think logically and use mathematics to solve physical problems and relate the classroom instruction with the world outside. At this stage physics education also aims at proving the basic amount of knowledge in terms of the basic concepts, principles, skills and fundamentals which help them to learn more comprehensive and abstract concepts at higher levels. Suthar (1998) from the survey reported that the teachers felt the syllabus of standard IX science to be difficult as compared with the syllabus of standard X science. The various commissions and committee recommended a change in the transaction process of science, emphasising the process aspect of science rather than the product. A paradigm shift has been observed from teacher centred approach to student centred approach in teaching of science. The National Curriculum Framework (2005) specifies that the foundation laid at the secondary stage should be able to equip the students with the basic knowledge, skills and attitudes towards making meaningful contributions in the field of their choice. It lays emphasis on the comprehension and not on mere formal definitions. Experimentation as a tool to discover/verify theoretical principles should be an integral part of the curriculum. The students should be exposed to such environment wherein they develop the critical ability to evaluate the epistemological status of facts that they encounter in science.

At secondary stage (IX & X) physics include topics like measurement, motion, force, energy, work, density, pressure, buoyancy, elementary optics, heat, electricity, magnetism, sound, transverse waves etc. Physics of Standard IX initiates the introduction concepts of waves, circular motion, the centrifugal force, particle vibration etc. Physics as a subject is more of a interdisciplinary subject, applying mathematical concepts to obtain formulae and quantitative treatment of various laws and principles. It is in standard IX for the first time the students are introduced to derivation of formulae, use of graphical representations, and numerical computation. Hence the application of mathematics involved in the derivation of formulae and numerical computation is another factor influencing physics learning. Mehna (1986)

found abstract reasoning and numerical ability as a significant predictor in achievement in physics. If the basic concept is not understood it becomes difficult to conceptualize the subsequent ones. For example if the student don't understand the difference between displacement and distance it becomes nearly impossible for the student to differentiate between velocity and speed. Singhal (1983) also supports the need for basic concepts for the higher achievement in physics. Once the fundamentals are weak, the students' starts disliking the subject as a whole and develops a phobia for it. Trygstad (2010) found that fears and frustration while studying science topics can lead to science anxiety for some individuals. For those who experience science learning anxiety, the reality is often poor performance, lower self esteem, anger and avoidance of further science courses. Andree (2002) found that female students had no intentions to choose physics or physics related subjects for their prospective career choices in future. Uplane (2011) through interactions and discussions with teachers found that students had problems in learning physics. Saxena (1985) found that the maximum preference style in physics of the students was for 'Recall' and the least preferred style was 'Questioning'. Jain (1982) studied the basic problems in physics having a direct bearing on various reasoning patterns. The study implied that for effective classroom instruction, curriculum and methods of teaching have to be planned in such a way that the structure of content is in accordance with the level of intellectual development of students. Singhal (1983) from his study concluded that students did not read beyond the syllabus and did not inculcate the habit of understanding the basic concepts of physics. Students were found very weak in numerical work and expressions.

Joshi(1998), Kelkar (1998) from their studies found the need to develop alternative instructional strategies to first master the lower order skills and then proceed for the higher order skills. Research focus on the need to relate the concept learnt in classroom with the outside world. Mohan (1991) emphasized on the development of scientific concepts, through adoption of appropriate instructional technology. He found that blending a number of instructional media might be useful in generating a learning climate that fosters interaction of various components of learning process. It is possible to accelerate thought under certain conditions such as arranging thought provoking problems in their hierarchical order but abstract concepts were difficult to crack Vaidya (1991).

Kamalakantham (1986), Basu (1981), Sivadasan (1981), Sharma (1986), Agnihotri (1987), Pillai (1987), Goel & Agbebi (1990), Joseph (1998), Hanumanthaiah (2000) and Sidhu & Singh (2005) studied the effectiveness of different instructional strategies in the teaching of physics at secondary level with respect to different variables. Jean (2002), Albert (2009) and Han (2010) studied the understanding of abstract concepts in physics and found that it is important to help students build a solid cognitive ground with the help of perceptual anchor. The implications of the studies conducted abroad supports that with the change in the classroom instruction, motivational level, and learning strategies a change could be brought about in the performance and retention of the students. Parvathy (2004), Amin (2011) and Shelat (2012) advocated the activity based science teaching for significant achievement of all levels of instructional objectives.

From the reviews it was found that students usually perform well till the mechanical reproduction of the physics concept but when it comes to the interpretation and application of the same they badly fail. It's a dire need of time that our classroom activities focus more on the process aspect rather than the product. It's not just enough for the student to score well in exams, but its more essential for them to understand and relate the learnt concepts to the world outside the classroom. In the present study the investigator has attempted to bridge the gap between the classroom teaching and the world outside by developing an intervention programme taking up the concepts of physics from the Standard IX, science and technology Syllabus.

1.7 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Developing and Implementing an Intervention Programme in Science & Technology for Topics of Physics for Standard IX

1.8 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To identify the topics of physics from standard IX Science and Technology for Intervention.
2. To develop and implement an Intervention programme in the physics content of standard IX Science and Technology.

3. To study the effectiveness of the developed Intervention Programme in terms of
 - I. Achievement of students on the conceptual understanding of physics concepts.
 - II. Interpretation of Physics concept from the stories.
 - III. Identification of Physics concepts from the images of events projected.
 - IV. Logical sequencing of Physics concepts from the images of events projected.
4. To study the reactions of the students towards the developed Intervention Programme.

1.9 HYPOTHESIS

1. There will be no significant difference in the adjusted mean score of the control group and experimental group when the scores of Entry level test are considered as a covariate on Achievement test.
2. There will be no significant difference between the control group and experimental group on the interpretation of physics concepts from stories.
3. There will be no significant difference in the observed frequency and frequency expected against equal probability on various statements of the reaction scale.

1.10 EXPLANATION OF THE TERMS

1.10.1 INTERVENTION PROGRAMME

The programme focussed on creating a classroom environment wherein students thinking and involvement, their willingness to express their ideas and critically analyse the new ideas with their prior knowledge and thereby achieve the set instructional objectives. The intervention programme attempted to simplify and enrich the contents with involvement of different learning activities to improve their conceptual understanding of the subject. For the present study the researcher carried out the situational analyses and selected the topics from the five chapters of physics from the standard IX CBSE science textbook. Content analysis was carried out and looking into the nature of the content various learning experiences were designed.

Learning experience encompasses of group and individual activity, power point presentations, games and sports, experiments and demonstrations, crosswords, animated video, discussions and brainstorming questions. The intervention programme was designed keeping in view the child centred activity based approach.

1.11 OPERATIONALISATION OF THE TERMS

1.11.1 ACHIEVEMENT

Achievement in the present study was measured by administering a test of total fifty marks. It was constructed by the investigator on the selected physics content of standard IX Science & Technology.

1.11.2 EFFECTIVENESS

The effectiveness in the present study is interpreted in terms of the clarity in the learned concepts when measured on an achievement test. It refers to the scores obtained by the students on the final achievement test when compared with the control group. Effectiveness is also perceived as the ability of the students to interpret the physics concepts within a given story. Effectiveness in the present study also refers to the ability of the students to identify the physics concepts in the images of events projected and arrange them in a logical sequence in accordance to the occurrence of the event.

1.12 DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The study is delimited to the selected topics of physics from the five chapters: Motion, Force and Laws of Motion, Gravitation, Work and Energy and Sound in the standard IX CBSE Science & Technology textbook. The present study is also delimited to the standard IX students of the selected two English Medium Schools following Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) syllabus for the academic year 2012 -2013.

The present chapter presented the conceptual background of the study, the rationale for the study and specified the objectives and hypothesis of the study. The next chapter focuses on the review of related literature and the implication drawn from the reviews.