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ORIGINAL ARTICLE



#### A CRITICAL STUDY OF PROBLEMS IN SCIENCE TEACHING/LEARNING WITH REFERENCE TO THE BLIND STUDENTS STUDYING IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS

#### ASHOK KUMAR KURUKSHETRA

#### Abstract:

Science plays an important role in each and every sphere of ours lives. The word science comes from the Latin word 'Scientia' that means to know. The fundamental activity of science is making careful observation through controlled experimentation. The progress of a country is measured on the basis of the parameter that to what extent it is developed in the field of sciences, use of natural resources and better living conditions etc. are all given by the proper use of science.

#### **KEYWORDS:**

Science Teaching, Students Studying, Fundamental Activity, Critical Study.

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

It is a systematic study and it is no the study of one day. The total outcome of the various fields of science is the efforts of scientists. As to rise up the hill, we have to start right from the bottom and a successful person achieving the goal always start from the lower level and gradually move up. The overall development of the personality of the person depends directly or indirectly on the way that how he was given education. Education helps the person to adjust himself in the society and surrounding and may be able to earn his living to the maximum satisfaction. Teacher moulds a person to a desirable personality and help him to survive in the society. Teachers make the use of various tools, techniques to make the teaching learning process effective.

#### PROBLEMS IN TEACHING/LEARNING SCIENCE

Teachers and Blind students face a no. of problems in teaching/learning science.

In black board observations teachers and blind students face the problems in teaching /learning science. So black board written materials should be verbally explained to the students.

Teachers and students face the problems in teaching /learning science as the two dimensional embossed diagrams are used to explain three dimensional concepts. Teachers should use real objects and models that are relevant to the students.

In the teaching /learning science with reference to the visually impaired students, the teaching aids are not easily available to them. So, it is problematic for both teachers and students. So teachers should prepare aids form locally available materials.

In solving the numerical problems teachers and students face the problems as it is a slow process in writing on Braille slate and have to turn the paper what ever have to read. On the other hand in Taylor frame the words can't be written.

Teachers and students both face the problems in teaching /learning chemicals formulas and chemical

equations as the standard science Braille codes have not been standardized in India e.g. To show the chemicals bond whether it is single, double and triple bond, no sign is available.

Title :A CRITICAL STUDY OF PROBLEMS IN SCIENCE TEACHING/LEARNING WITH REFERENCE TO THE BLIND STUDENTS STUDYING IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS Source:Indian Streams Research Journal [2230-7850] ASHOK KUMAR KURUKSHETRA yr:2013 vol:3 iss:5



Blind students face the problems in drawing diagrams as the diagrammatic concepts are not clear to them. Moreover devices and equipments are not easily available to them.

Students face the problems in referring the tables because the tactual scanning is difficult and time consuming. It is also problematic to write the table on Braille slate.

Handling the apparatus and chemicals is problematic until they takes necessary precautions.

Blinds students face the problems in understanding colour concepts e.g. colour changing. Colour changing and flowing water concepts are not possible without specific equipments.

#### **NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE**

It is significant to improve the science teaching /learning by knowing the opinions of teachers and students. This study is also significant to optimize the use of available facilities in teaching/learning science. The quality of teaching /learning science need to be improved. This study is also helpful in this direction.

#### **DEFINITIONS OF IMPORTANT TERMS:-**

#### **Blind:**

A person who satisfies one of the flowing three conditions is termed as legally visually impaired person.

i.Absence of vision in both eyes. ii. Visual acuity less than 6/60 or less in better eye after best possible correction. iii.Field vision 20° i.or less in better eye after best possible correction.

#### **SPECIAL SCHOOL**

Special schools are those schools which impart individualized instructions to the children with special needs.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

i. To study the problems in teaching science to blind students. ii. To study the problems in learning science in blind students.

Muruganandam, S. 1990. Conducted a research work on Development of teaching-learning strategies in teaching science for visually impaired children and found that;

i.The visually impaired children learned more science concepts when they were through the specially prepared teaching-learning materials.

ii. The learning package on science teaching for visually impaired children was found effective. (MKU 1068).

Kansal Sarita, (1995), Conducted a research work on the Problems in teaching of home science in high schools of Kurukshetra and found that;

i. Teachers and schools administrators face the financial problems ultimately suffer the students. ii.Curriculum is not flexible that can be changed according to school situation. iii.Lack of trained teachers. iv. No provision of laboratory, equipments and material for practical work.

Review of literature tells that much work has been done in general science teaching with reference to the blind students. So the researcher decided to conduct this study.

#### SAMPLE

In the present study, considering the importance and nature of sample investigator collected the data. Purposive sampling procedure was followed 50 blind students from two special schools for the blind

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situated in Panipat and Chandigarh was selected. Six science teachers from these two schools were also selected.

#### **TOOLS USED:**

Questionnaire/Schedule to study the problems encountered in teaching science to visual impaired students contain 21 items. Out of which, 18 questions are closed one with options yes/no whereas three questions are in open form. Questionnaire/Schedule to study the problems encountered by students learning science contain 22 items. Out of which, 21 questions are closed one with option yes/no whereas one question is in open form.

#### **COLLECTION OF DATA:**

The investigator after selecting the sample and deciding the tools and techniques for data collection visited two special schools situated in Panipat (Haryana) and Chandigarh.

#### PROBLEMS OF VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENTS IN LEARNING SCIENCE

#### Table - 1 Responses of blind students

S. No.	No. of students =25		No. of students =25		Total No. of Students	
(Item No.)	(Panipat)		(Chandigarh)		=50	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
1	21	4	20	5	41	9
2	19	6	18	7	37	13
3	18	7	20	5	38	12
4	15	10	14	11	29	21
5	21	4	19	6	40	10
6	9	16	10	15	19	31
7	17	8	18	7	35	15
8	25	0	25	0	50	0
9	25	0	25	0	50	0
10	0	25	0	25	0	50
11	0	25	0	25	0	50
12	0	25	0	25	0	50
13	0	25	0	25	0	50
14	15	10	16	9	31	19
15	20	5	21	4	41	9
16	22	3	22	3	44	6
17	22	3	20	5	42	8
18	23	2	19	6	42	8
19	19	6	20	5	39	11
20	16	9	17	8	33	17

	21	17	8	18	7	35	15	
				0010				2
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1.It is observed from 1st entry of table 1 that percentage of affirmative responses given by the students of Panipat, Chandigarh and total students are 84, 80 and 82 respectively. Its means that majority of the blind students studying in either Panipat & Chandigarh perceive science as an interesting subject.

2.It is observed from 2nd entry of table 1 that percentage of affirmative responses given by the students of Panipat, students of Chandigarh and total students are 76, 72 and 74 respectively. Therefore, majority of students do not consider science as a difficult subject.

3.It is observed from 3rd entry of table 1 that percentage of affirmative responses given by the students of Panipat, students of Chandigarh and total students are 72, 80 and 76 respectively. Therefore, most of students reported that science text books are easily available in Braillele.

4.It is observed from 4th entry of table 1 that percentage of affirmative responses given by the students of Panipat, students of Chandigarh and total students are 60, 56 and 58 respectively. Therefore, majority of the students like the science related books and articles.

5. It is observed from 5th entry of table 1 that percentage of affirmative responses given by the students of Panipat, students of Chandigarh and total students are 84, 76 and 80 respectively. Therefore, majority of the students like the listening of science related programmes on T.V./Radio.

6.It is observed from 6th entry of table 1 that percentage of affirmative responses given by the students of Panipat, students of Chandigarh and total students are 36, 40 and 38 respectively. Therefore, its shows that there is lack of other science related others Braille books in both the schools.

7.It is observed from 7th entry of table 1 that percentage of affirmative responses given by the students of Panipat, students of Chandigarh and total students are 68, 72 and 70 respectively. Therefore, is no dearth of other science related books in both the schools.

8.It is observed from 8th entry of table 1 all the students of Panipat and Chandigarh gave affirmative responses. Therefore, there are trained special teachers for teaching science in both the schools.

9.It is observed from 9th entry of table 1 all the students of Panipat and Chandigarh gave affirmative responses. Therefore, there are science rooms in both the schools.

10.It is observed from 10th entry of table 1 all the students of Panipat and Chandigarh gave negative responses. Therefore, there is no science laboratory in either school.

11.It is observed from 11th entry of table 1 all the students of Panipat and Chandigarh gave negative responses. Therefore, there is no science botanical garden in either school.

12.It is observed from 12th entry of table 1 all the students of Panipat and Chandigarh gave negative responses. Therefore, as there are no botanical gardens so students can't visit the same.

13.It is observed from 13th entry of table 1 all the students of Panipat and Chandigarh gave negative responses. Therefore, it shows that science is not taught by experimental method in both the schools.

14. It is observed from 14th entry of table 1 that percentages of affirmative responses given by the students of Panipat, students of Chandigarh and total students are 60, 64 and 62 respectively therefore, majority of the students are able to solve numerical.

15.It is observed from 15th entry of table 1 that percentages of affirmative responses given by the students of Panipat, students of Chandigarh and total students are 80, 84 and 82 respectively. Therefore, majority of students told that the complete contents matters of science is taught in class room in both the schools.

16.It is observed from 16th entry of table 1 that 88 percent students of students of Panipat and Chandigarh gave affirmative responsive. Therefore, science related teaching aids e.g. charts, models are easily available in both the schools.

17.It is observed from 17th entry of table 1 that percentages of affirmative responses given by the students of Panipat, students of Chandigarh and total students are 88, 80 and 84 respectively. Therefore, science related teaching aids e.g. charts, models are used during science teaching.

18.It is observed from 18th entry of table 1 that percentages of affirmative responses given by the students of Panipat, students of Chandigarh and total students are 92, 76 and 84 respectively. Therefore, there are sufficient numbers of embossed diagrams in science Braille books.

19.It is observed from 19th entry of table 1 that percentages of affirmative responses given by the students of Panipat, students of Chandigarh and total students are 76, 80 and 78 respectively. Therefore, majority of the students understand the embossed diagrams of science Braille books.

20. It is observed from 20th entry of table 1 that percentages of affirmative responses given by the students of Panipat, students of Chandigarh and total students are 64, 68 and 66 respectively. Therefore, majority of the students face the problems in reading chemical equations and formulas written in Braille.

21. It is observed from 21th entry of table 1 that percentages of affirmative responses given by the students of Panipat, students of Chandigarh and total students are 64, 68 and 66 respectively. Therefore, majority of the students face the problems in writing chemicals equations and formulae.

22 In the 22nd question investigator asked to report the specific problems faced by them learning science

Only eight students reported following problems in learning science.

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a. They fail to understand the experimental activities explained verbally. b. They find it difficult to understand the embossed diagrams.

#### PROBLEMS OF TEACHERS IN TEACHING SCIENCE TO BLIND STUDENTS

S. No.	No. of to	eachers =4	No. of te	eachers =2	Total No.	of teachers
(Item No.)	(Panipat)		(Chandigarh)		=6	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
1	4	0	2	0	6	0
2	1	3	0	2	1	5
3	3	1	2	0	5	1
4	4	0	0	2	6	0
5	2	2	0	2	2	4
6	0	4	0	2	0	6
7	0	4	0	2	0	6
8	0	4	0	2	0	6
9	0	4	0	2	0	6
10	4	0	2	0	6	0
11	3	1	2	0	5	1
12	4	0	2	0	6	0
13	1	3	0	2	1	5
14	2	2	1	1	3	3
15	2	2	2	0	4	2
16	4	0	2	0	6	0
17	0	4	2	0	2	4
18	4	0	2	0	6	0

#### Table 2Responses given by the teachers

1.1st entry of table 2 reveals that responses given by all the six teachers of both schools are affirmative. Therefore it may be interpreted that science text books in Braillele are easily available in both the schools.

2.2nd entry of table 2 reveals that all the teachers expect one believes that number of other science related books in Braillele are not sufficient.

3.3rd entry of table 2 reveals that all the teachers expect one believes that number of other science related recorded books are sufficient.

4.4th entry of table 2 reveals that all the teachers of both the schools reported that there are science rooms in both the schools.

5.5th entry of table 2 reveals that two teachers of Panipat gave affirmative responses whereas other four teachers believe that teaching material in science rooms is not sufficient.

6. 6th entry of table 2 reveals that all the teachers from both the schools told that there is no science laboratory in either school.

7.7th entry of table 2 reveals that all the six teachers from both the schools told that there is no botanical garden in either school.

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8.8th entry of table 2 reveals that all the six teachers from both the schools do not take the students to the botanical gardens as there is no botanical garden in either school.

9.9th entry of table 2 reveals that all the six teachers from both the schools do not teach science by experimental methods.

10.10th entry of table 2 reveals that all the six teachers from both the schools teach the complete syllabus in the class room.

11.11th entry of table 2 reveals that all the six teachers expect one believes that there is sufficient teaching material e. g. charts models etc. for teaching science.

12.12th entry of table 2 reveals that all the teachers use teaching material e. g. charts models in science teaching.

13.13th entry of table 2 reveals that five out of six teachers believes that number of embossed diagrams in Braille books is not sufficient.

14. 14th entry of table 2 reveals that three out of six teachers believes that the students can understand the embossed diagrams given in the books.

15.15th entry of table 2 reveals that four out of six teachers believes that they feel problems in teaching chemical equation and formulae.

16.16th entry of table 2 reveals that all six teachers believe that they make desirable adaptations in teaching science.

17.17th entry of table 2 reveals that two teachers of Chandigarh believe that science should be taught in higher classes whereas all the four teachers of Panipat do not believe so.

18.18th entry of table 2 reveals that all the teachers believe that they teach science with full interest to the blind students.

19.Item No. 19 is an open question. Teachers reported following problems in teaching science concepts to the blind students.

a. It is time consuming.b. Teaching colour concepts is not possible.c. It is difficult to teach reaction based concepts.d. Problem of verbalism is common.

20. Item No. 20 is an open question teachers reported following other problems in teaching science.

a. Teaching aids are not easily available.b. It is difficult to introduce the topic.c. It is difficult to teach the diagrams.

21.Item No. 21 is also an open question. Teachers gave following suggestions to improve the process of teaching/learning science with reference to the blind students.

i.Science equipments should be adapted for the blind.

ii. Teachers need to be committed.

iii.Remedial measures should be taken by the teachers to teach science to the blind students.

iv.More teaching aids should be provided to make process of learning science interesting.

v.Arrangement for experimental work should be made.

vi.More emphasis should be given on science teaching.

vii.Science books should be modified according to the special need of the blind students.

viii. There should be provision of science laboratory and well equipped science room.

ix. They should be provision of excursions/science trips.

#### **MAIN FINDINGS:**

Problems of visually impaired students in learning science:-

i.Majority of the blind students studying in either Panipat & Chandigarh perceive science as an interesting subject.

ii. Majority of the students do not consider science as a difficult subject.

iii. Most of the students, reported that science text books are easily available in Braille.

iv.Majority of the students like the science related books and articles. v.Majority of the students like the listening of science related programmes on TV/Radio.

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a.Science equipment should be adapted for the blind.b.Teachers need to be committed.c.Remedial measures should be taken by the teachers to teach science to the blind students.

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 Study reveals that blind students perceive science as an interesting but not difficult subject. It means that blind students can learn science concepts satisfactorily if appropriate teaching strategies are adopted and adequate facilities are provided to the students.
General science books Braille should be provided in sufficient numbers.

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