

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a national programme of Govt. of India with the objective to universalize elementary education. Improving human capabilities to all children in a mission mode is one of the prime objectives of SSA. It gives emphasis on capacity building of individual and institutions at district, state and national levels on one hand and bring reforms to improve efficiency of the delivery system at the other hand.



Distance Education Programme (DEP), a national component created by the MHRD, Govt. of India and operates in collaboration with the IGNOU to build capacity of personnel and institutions associated with SSA activities through effective distance learning interventions. Activities undertaken by DEP-SSA are mostly targeted to empower teachers and teacher educators with focus on improving classroom processes and school effectiveness programme. With a view to improve quality of education of children at Upper Primary Level and improving professional competencies of teachers and other functionaries associated with training of teachers, DEP-SSA, IGNOU in collaboration with Rajya Shiksha Kendra, Bhopal are organizing a National Seminar on “**Innovative practices in Teaching of Science at Upper Primary Level**”.

BACKGROUND OF THE SEMINAR

Science is one of the core subject of school curriculum at elementary level. Developing scientific temper in children at early school level is an issue to be addressed on the part of teachers teaching science at upper primary level. Teaching of Science has occupied a significant position in pre-service as well as in-service teacher training programme. Developing understanding on basic concepts in Science is the real challenge before all teachers at school level. It is, therefore, believed that teachers working at elementary school level require developing their own understanding and competencies

on the fundamental aspects of scientific principles, thinking and learning as well. Teachers are expected not only to plan, design, develop and organize creative and innovative activities for improving scientific temper of children but also developing individualized instruction (remedial teaching) for better understanding of children. It is essential on the part of teachers working at Upper Primary Level to improve their professional competencies in teaching Science. Teacher Education Institutions are expected to meet the growing demand in developing such competencies in teachers and teachers are expected to develop a sense of appreciation towards teaching and learning of Science in children. Development of appropriate teaching-learning strategies is one of the important areas for improving professional competencies of teachers. There should be an effective programme for improving teaching competencies of teachers, which would reflect the relevance of teaching Science in a new direction. Therefore, development of appropriate instructional strategies to improve teaching competencies is one of the basic needs on the part of teachers, teacher educators, educationists, administrators and policy makers associated in the field of school education.



Considering the necessity to improve professional competencies of teachers teaching Science at Upper Primary level and improving learning achievement of children in science, DEP-SSA IGNOU in collaboration with Rajya Shiksha Kendra, Bhopal are organizing a National Seminar with the following objectives:

OBJECTIVES

- To identify difficulties faced by teachers in teaching science at school level in general and at upper primary level in particular.

- To explore innovative transaction strategies and school effectiveness programme for making teaching of science effective at upper primary level.
- To share and discuss innovative practices of teaching science at upper primary level.
- To develop certain innovative activities for improving classroom transactions for teaching of Science at Upper Primary Level.
- To design and develop a curriculum framework of in-service teacher-training package in teaching of science at upper primary Level.



THEMES

Following themes are identified for this National Seminar:

Issues in teaching Science at Upper Primary Level : Problems in teaching Science, difficulties faced by teachers in teaching Science, learning difficulties of children, attitude of teachers towards teaching of Science, professional competencies of teachers, improving overall classroom process for making teaching and learning of Science interesting.

Instructional Strategies of Teaching Science: Implication of curriculum of Science at upper primary level, unit Planning, lesson Planning, micro teaching, innovative strategies of classroom teaching and evaluation strategies, continuous and comprehensive evaluation for improving learning of Science.

Innovations in Teaching of Science at Upper Primary Level: Modalities of teaching scientific concepts, scientific principles, scientific skills, and performance of children in developing, diversified thinking, critical thinking and understanding.

Instructional Planning and Designing for Remedial Teaching: Competency based evaluation, diagnostic strategies, child-centered approaches, design and development of assignments for various categories of learners, development of alternative strategies, experimentation and remediation.

CALL OF PAPERS

We welcome original papers preferably, research and case studies, especially prepared for this National Seminar. Full paper of 10-15 pages (not more than 3500 words) including abstract typed in both sides and a separate covering page indicating the theme and title, address, contact no, e-mail ID etc. must be submitted **on or before November 29, 2008**. Paper must be written and presented in English/Hindi. The contributors are required to send your full paper through speed post/courier/e-mail to the Project Director, DEP-SSA, Block-07, IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi 110 068. No paper will be received / entertained after **November 29, 2008**.



SELECTION OF PAPERS

Paper will be screened by a duly constituted screening committee comprising of a group of experts. Priority will be given to Research Based Papers and related to Case Studies, Experimentations and Innovations in the field of Learning & Teaching Science at Upper Primary Level under specified theme as mentioned.

DATE : December 22-24, 2008

VENUE : Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh

TA/DA : TA/DA will be paid as per norms of DEP-SSA, IGNOU to the participants whose papers will be selected by the Screening Committee and invited speakers. Intimation to the authors of the selected paper will be sent separately indicating the exact venue and other details of the Seminar.

ACCOMMODATION: Accommodation, if required, shall be provided to the out-station participants, if prior request is made to the organizer

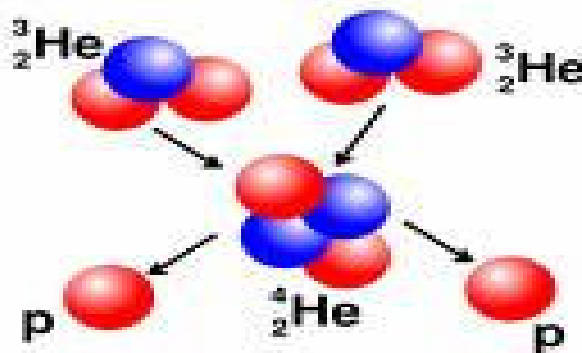
Important Dates:

Receipt of Papers : November 29, 2008

Screening of Papers : December 03, 2008

Communication on acceptance of Papers: December 05, 2008

Date of Seminar : December 22-24, 2008



For further details kindly contact:

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National Seminar on Innovative practices in Teaching of Science at Upper Primary Level

December 22-24, 2008



Organisers:

RAJYA SHIKSHA KENDRA, BHOPAL

in collaboration with

**DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMME-
SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN**

(DEP-SSA)

(AN IGNOU-MHRD, GOVT. OF INDIA PROJECT)

Maidan Garhi, New Delhi – 110 068