

AN ATTEMPT TO SURVEY THE ATTITUDE TO SCIENCE OF PUPILS
WHO HAVE FOLLOWED THE PROGRAMME OF INTEGRATED
SCIENCE COURSE FOR FOUR YEARS.

A minor dissertation submitted in partial fulfil-
ment of the requirement for the Degree ^{M. Ed.}
University of Colombo
Sri Lanka .

C₂-56

by

Mrs. Sasidevi Sivanesan.

UCLIB



386269

PERMANENT
REFERENCE
NOT TO BE
REMOVED
FROM THE
RARY

July , 1 9 8 2.

A b s t r a c t

- - - - -

One important expected outcome of the teaching of integrated science was to develop a favourable attitude towards science. The purpose of this research is to investigate the attitude of students who had followed the integrated science course for four years. The changes made in the Junior School Science Curriculum in most countries and the changes made in Sri Lanka were discussed. The objectives of the new integrated science curriculum are defined.

Initially a survey of research literature related to the attitudes towards science was undertaken. These were discussed under the sub-headings school level, higher level and school and higher level studies. It was observed that the attitude to science was more favourable in the elementary school but declined through the junior school.

For the purpose of this research a Likert Type attitude scale was constructed. First a pilot study was done. The responses were studied and the final form of the Likert type scale consisting of thirty four statements was prepared. This was administered to a random sample consisting of four boys' ,two girls' and six mixed schools. The questionnaire was scored and analysed by the Data General Computer at the Statistical Unit of the University of Colombo.

Factor Analysis was done using principal component method. Four factors emerged in this analysis. They were named as

- i) Motivation to learn science.
- ii) Reaction to learning science.
- iii) Scientific knowledge, and
- iv) Utility value of science.

These were compared with the objectives of the integrated science Curriculum of Sri Lanka. Suggestions for Curriculum Development and Science Teaching were made on the basis of the findings.