MODULE : 3 : INTER & INTRA DISCIPLINARY NATURE OF NATURAL SCIENCE

CORRELATION

Science cannot be taught in isolation. For an effective learning correlation is essential. The term 'correlation' in its simplest form means "connect or to be connected". To be more precise, 'Correlation' means mutual relations of two or more things or persons. But, Correlation in teaching indicates a technique which shows "the reciprocal relationship between various subjects of the curriculum for making the knowledge concrete and permanent". "It is the conscious effort made by teachers teaching various subjects, to show similarities or dependence of one subject on another".

There are mainly two types of correlation. (1) Systematic Correlation and (2) Incidental correlation.

(1) Systematic Correlation

It is otherwise called Planned Correlation. It can be achieved through Planning of the curriculum. This requires group work of a panel of experts from various subjects at the time of

developing the curriculum. Thorough discussions during curriculum planning can help in avoiding unnecessary repetition of subject matter, as well as help in bringing out good correlation among subjects. Systematic correlation will be effective only when the teachers of different subjects co-operate and co-ordinate their work in unison. It avoids repetition.

(2) Incidental Correlation

It is also called Casual Correlation or Natural Correlation. It is achieved by the planning of the teacher, which is not the result of curriculum organisation. It is intrinsic in nature as the teacher may correlate one topic with another of the same standard or of the previous standard, as and when such a relationship is recalled. The success of such correlation depends on the wide knowledge and resourcefulness of the teacher. It doesn't prevent repetition and the students sometimes tend to feel bored.

ADVANTAGES OF CORRELATION

1. Mind perceives knowledge as a whole

Earlier it was assumed that human mind consists of so many mental faculties and each faculty like faculty of reasoning, thinking,

memorization etc. were supposed to be developed through the study of a specific subject. So each subject had an independent function. But educational psychologists have disregarded this study and argued that mind receives knowledge as a whole and it becomes necessary to correlate one subject with another.

2. Correlation helps in the retention of earlier knowledge and linking older knowledge with new one.

3. Knowledge is useful when it can be applied to daily life situations. Correlation of a subject with daily life helps to make knowledge broad-based and makes knowledge useful.

4. Correlation is helpful in achieving the aim of education – "all round development" and it cannot be achieved by teaching only a few subjects in isolation.

5. It develops the mental abilities like imagination power, logical thinking and analytical power of students.

6. It strengthens skills that students encounter in one content area but also practice in another, leading to mastery of those skills.

7. Correlation makes learning concrete and permanent and can lead to more effective learning as the same topic is dealt in several different situations and viewed from different angles.

8. Correlation enhances motivation – the application of a subject in a number of situations help the learner to realise the importance of a particular topic and may become interested in learning.

9. Correlation helps to widen the mental horizon of the learners.

10. It helps in the integration of knowledge.