Abstract

Developing a School Physics education curriculum – the Hoshangabad Science Teaching Programme (HSTP) Journey

The initiation of the Hoshangabad Science Teaching Programme in the summer of 1972 had been preceded by some significant developments. Some of these were:

- Formation of All India Science Teachers' Association (AISTA) in 1956.
- The Education Commission of 1964-66 chaired by the well-known Professor of Physics Dr. D.S.Kothari and anchored by Shri J.P.Naik making a strong pitch for innovating science teaching in the schools.
- Coming together of two voluntary organisations Friends Rural Centre, Rasulia and Kishore Bharti, Bankhedi in Hoshangabad district of Madhya Pradesh to initiate innovative programs in rural development and education.
- The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is an autonomous organisation set up in 1961 by the Government of India to assist and advise the Central and State Governments on policies and programmes for qualitative improvement in nschool education.
- Formation of a nuclear group of Faculty members and students in Delhi University deeply interested in interacting with school teachers and students to innovate science education at school level.

This presentation traces the historical thirty-year long journey and beyond of the HSTP as it grew to develop an activity-based science teaching promoting learning by discovery and learning from the environment in over thousand schools spread across 14 districts of Madhya Pradesh. Beyond its geographical spread, the programme set significant precedents for seeding and spreading educational innovations on a macro scale. It also speculates about the dire need and possibilities of more such efforts in present times.

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