

PROJECT WORK

Project work in science is usually an organised search, construction or task directed towards a specific purpose. Project work may involve a student or a small group of students. It provides an opportunity to the students to identify a problem, to design a work plan, to address the problem, to search for appropriate resources, to carry out their own plan and to draw conclusion on the basis of data/information collected. Projects help to stimulate interest in science, arouse curiosity, develop ability of independent critical thinking, and provide experience in using the tools and techniques besides relating science with daily life situations and development of self-confidence. In the process, the students learn fundamental principles of science, methods and processes of science, and are exposed to the phases involved in a scientific investigation. The activities related to the project may involve use of laboratory, library consultation, multimedia, internet, collection of information/data from the field or at home through surveys/interviews/collection of samples.

Students may choose a project depending on their enthusiasm, interest, availability of the material resources, and time available to furnish the project. As far as possible project work should be done during school hours, particularly at the upper primary stage. If the nature of the project is such that it has to be done outside the school hours, teachers should encourage the students to do it themselves. The teacher should exhort children to work by themselves without involving their parents on a given project and report the task honestly. At the same time the teacher should also appreciate the honest reporting without worrying too much about the perfection of the task assigned.