PREFACE

Since time immemorial the education is really a continuous, systematic process one which changes rapidly with the passage of development of society. Moreover, we find the conceptualization of the basic principles of education, the pattern and perspectives are always on the path of dynamic ones.

India has been a major seat of learning since ancient times whose history can be traced back to roughly 3rd century B.C. Researches showed that in the ancient days sages and scholars imparted education orally, which later developed into letters and took the form of writing on palm leaves and barks of trees. This formed the base of written literature. Proceeding along the sands of time when Buddhism descended on the scene came up world class education institutions at Nalanda, Vikramshila and Takshshila. The advent of British Empire in India brought up English with help of European missionaries, but when India attained independence in 1947, the education system underwent a radical change. This followed the resultant change in social and political contour of the country in the post independence era.

Indian education system, standing on an experimental basis since independence, is the out come of several education commissions and committees set up by the government. Education is a process of human empowerment, quality pertains to what the learner has actually learned. Quality resides within the learner but is influenced by a set of outside factors at every stage as: good teaching, well-equipped institutions, learning process, enough instructions, relevant curriculum and teaching strategies etc. The focus on the quality of education has necessitated the need for educational institutions to become a knowledge enterprise that has to operate in rapidly changing environments-globalization of trade, global revolution in information and technology and conflicting demands of industry and institutions vis-à-vis growing unemployment rates, need for the well-trained professionals, devastating effects of pollutants and environmental factors on biodiversity, increasing threats to sustainability, high running cost of universities, and a new global market for higher education. Changes in the global environment thus...
open up challenges of globalization of economy, knowledge society and demand for environmental education for environmental awareness, both in terms of quality and quantity.

To improve quality and achieve different educational objectives, the traditional educational methods cannot keep pace to make learning effective. Concept mapping has exhibited its potential for maximizing achievement. It is an instructional technique and learning strategy which attempts to help students to learn concepts. Concepts map envisages that almost all students can acquire concepts related to environment. This strategy also promises personality development of an individual with respect to cognitive style and achievement motivation.

This study is one of the series designed to help students to learn concepts effectively in a way that is both satisfying to them selves and stimulating to society also.

The report of the present investigation has been presented in five chapters:

(i) Chapter I deals with introduction of different variables under study, theoretical framework of the problem, review of related literature, objectives, hypotheses and significance of the problem.

(ii) Chapter II has been devoted to the development and description of the tools required for the purpose of data collection.

(iii) Chapter III deals with method of the study, which focuses around the tools used, the samples, design of the study, procedure and statistical techniques used for the purpose of data analysis.

(iv) Chapter IV deals with analysis and interpretation of the data which has been sub-divided into part A and part B and discussion of the results and

(v) Chapter V deals with results and generalization. For providing the background of the findings, conclusions drawn on the basis of the findings and educational implications, a brief description of the purpose, design and procedure along with conclusions and suggestions for the research has been given.