



***EFFECTIVENESS OF MULTIMEDIA PACKAGES ON LEARNING  
BIOLOGICAL CONCEPTS AMONG STUDENT TEACHERS OF  
DIPLOMA IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION***

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Science Education is the foundation for sustainable national development. The teaching of biology is the basis for medicine, bio-chemistry, micro-biology, zoology, botany and even environmental sciences. Biology education is meant to expose the learners to biological nature (facts, principles and concepts), processes and attitudes and then equip them with skills of a professional biology teacher. Incidentally, the learners have their peculiar characteristics which may manifest special learning needs (Elliot, Kratochiwill, Cook and Travers, 2001). Learners expect that the materials and method of instruction should be easily transferable to the real world. Thus, the task of the teacher is to provide the materials and experiences to aid learning and meet the learner's expectations (Ogwo, 2004). The Investigator during his classroom transactions found that many student teachers especially with Arts and Commerce background struggle while learning biology. Further investigation revealed that the root cause of the problem is the conceptual understanding of biology. Hence the investigator opted to deal with the problem by preparing suitable multimedia packages for strengthening the conceptual understanding in the said area. Here the investigator made an attempt to develop a standardized student-specific multimedia package on Biology for the student teachers of D.El.Ed with Tamil as the medium of instruction. Through the study the heterogeneous group of student teachers could have the conceptual understanding on basic biological concepts and also gain an exposure about how to use multimedia resources in teaching – learning process. The study proved that the multimedia packages are found to be more effective for learning biological concepts among student teachers of diploma in elementary education in terms of gain ratio.