

Science Education in Sri Lanka

Lakshmi Rathnamala

Introduction

- According to the education system in Sri Lanka the students have to learn science as a subject from grade 6.
- After The Ordinary level Examination in Grade 11 the student has to choose one from the four subject streams for the Advanced level examination. The options are: Biological science, Physical Science, Commerce and Arts.

Science streams

Bio Science

- Chemistry
- Physics
- Biology
 - Zoology
 - Botany

Physical Science

- Chemistry
- Physics
- Combined math
 - Pure math
 - Applied math

After Advanced Level Exam...

Bio Science

- Medicine
- Paramedical sciences
- Biochemistry
- Dental surgery
- Agriculture

Physical science

- Engineering degree
 - Civil
 - Electrical
 - Electronic
 - Mechanical
- Architecture
- Science degree

School Science Societies

- The schools have developed science societies to promote:
 - students interest in learning science,
 - scientific communication
- to inculcate a research culture.
- organize annual competitions for innovations, scientific articles, etc. Some schools
- publish science journals

Other functions

- They organize short visits to interesting places like science museum,
- Participation in scientific exhibitions organized by various organizations, like universities and especially by the National Science Foundation.
- Prepare and promote the student participation for new innovation competitions organized by the National Science Foundation

National Science Foundation

- The national science foundation has a division called “ Science and Technology Development Department”
- The mission of the department is;
To popularize Science and Technology amongst the people of Sri Lanka under the theme “Science for all”

Science and Technology Development Department

- The mission is to promote popularization of Science and facilitate Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education through several activities.

Activities

- Registering School and University Science Societies.
- Conducting annual School and University Science Society Competitions.
- Science Research Projects Competition (SRPC)
- Participating students in International Science and Engineering competitions e.g. Intel ISEF
- Publication of 'Vidurava' Science Magazine
- NSF Science Magazine on Television 'Mihimandala'
- Publication of Science Books and Booklets
- Training Science Communicators

- Facilitating Science Popularization and STEM activities by:
 - Funding for S&T related publications
 - Funding to conduct Science Education and Popularisation Programmes
 - Funding school children and undergraduates to participate in International Science
 - Education Programmes
 - Supporting to uplift laboratory facilities of under privileged schools

Thank you