

## UNIT NINE: NATURAL SCIENCE

### **The Making of a Scientist**

*VS. Ramachandran, India (1951-)*

The essay “The Making of a Scientist” is written by an Indian writer, V.S. Ramachandran. This is an autobiographical essay in which the writer is trying to give his views on the ways to be a successful scientist. According to him, good environment, complete freedom, support from the significant people, good economic condition, influence, inquisitiveness are necessary to be a scientist.

- i) The writer says that to be a scientist, one should be curious but general curiosity doesn't work. According to the writer, there must be three types of curiosity i.e. obsessive, passionate and pathological.
- ii) The writer defines the science as the love affair with nature which is the source of inspiration and imagination.
- iii) In fact, to be scientist there must be the support of family members and the teachers, as the writer was helped. His mother brought him the sea-shells to make his study easier and his father brought microscope. In the school, he was helped by the teachers as they allowed him to take chemicals at home for experiments.
- iv) He says to be a scientist; there must be good environment and complete freedom.
- v) To be a scientist one must have sound economic condition.

The writer thinks that past was more advanced than the present in terms of new inventions. He has admired the Victorian era where many new inventions were invented. In the present time, people want to be a scientist to be popular. However, the writer has accepted some of the twentieth century inventions like DNA and the inventions of technology like fMR and PET which help to study the brain. Finally, he has described why he selected the field of neurology. He further says that he chose the field of neurology because he could study the human nature and the mood and could get more fun and to investigate neural mechanism underlying human mental function.

## **Scientific Inquiry: Invention and Test**

*Carl G. Hempel, Germany (1905-1997)*

The essay “Scientific Inquiry: Invention and Test” is written by a German writer, Carl G. Hempel. In the essay, the writer is trying to show the importance of sensitiveness according to the profession. “No one is perfect but should be involved in the work being responsible to avoid the potential negative effects of the work. Doctors also can make the mistakes but sensitiveness is necessary according to the profession” is the central idea of the essay.

Hempel, in the essay, has shown the medical investigation of a physician Seinmeiweis who was curious to know the death of women due to child death fever in Vienna, General Hospital. He divided the hospital into two divisions and conducted the experience in First Maternity Division to find the death rate of the women. In the beginning, he reduced the medical students to minimize the crowd. He provided the training for the health workers but his reports went in vain. When he saw his friend Kolletchka’s death due to a minor injury, he realized that the real cause of child death fever was doctors’ carelessness who looks after the patients without washing hands properly. In fact, medical students would involve in post mortem but without washing hands they go to look after other patients so, he ordered the doctors to wash their hands properly that decreased the death rate of First Maternity Division and came to 1.27% while in the Second, there was 1.33%. He also asserts the cause of child death fever is the decaying living organism but not only the cause of washing hands properly.

Hence, the essay emphasizes the importance of sensitiveness according to the profession to deal with the problems.