

## AN INQUIRY INTO STUDENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF ELECTRIC CIRCUITS

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Students' alternate conceptions had been area of interest and extensive research in Science Education in the last three decades. 'Electricity' is one of the difficult topic in physics and a lot research has been done to explore students' mental models to explain the concepts in electricity. This study explores middle school and secondary school students' understanding about electric circuits and alternate conceptions held by them. The study also unearths various mental models subscribed by the students in their understanding of simple electric circuits. The study also explores the gender differences in the alternate conceptions of middle and secondary school students.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Alternate Conceptions, Electric Circuits, Mental Models*