Trichuriasis is usually considered to be innocuous exerting no serious threat to the health of swine. Clary and Wilks (1951) indicated the presence of Trichuris infestation in unthrifty hogs showing no other evidence of disease. They also felt that since whipworms may cause heavy losses to the swine producer, these worms generally inhabit the caecum of the host and when present in large numbers they cause irritation resulting in diarrhoea. This is sometimes accompanied by passage of mucus and blood. There is considerable weight loss and sometimes the formation of nodules in the caecal wall. The effects are likely to be severe in pigs in age groups of 4 to 6 months. (Power, 1960).

Balcon & Todd (1960) reported that it is a herd disease as it has been recognized in its clinical state in Wisconsin swine over the past decade. They also observed that mortalities were confined to young pigs and in some instances more than 2/3 of a group succumbed. Each outbreak, of course, has been a direct reflection of poor sanitation and management afforded on individual hog farms. This condition is progressive within a herd. In the beginning, the few initial mortalities along with poor growth seldom provokes the owner for any action. As the herd infection develops over a period of many weeks and sometimes months, growth failure becomes apparent. In most of the cases bloody diarrhoea appears and mortalities increase. On the basis of tentative diagnosis and treatment, the herd does not improve. Moreover, when the herd and its pigs finally achieve a balance, the surviving pigs constitute an economic hazard because they seldom reach market weight at a profit.

The Trichuris species are generally known as "Whipworms" having the anterior part of the body long and slender, while the posterior part much thicker. The hind end of the male is curved and there is one ampulla surrounded by a protrusible sheath which is usually armed with fine cuticular spines. The vulva in female is situated at the beginning of the wider part of the body. The male is 10-50 mm long and the female 35-50 mm. The anterior portion forms about two thirds of the total length. The ampulla is 7-3.35 mm long with a blunt tip. Its sheath is variable in shape as well as in the amount of its cuticular armature. The eggs measure 50-60 by 21-21.5 x 0.01 mm (Liander, 1962). The life cycle is direct. The eggs of Trichuris are passed in the faeces and if the host is capable of infecting the eggs, which normally do not hatch outside the host. They retain infective for approximately 18 months when kept in water at room temperature. The embryonated eggs are very resistant to external environment and can survive for up to 6 years in old sties (Hill, 1957). The pigs acquire the infection by ingesting the eggs. Hatching occurs only after ingestion (Hill, 1957). The infective eggs produce mature adults in about 7 weeks after ingestion by pigs (Power, 1950).

Diagnosis depend on detection in the faeces of the yellow oval eggs, which have a transparent plug at each end, and possibly finding adult worms which are 2 cm long and shaped characteristically like a whip, the anterior third being much thinner than the handle like posterior (Hill and Henderson, 1973).

In 1976-77, the malady occurred at AAI farm in Allahabad (India). About two dozen pigs showed long diarrhoea and lost weight. They were all in the age group of 2-3 months. A severe recrudescence in growth was observed in all of them but loss of appetite was not observed in any of them rather they were eating more. The feed was checked but it had nothing abnormal. The pigs were first treated with anthelmintic but not reacted. The treatment with sulphonamides and antibiotics also failed.

When the faecal sample was examined microscopically, Trichuris eggs were seen in large numbers in every field revealing heavy infestation. All the pigs suffering were transferred to dry styes and all measures were taken to keep the place hygienic. Daily cleaning of the floor with press wet down was done separately to every piglet. Only one worker was allowed to enter in the sty for distribution of feed and water. He used to enter the sty only after putting his shoes in soaked lime kept at gates. The animals were given piperazine and copaszine in feed but also failed to save the animals from the malady.

In the last, two drugs n-butyl chloride and diethylamidine were tried per os. The animals were divided into two groups. N-butyl chloride at the dose rate of 1 ml per kg body weight was given to one group and diethylamidine was given at the rate of 3 ml per kg body weight to another group. These two drugs worked very well. A second dosing of n-butyl chloride after an interval of 3 weeks was also required but diethylamidine made the faeces negative for Trichuris eggs in single dose treatment. Afterward both the groups recovered and gained weights. None of the pigs then died out to this malady.

Conclusions:

N-butyl chloride and diethylamidine were tried in clinical cases of trichuriasis. N-butyl chloride needed a second dosing after a week of the first where as diethylamidine had a curative effect in a single dose treatment. Anthelmintics such as piperazine and anti-biotics failed to give any fruitful effect.