Most children above the age of 7–8 yrs can perform the full range of tests available for older individuals.
By contrast, assessments in young children and infants have generally been restricted to specialized research establishments, due to the lack of suitable equipment and the complexity of undertaking such measurements.
The realization that insults to the developing lung may have life-long effects and that much of the burden of respiratory disease in childhood and later life has its origins in infancy and early childhood has emphasized the need to develop and standardize sensitive methods of assessing respiratory function in infants and young children.
Assessing and purpose of assessing lung function in infants and children are going to be discussed in this Lecture.