

## **EDITORIAL**

Intelligentsia reflects on education worldwide, analyses the present scenario and tries to foresee the demands in the future, India being no exception. The present appears very promising when we look on to the demographic dividend, the Indian students doing well internationally and the famous personalities of the globe e.g. President of USA advise their youth to gear up to compete with Indian students. It appears not so bright when some reports of learning achievements of students show unacceptable results or when a large number of teachers fail to clear the Teacher Proficiency Tests. The researchers, thinkers and planners keep a watch on realities and come out with innovative ideas to meet the educational goals. In the present issue of Indian Educational Review, we bring to you some more outcomes of research activities, which may eventually play their part in improving the achievements.

The researchers in their contribution have reflected upon a variety of issues of contemporary concern and interest. The present issue contains four research papers, one innovation, two research notes, summaries of two research projects and two book reviews. First paper of the issue deals with exploration of life-skills through researcher generated cartoons which tries to explore the possibility of using cartoons as a tool to understand the life-skills of pre-adolescents. Second paper of the issue deals with the challenges and issues of teaching environmental studies at primary stage and attempts to help in formulating simple strategies to convert challenges into opportunities. Third paper is a study on the educational change and teachers' pedagogical content knowledge (PCK) – integration for professional development carried out with a sample of in-service teachers which deals with the teachers' understanding about educational change and their ability to deal with the change. And the fourth paper is a case study of Kerala which focuses on the influence of gender, management and locality of schools on the thinking styles of secondary school students. This time we have also included one research innovation in the issue which is a report of an experiment to enhance understanding in mathematics. We have also included two brief research notes in this issue which aim to explore some additional dimensions. The first one is a study of multi-grade teaching on the achievement levels in Hindi and mathematics of second standard in government and NGOs schools. Second note reflects the importance of field experience and its practice in education as an individualised, experiential learning opportunity.

Summaries of two research projects funded by NCERT under ERIC are included. These are:

1. Experience and Consequences of Happiness: A Study of Happiness among School Students and Teachers
2. A Study of the On-going Processes of Pre-service Elementary Teacher Education Programme in Maharashtra

The issue also contains two book reviews which are relevant in the contemporary area of education. These are:

1. PPP Paradox: Promise and Perils of Public-Private Partnership in Education
2. Action Research in Education: Learning Through Practitioner Enquiry

The Indian Educational Review focuses on enriching the discipline of education by disseminating findings of educational research, providing opportunities for exchanging research experience among fellow researchers, motivating young researchers and providing inputs to all those involved in policy making and planning. Contributions of academicians, researchers, research writers and institutions are cordially invited for the next issue. We welcome your suggestions for bringing any improvement in the quality of journal.

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*Academic Editor*