

EDITOR'S NOTE

It is widely acknowledged that health is influenced by biological, social, economic, cultural and political forces. Health is a critical input for overall development of the child and it influences enrolment, retention and school completion rates significantly. NCERT's National Curriculum Framework - 2005 and the National Focus Group's position paper on 'Health and Physical Education' deliberate upon the need and strategies of Health and Physical Education in schools. NCERT is also in the process of finalising syllabus of this subject area for the entire stage of school education.

Recently, NCERT has organised a Memorial Lecture where T. Sundararaman delivered a lecture entitled "The Educational Institution as a Health Facility". This issue carries the written text of the lecture for our readers. In this lecture he emphasises the need of more and more educational institutions developed as health centres in India.

There is a growing realisation that the health needs of adolescents require to be addressed. An article by Saroj Yadav, "Parenting: Preparing the Adolescents" takes up this issue and underlines the role of parents in this area. Disability is another concern which needs our serious attention and efforts towards inclusive education. The present issue carries two articles first, by Aakansha Agarwal and another by Shivani Bindal and Sushma Sharma which deal in this area.

We also in this issue carry three articles related to different aspects of elementary education. The first by — Sandeep Kumar, Manju Rani and Ravendra Sharma, presents an appraisal of elementary education in Uttarakhand. Authors discuss that a newly constituted Indian State-Uttarakhand consisting of hilly districts has relatively higher literacy rate as compared to country as a whole. It further explores various efforts of the State towards achieving the goal of Universalisation of Elementary Education. The second article by B.K. Panda focuses on the Mid-day Meal programme in residential primary schools opened for Scheduled Tribes in Chhattisgarh. He relates School Feeding Programme to the enrolment of children in school and also discusses its other benefits for the school going children. The third article by Sudhanshu Shekhar Patra and Diptanshu Bhusan Pati lucidly compares the educational structures and schemes of two states — Orissa which is an educationally backward State and Kerala, an educationally progressive State.

Technology helps dissemination of ideas generated on one forum to masses. Its cost effective and easy reach motivates various stakeholders for its use. This issue also carries articles related to the use of technology for in-service teacher training. Rajendra Pal and Pratima Pallai highlight different

aspects of tele-conferencing including its history and researches in this area. The other article by Madhulika S. Patel and Meenakshi Khar shares experiences of video-conferencing organised for teachers to orient them on English textbooks developed by NCERT.

For about two decades we have been making efforts towards reforming our examination system. Debates about grading system have been continued at various platforms but still the system is not ready to adopt it. An article on “Grading System for Schools” by Avtar Singh discusses the advantage of grading system in schools.

JIE is a forum which often includes diverse issues related to different stages of school, higher and teacher education. In the context of school education JIE provides space for pre-school to senior secondary stage. This issue also carries an article on pre-schools of Guwahati written by Kaberi Saha and Ananya Changkakati. This article presents a comparative study of selected Assamese and English medium schools in Guwahati city of Assam.

Whenever we talk about our national concerns in Education, Environmental Education takes the priority. An article related to Environmental Education by Jyoti Prakash Bagchi touches the concern regarding developing ecological virtues by reinventing nature. It is a fact that children learn more in the company of others. When they learn together they find themselves more engaged and interactive. Nitin Banerjee’s article “Learning Together, Why and How?” focusses this aspect and outlines the need of various approaches of learning together.

In its end pages JIE carries a reportage by Kirti Kapur which highlights the need of interactive programme and workshops for teachers.

We are now in a better position to attend the needs and queries of our subscribers and contributors. We also invite your feedbacks on articles, research papers, reports and bookreviews. We hope like other issues, the present issues will also be helpful in enriching knowledge of our readers on various aspects of education.

Academic Editor

JIE