

EDITOR'S NOTE

Even though India's recent economic growth is an example for the world's economy in this critical period yet lack of basic health and education facilities are the major challenges that we are facing today. Addressing these challenges now requires our intensive efforts towards strengthening public-private partnership. This is necessary in view of bringing equality in a country like India with huge population and strong diversity. Government of India has been making continuous efforts to provide adequate health and education facilities to the poor and other deprived groups through various schemes and programmes and their impacts are worth considering.

The present issue includes one of the NCERT memorial lectures delivered by P Sainath which highlights prevailing condition of have and have-not in our society. The lecture presents a view which states that the questions of inequality are not only economic or political but also moral. India's social and economic problems must be addressed directly and earnestly. In this context, role of education for bringing social change in terms of equality cannot be undermined. Two research articles one on the implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan written by Mahmood Ahmad Khan and Feroz Ahmad Koul and the other by Kartikeswar Roul on the National Programme for education of girls at elementary level reflect status of efforts made in this direction.

Not only access, issue of quality is another important concern which often draws attention of teachers, teacher educators and educationists. Classroom processes need to be improved for all the stages of school in view of bringing quality. In this context findings presented in the research articles contributed by Ravindra Kumar Parashar, Vikramjit Singh and K. M Rajan emphasise the need for improving classroom pedagogy to bring quality in science education. In view of promoting language learning in schools, R.Meghanathan's article attempts to make a case for projects for language learning and discusses the possible ways and means of designing and carrying out projects as language learning tasks where learners work with

language for a period of time. Another article on language learning contributed by Bernadette D' Souza presents dramatic activities as an approach for learning of English language. Ziyn Engdasew Woldab in his article provides an idea about the constructivist strategies in teaching of Economics.

Quality in education also depends upon effective school leadership and good teachers. School Leaders are of crucial importance for continued improvement of schools provided onus of taking decisions for schools should lie with them. Rashmi Diwan's article elaborates upon this aspect and S. K Yadav's article reflects the need to strengthen pre-service teacher education programmes in order to provide quality secondary education in India.

The present issue also includes an article by Ashwani Kumar Gaur presenting J. Krishnamurti's thoughts on education which should aim for the transformation and liberation of the human being.

The issue concludes with two book reviews and summary of a position paper about the problems of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. We do hope that our readers will definitely get benefitted by these articles and get motivation to share their own ideas, research studies, book reviews related to school and teacher education.

Academic Editor