

EDITORIAL

No task is as challenging as organising a child's day in school. It not only includes visible factors of teacher and textbook but involves a complex interplay of other factors, such as teachers, teaching material, school infrastructure, educational policy, and so on. This issue of *The Primary Teacher* focuses on contemporary issues in elementary education in the light of these factors.

The first paper on 'Teacher Perceptions on Issues of Multigrade Teaching' by Sandhya Sangai and Megha Chowdhary views multigrade teaching as a pedagogic tool that can assist in context of teacher shortage, budget constraints, etc. It tries to explore the perception of head teachers towards multigrade teaching in classroom setting.

The second article 'Error Analysis in Basic Mathematical Operations' by Payel Banerjee and Ujjala Singh examines the mathematical achievement tool. This paper analyses data collected through purposive sampling on 40 elementary students studying in Class VIII government school of Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh. The primary objective of the study is to understand the basic errors committed by students in mathematics at the elementary level.

The third article titled 'Is Homework Necessary?' by K. V. Sridevi and Pooja Tomar analyses the significance of homework in the lives of students, parents and teachers. The findings of the paper indicate that a sizeable number of participants from the above target groups, i.e., students, parents and teachers, was of the opinion that homework is an essential component of the teaching-learning process. However, the researchers conclude that it needs to be engaging, interesting and meaningful so that it contributes to continuous learning of children.

The next paper by Jyoti Pandey tries to explore the attitude of primary teachers towards the Mid Day Meal Scheme. The findings of the study reveal that though the scheme has led to an increase in the enrolment, attendance and retention rate of children in primary schools, teachers are burdened by an added responsibility of overseeing the implementation of the Mid Day Meal Scheme in the schools, which adversely affects the teaching-learning process.

The fifth paper titled '*Shishu Shiksha Karmasuchi* for Quality Primary Education — An Analysis' by Subhasish Khanda discusses that Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE) has been one of the most important objectives of India ever since Independence. The *Shishu Shiksha Karmasuchi* was introduced by the West Bengal government in 1997 as an alternate

elementary education system to reach out to maximum number of children in the remotest parts of the State. The author discusses various issues and challenges faced by school personnel to implement this scheme at the primary level.

In the paper titled 'English Teaching in Rural Government Schools of Karnataka — A Longitudinal Study', the author K. Vaijayanti takes up a case study in the State, where *Swalpa* English, *Thumba Fun* (SETF), meaning A Little English, A Lot of Fun — an English support programme for Classes I to IV — was initiated. The author elaborates on the programme and addresses various problems that hinder the teaching-learning process and how SETF has helped address the issue.

The paper titled 'Peer Coaching — Live Classroom In-service Teachers' Training Programme' by Ashutosh Anand describes the advantages of in-service teachers' training programme. The author, in this paper, highlights ambiguity in the traditional teacher training programme and emphasises on peer coaching pattern, which is inclusive of the main beneficiaries, i.e., students, who are kept out of the training design in traditional teacher training programme.

The issue also carries its regular features — 'Book Review', 'Did You Know' and 'My Page'. In the Book Review of *Dictionary of History for Schools (Trilingual)*, Seema Ojha throws an insight into how the dictionary provides an explanation of various terms and concepts on specific themes that can be useful for both students and teachers. It describes diverse facets of India's historical developments. Furthermore, it serves to introduce children at the primary stage itself that there can be subject-specific dictionaries.

'Did You Know' talks about the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme. The article 'Resource Package for Awareness in Early Childhood Care and Education' by Reetu Chandra discusses the ECCE programme, its evolution, implementation, practices and significance. It also elaborates on the resource package for awareness in ECCE developed by the Department of Elementary Education, NCERT. The ECCE lays the foundation to primary education.

'My Page' by Varada Nikalje narrates how a seemingly small incident can bring one face-to-face with temptation, and thus, make one re-examine one's own moral compass.

— Academic Editors