

EDITORIAL

Pedagogic practices in recent times focus on the creation of a stress-free atmosphere, conducive to learning and facilitating children to find meaning in everyday experiences. The National Curriculum Framework (NCF)–2005 states that education should enable a child to draw connections between ideas, people and things, and relate them to the world around.

This issue of *The Primary Teacher* focuses on contemporary issues in elementary education. The first paper by Vijitha Rajan examines some important aspects of educational exclusion of children of migrant workers in India. For the children of migrant labourers, particularly, seasonal and short-term migrants in distress, schooling is still a distant dream. A new theoretical and policy discourse that embodies children's everyday experiences of migration and education in larger politics of exclusion is presented in this paper.

In the second paper titled 'The Nurturance of a Scientist', Vandana Kerur shares some memorable incidents from the life of Thomas Edison and highlights how his mother played an important role in his life. Edison was rejected from formal school for being too inquisitive, and was hence, schooled at home by his mother, who not only taught him but also made him confident.

The third article, 'The Constructivist Approach and the *Panchatantra*', by Chitra Singh is an attempt to elaborate on the constructivist approach of teaching, which emphasises creativity and going beyond textbook education. The author links constructivist education to the *Panchatantra*, which through stories is perhaps the first effort in the ancient Indian education system that went beyond formal teaching and learning. The author illustrates the concept through activities based on *Panchatantra* stories.

In the next paper titled '*Raindrops* — English Language Learning Kit', Varada M. Nikalje provides a detailed description of the English language learning kit developed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). The author explains its importance in the cognitive development of learners of Classes I–V and how it would also help develop language learning skills in them. This Kit is NCERT's recent initiative to enhance English language learning skills in children studying in government schools across the country.

The fifth paper, 'Experiencing the Sublime — The Contributions of Akka Mahadevi' by Gouri Srivastava throws light on the Bhakti Movement, and the works of Akka Mahadevi, a prominent Kannada woman poet in the twelfth century. This paper elaborates on the life of Akka Mahadevi and her contribution to the Kannada literature. Her works deal with issues that are relevant even today.

The sixth paper by Gobind Singh Gure elaborates on a study that examines primary school students' minimum level of learning competencies in cognitive areas in relation with gender. The study indicates that teachers, educational authorities and administration need to use constructive approach in teaching at the primary level in order to encourage the learners and help them perform better.

Ajit Horo through the paper titled 'Writing for the Ears!' discusses the aspects that one need to keep in mind while writing for the audio medium and how it can help enhance a person's communication skills.

The journal also carries its regular features — My Page, Book Review and Did You Know.

In the review of the book, *Nuggets — Reflections on Language Education* by Varada M. Nikalje, reviewer Sandhya Rani Sahoo says the book is an interesting reading material for those engaged in language education. It is a collection of articles that focuses on four central themes — nature of meaning, language usage, language cognition and relationship between language and reality.

'Did You Know' talks about the game 'snakes and ladders', and presents interesting insights into its origin and how it can be used as a medium of learning.

'My Page' deals with a course — Diploma in Elementary Education. It describes how this programme is useful for new, as well as, experienced teachers.

— Academic Editors