

EDITOR'S NOTE

Development of human beings has been passing through different phases since time immemorial. In almost all the phases, many philosophers, educationists, scholars, scientists, and leaders made their contribution on varied aspects viz., educational, psychological, scientific, economic and political, and lead the processes ahead. Contributions of a few of them e.g., Einstein, Gandhi, Tagore, Piaget, Vygotsky, etc. were proved transformative to be carried out from phases to phases and generation to generation as benchmark. In many respects, their ideas stand uncontested and valid even today. This is why, often authors, writers and researchers attracted by their writings and practices and philosophies try to explore these ideas with respect to contemporary perspectives in different fields.

With regard to education contemporary writings based on earlier works need to find place in different forums to provide educational practitioners food for thinking and guidance for implementing emerging ideas. One such forum i.e., Journal of Indian Education (JIE) contributes towards this objective. The present issue of JIE includes written text of a Memorial Lecture 'Education as Empowerment : Twins in Search of an Alternative Education' bestowed by Swapan Majumdar highlighting the educational thoughts/philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore and also an article written by Sharmila Banerjee 'Pedagogy in Patha-Bhavana School of Tagore's Santiniketan' which provides readers reading material containing glimpses of the realisation of Tagore's philosophy into practice. Further in this series 'Educational Philosophies of Advaita -Vedanta and Islam' is an article by Shamim Ahmad where he differentiates on the ideological perspective of two philosophies. He draws the relevance of Advaita-Vedanta and Islam with the present world educational system. His analysis shows that both the philosophies are still relevant for the educational curriculum which carries the basic subjects of spiritual and temporal faculties of learning. Learning is a process of the construction of knowledge. Rajesh Kumar and V.K. Gupta in their article 'An introduction to Cognitive Constructivism in Education' explain that human beings construct their own knowledge through experience and also by connecting new ideas to the existing ideas on the basis of materials presented to them. These ideas, unless, find place in schools or in some spaces of learning stay as ideas without any recognition in the practical world. In this context, articles : 'Role of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya in the Educational Development of Scheduled Tribe Girls in Jharkhand' by Pushpa Mandal, 'Relevance of Pre-Service Elementary Teacher Education Curriculum to Real Classroom Situation' by Anita Rastogi and Chanchal Goel and 'Basic Facilities in Secondary Level Schools in Rural India' by Virendra Pratap Singh

and Sandeep Kumar Sharma highlight school scenarios in our country. When the issue of schools arises, one can not leave teachers behind. What do we expect from teachers and what we are providing them in the name of facilities and training. An article : 'How Informed Citizens, Prospective Teachers Are? An Exploratory Study of Political Interest and Political Efficacy' by Alok Gardia and Somu Singh reflects the role of teachers in promoting educational programmes and making children aware of political participation. An article entitled 'Status of Para-teachers in India' by S.Eswaran and Ajit Singh brings out how Para-teachers are being exploited in many states.

This issue also includes writings on various other concerns such as Environment, Mathematics Education, etc. In this sequence articles such as 'Environmental Education at School Level : Issues at Glance' by Kavita Sharma; 'Engineering in Mathematics Education : Mathematical Engineering' by Praveen Kumar Chaurasia and 'Motivation and Stress Management : Essential Skill for Parents, Teachers and Students' by Jasim Ahmad contribute in broadening the gamut of education.

It is our sincere hope that this issue will help the readers to reflect on various issues of educational development in our country.

Academic Editor
JIE