

EDITOR'S NOTE

The increased role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the realm of education, especially school education has been a matter of discussion and deliberations worldwide. The Government of India, through various initiatives such as *Diksha*, *Shagun*, National Repository on Open Educational Resources (NROER), E-pathshala, etc., uses ICT platform and made an effort to ensure quality of school education to all. It is an agreeable fact, that ICT has developed very rapidly and has influenced every aspect of life, positively as well as negatively. First three articles or research papers in the present issue discuss the influence of ICT in academic and other related areas of one's life. Apart from this, the present issue includes broad spectrum of papers covering different themes such as Learning Outcome, Yoga Education, Vocational Education, Empirical Research findings related with pedagogical activities, etc. Some of the papers provide solutions to the challenges faced by the system based on empirical evidences collected from different stakeholders.

Educationists and researchers have been regularly studying the effects of media and technologies such as the internet, on the psycho-social behaviour of adolescents. The paper titled 'Internet Usage by Adolescents: Implication on their Studies and Academic Performance', by Arati Mukhia, Saileela K and Donatus Kujur, tries to look at the effects of internet usage on higher secondary school students' academic performance. Results revealed that the time exhausted online was found to be linked with academic performance, while internet usage did not associate very well to academic scores. The broad use of social sites or social media networking has been on the rise among the new generation youths. The paper titled 'A Study of Social Media Addiction among Students from Higher Education Institutions' by Shahida Parveen, Kundan Singh and Pratibha Sagar is an endeavour to scrutinise the pattern of social networking handling and unconstructive impact of social media on youths. Now-a-days, development of quality e-content and its effect on the learning level of students has become one of the most ideal subject matters for researchers. Shipra Rana and Nain Singh, in their paper, 'A Study of e-content through e-learning: Viewpoints of Researchers' aims to find out it's basis by underlining the studied steps to glance into the origin of e-learning in India, and evaluated different researchers' works on e-contents through e-learning to envision the span for more research to be conducted in this field of inquiry.

The paper by Shilpi Banerjee and Aanchal Chomal titled, 'Towards Actionable Learning Outcomes' endeavours to develop a profound understanding about how Learning Outcomes are consequent from means

of school education and their distinctiveness. The paper ends with a set of proposals to institutionalise Learning Outcomes at the general level for stakeholders together with teachers, schools, government and the private sector to facilitate them to work towards building integrated and holistic solutions.

The initiation of yoga education in school curriculum has been emphasised as a follow-up of the International Yoga Day, announced by the UN General Assembly in 2015. Saroj Yadav, Sweta Singh, Shruti Sharma presents the report of the study on the implementation of yoga in schools by analysing the status of diverse yogic activities conducted in schools of KVS, NVS, CBSE and other schools of Delhi. The findings of the research reveals that, a bulk of Indian schools have accredited and included yoga and yogic practices as a component of their core curriculum, and devoted a separate period where student can practice yoga and its similar practices.

Rajni Thakur and Kalpana Thakur carried out a study to evaluate the result of the cooperative learning techniques (JIGSAW IV and STAD) on science self-efficacy of 240 VIII graders with different cognitive styles. Their paper titled, 'Boosting Science Self-efficacy of Eight Graders through Cooperative Learning' reveals among the two cooperative learning strategies students belonging to JIGSAW IV yielded better science self-efficacy scores than students belonging to STAD and control group.

The paper by Mudita Sharma and Nikhat Yasmin Shafeeq titled, 'Assessment of the Implementation of RTE Act, 2009 in Context of Curriculum in Government and Private Elementary Schools of Western Uttar Pradesh' seeks to find out the status of the implementation of RTE Act-2009 in the elementary schools of western Uttar Pradesh, in the light of the rules given in the RTE Act in context of curriculum. It was found that some of the provisions of the RTE Act in context of curriculum are pursued in the elementary schools of western U.P.

It's been more than 100 years now since the term 'Nature of Science (NoS)' is being accentuated in the field of science education. The paper titled, 'Research Trends in Nature of Science: Analysis and Implications' by Mamta Singhal presents an outline of numerous promising research developments on Nature of Science.

Dropping out of school halfway is a severe educational and social problem. The study by Jeebanlata Salam titled, 'Vocational Skill Interventions: Dropout Reduction and Employability' is mainly based on analysis of literature on vocational education, dropout reduction or prevention and its consequence on employability. Based on the study, the author finds that, when dropout programmes are planned, vocational education strategy in

school appears as a useful means in developing dropout prevention, training of trained workforce—geared towards sustainable livelihood and productivity in society.

After the inauguration of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE) 2009, the value of School Management Committee (SMC) was sincerely taken into consideration, though the community participation had previously existed with different categorisation. The paper by Prakash Bhue and Tattwamasi Paltasingh titled, 'Decentralised School System through Community Participation: From Expectation to Implementation' crafts an attempt to observe the nature of challenges faced by the SMC members from the viewpoints of external and internal issues.

Higher education institutions are the hubs that present prospects to the youth to empower themselves through advanced knowledge, approach and expertise. In the paper titled 'Growth and Development of Higher Education in Uttarakhand', Pavan Kumar and P.K. Joshi evaluate the condition of higher education system in Uttarakhand.

We hope that our readers would be able to relate their personal experiences with the issues and concerns discussed by the authors of these articles or research papers presented in the current issue. We look forward to your suggestions and comments on the different issues of JIE. We are looking forward to you contributing in the journal by sharing your knowledge in the form of articles, action research reports, theoretical papers, book reviews, etc.

Academic Editor