

## EDITOR'S NOTE

The National Focus Group on Teaching of Science (NCERT, 2005) observes a huge gap in the education in general and science education in particular between the rural and urban students. The inequality, among other things may be mainly due to poor infrastructure, inadequate support systems, lack of access to information and other resources in rural areas, and a clean urban bias in various educational inputs. The focus group points out that in terms of content rural life styles need to be reflected in the curriculum, which can be done very effectively in contextualised curricula. In the present issue, our three contributors viz., Arvind Gupta, Shashi Prabha and K. Abdul Gafoor and Smitha Narayan take up the issue of science education in Indian schools and deliberate upon it through their writings.

No doubt, for so long India has been making efforts towards achieving the goal of quality education, yet there is a need to understand the deep meaning of quality. The recent curriculum reform process in India provided another dimension to quality by redefining it. As per the *National Curriculum Framework 2005*, "Quality is not merely a measure of efficiency; it also has a value dimension. The attempts to improve quality of education will succeed only if it goes hand-in-hand with steps to promote equality and social justice." In this issue, articles related to this very concern are contributed by Ramakar Raizada, Najmah Peerzada, Neeru Snehi, and Rashmi Choudhuri. These articles open doors for thinking and reflection on quality in education with a changed perspective. Two more research papers are included in this issue; one by E. Arumuga Gandhi and the other by Lalit Kumar and Sudhir Kumar which also deal with quality but with respect to higher education. Further, in this very series, an article by Manju Singh deals with techniques and strategies of providing quality language education in schools and other articles by Rama Maikhuri and Roop N. Kabra focusses on orienting rural teachers with a purpose to provide quality education to women and children of rural areas.

The issue also carries an article related to history of Missionary's education in Assam written by Ali Ahmad and Sayeedul Haque; and a Book Review by Aakanksha Agarwal.

Academic Editor  
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