



## Editorial

This issue of *Artha - Journal of Social Sciences* focusses on the contemporary discourses in Education. We have an eclectic mix of articles that enlighten us on issues in Secondary and Higher education in India.

The first article, *A Study on Social Competence of Secondary School Students Residing in Juvenile Homes* by Shylaja C V is intended to examine the social competence of secondary school students residing in juvenile homes. Hardships faced by these children interfere with their ability to acquire the required social skills, which, in turn, reduces them to socially handicapped individuals. The findings reveal that schools in which juvenile children study should envisage on social competence development and the teachers and administrators should ensure that the child's troublesome past should not intimidate his/her acquisition of social ability.

The second article, *Impact of Edutainment programme in developing life skills with specific reference to critical and creative thinking among adolescent students of Chhattisgarh State* highlights the effectiveness of a programme devised by the researcher. This is a programme that integrates different types of media in teaching and learning including audio and video, films and advertisements, radio and TV, internet and electronic mail, educational games, and visits to experiential centres. This provides an enriched experience to students with the specific objective of developing critical thinking, creativity, and life skills among students.

The third article, *Effectiveness of English Multimedia Assisted Instructional Package in enhancing achievement in English among Standard IX Students in Relation to their Interest in Learning* by David Raju M is an intervention carried out in a quasi-experimental design mode. The researcher here uses the MAT software to develop English grammar competencies in addition to developing an interest in English. English, being a foreign language, is structurally and syntactically different from an English as a Second Language Learner's mother tongue which poses a challenge to students who learn its grammar. The findings of this research show

that grammar can be taught effectively through multimedia package devised on certain psychological and pedagogical principles.

The fourth article, *Practice of Moral Education in the Context of Srimad Bhagavad Gita with Reference to Concept of Self and Pedagogy* is an attempt to identify the role of schools in developing moral values. Traditionally, it is believed that schools have in them a moral ethos embodied in rules, rewards and punishments, dress codes, honour codes, student-government relationships, styles of teaching, extracurricular emphases, art, and the respect accorded by students and teachers. Schools train children in what is expected of them and ingrain in them the idea of normality and the ethical judgement of right and wrong.

The fifth article of this issue, *Professional Learning Communities: An Essential for Excellence in Schools and Varsities* by Lijo Thomas is a conceptual paper on the idea of having a professional learning community in schools and universities to improve the knowledge base and transact intellectual learning.

The author traces the need and evolution of Professional Learning Communities in colleges and has concluded that it is highly beneficial to the creation and dissemination of knowledge in centres of learning.

We hope our readers have an interesting read and expect their continued support.

**Sumita Rao and Jose Cherian**  
**Issue Editors**