

### FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Research is a pursuit of knowledge; a quest that can initiate processes of social transformation. This issue of *Vantage* explores interactions between theory, research, and evolution in society.

A crucial precursor to research and social transformation is an education system, which enables critical inquiry. In this issue, the editorial by Prof. Bal Ram Singh, and the invited article by Prof. Mohd. Talib focus on the need to revisit the education system. Prof. Singh quotes the ancient Indian scriptures, the Vedas, and the Upanishads, asserting that education is primarily about learning while the processes of teaching come next. In the essay by Prof. Talib, he revisits the concept of “*Nai Taleem*” envisaged by Mahatma Gandhi, Zakir Hussain and certain others. He argues that the purpose of education is not merely skill development but a holistic development of the individual-- a process that is in perfect harmony with nature. The invited article by Prof. Dhawan and his associates presents an innovative approach to plastic and its disposal—a research that has a direct impact on one of the biggest environmental challenges faced by society and the world. The article discusses the method undertaken by the researchers for efficient management of plastic; they designed tiles from plastic, thus addressing the problem of safe disposal of plastic.

In this issue of *Vantage: Journal of Thematic Analysis*, there is a preponderance of research in biology. The original research article by Simran et al., explores chicken eggs as a potential source of infection and antimicrobial resistance. In an era of the challenge of the AMR (Antimicrobial Resistance), one needs to consider the threat posed due to exposure of poultry and dairy to increased doses of antibiotics. Another health hazard is Arsenic Contamination. This has been reviewed by Chaitali et al. in their article where they illustrate the effects of arsenic toxicity in the human body and various ways by which we can reduce Arsenic toxicity in the surroundings too.

While developing alternate perspectives is one aspect of Research, another equally interesting facet involves identifying lesser explored domains and entities and bringing them to light. In the original research article by Naqvi et al, they record a new species of ciliate *N. gangwonensis* belonging to the subfamily Oxytrichinae; they identify this in the Indian subcontinent and describe its morphogenesis.

In this issue Ritika Kalra has also reviewed a textbook on ‘Reproductive Biology’. This edited book is a unique piece of scholarship. The authors not only look at the physiological aspects of reproduction, but also discuss various pathological conditions associated with the reproductive system. Moreover, with this book we note a rather interesting stance whereby reproductive biology engages with the sociological question of sex determination.

In Social Sciences, Archana Prasad throws light on the informal sector of urban life. In her original research article, she presents a feminist analysis of informal labour in a Delhi Resettlement Colony. She highlights how gender intersects with informal structures of labour and shapes women’s experiences, vulnerabilities, and agency, thus laying bare the struggles, resilience, and transformative potential of women living and working in cities. She emphasises the need for gender-sensitive policies and interventions that address inequalities and empower women.

In line with the existing practice, the current issue of *Vantage* also includes a detailed report on *Equinox 2023: The Annual International Conference* organised under the aegis of *Vantage: Journal of Thematic Analysis*. The conference witnessed good scholarship. Several research articles presented at the conference have been published in this issue. The next issue will carry a few more of these.

As this issue offers substantial insights, I hope it encourages further efforts in the direction of serious research and social transformation.

Happy Reading!

~ Haritma Chopra

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