

## CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

What is an academic research? Is it merely to collate ideas and texts from multiple websites, journals and books? Or is it to express old ideas in a novel way? In recent years, the competitive pressure to upgrade the CV for shrinking job market has taken away the sheen from academic research, particularly in South Asia. The purpose is getting lost in the forest of jugglery of words, phrases and citations.

When we read the history of knowledge, we find how the wisdom stalwarts were also the practitioner of ideas. Socrates died on the altar of his ideas. Famous female mathematician and astronomer Hypatia sacrificed her life for spreading knowledge. Most of the modern scientists and philosophers lived with their ideas. It was the confinements during modern age where most of the modern political philosophies took birth in the minds of the determined prisoners. From Mahatma Gandhi to Antonio Gramsci, from Nelson Mandela to Aung San Suu Kyi, they contemplated and came up with new thinking when they were deprived from the basic amenities in life. Amenities and ideas seldom get together.

But, the postmodern consumer culture has invaded the domain of contemplation. We have plethora of armchair scholars and TV Studio intellectuals. The new generation of scholars brandish the globe-trotting conference schedules and crave for the most exquisite amenities. They are the nodes in their small niches. Each node of these autonomous niches reflects and refers each other. The whole cycle of self-referentiality is squeezing out the sphere of practical and doable ideas. Scholarship cannot be cut off from the real world. The research has to be organic. A researcher of Physics and Chemistry needs to spend more time with machine and chemicals, rather than browsing merely circularity of papers on internet. The social science researchers are required to hone their skill of gathering empirical data, strengthen the statistical tool of analysis and understand the fast changing dynamics of target subject by engaging with them. The research ought to be *Engaged Research*. Only with this motto, we can see the torrents of great scholarship in near future.

I am happy to see several socially relevant papers in the current issue of the Journal of Indian Research. The editorial team deserves accolade for bringing out the first quarterly issue of the sixth volume of the journal.

Bringing out a research journal in print should be made mandatory requirement for the universities. Just as corporate houses have been entrusted with keeping a part of finances for meaningful social work under the Corporate Social Responsibility(CSR), publishing print journal should be made soul of the University's Academic Responsibility(UAG). I wish the field of organic and engaged research grow far and wide and bring positive change in the shrinking innovation space in India!



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