EDITORIAL

The well-known educationist John Dewey said, "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." The articles in this issue reiterate what teachers already know—that education is lifelong, and that teaching a child to want to know is more important than any single lesson.

The first article titled 'Facilitating Basic Computer Education for Primary School Students: Developing Vocabulary' by G. Renuka Devi elaborates on how computer-based programmes function as efficient tools to aid vocabulary acquisition. The article focuses on effective strategies, collaborative learning methods, gaming-based instructions, and teacher involvement to facilitate an increase in vocabulary.

The second article 'A Study of the Pedagogical Practices in ECCE Centres of District Dhanbad, Jharkhand', by Dhanya Krishnan analyses the challenges faced by teachers in Jharkhand, through an exploration of a variety of pedagogical practices being followed in select ECCE centres in two blocks.

The third article 'Developing Life Skills in Children at the Foundational and Preparatory Stages Through Environmental Education' by Sandeep Kumar underscores the collaborative roles of the educators, parents, and policymakers in achieving the curricular goals established by NEP 2020, NCF-FS 2022, and NCF-SE 2023. The study explores the life skill development in children during the foundational and preparatory stages of education.

The fourth article titled 'Introducing Mahatma Gandhi to Children through Narratives' by Satya Bhushan is an overview of selected titles from children's literature across the world, each of which provides unique insights into the life of Mahatma Gandhi and his message to humanity, particularly the ideas, of non-violence, truth, and peace, which would shape the perceptions of young readers.

The next article 'Promoting Inclusion at the Elementary Level of Education' by Lovely Sarkar and Surendra Yadav traces the transformations in education regarding inclusion from the Education Commission 1964–66 to the National Education Policy 2020. The article suggests measures for improvement in the implementation of equitable learning practices at the elementary level of education, addressing the varied needs of the learners.

The sixth article 'Fostering Environmental Awareness in a Primary Grade Mathematics Classroom: A Critical Mathematics Education (CME) Approach' by Manya Sharma and Varish aims to promote sensitivity to climate change by closing the distance between mathematics taught at schools and the environment, through developing tasks on the principles of CME. The study

further explores the role of mathematics in promoting sustainability and critical thinking. The study involves pre-task interviews, a week-long family survey of plastic use, and a statistical evidence.

The seventh article 'Parental Attitude Towards Private Pre-primary Education in Thoubal District, Manipur' by Akoijam Pete Meitei, Kh. Kesho Singh, Premlata Maisnam, and Naorem Ingochouba Singh examines parental attitudes across dimensions, such as emotional support, academic involvement, and perceived importance of early education. The research aims to provide actionable insights for policymakers and educators, guiding interventions to foster positive parental engagement in the early childhood education in private Pre-primary schools.

The journal also includes its regular features—'My Page', 'Book Review', and 'From the States'.

'Indelible Ink' is an interesting take on children's curiosity about elections. The feature focuses on the importance of explaining concepts at an age-appropriate level with a relatable vocabulary.

Fu-Ku: An Alien is the title of the book reviewed by Geyin Boli. The story focuses on the adventures of Fu-Ku, an alien who visits the planet Earth for a short while. The narratives underline the fact that if unchecked, human activities may cause the destruction of the planet.

The feature 'From the States' elaborates on the efforts of Telangana to overcome the challenges faced by young learners. During the pandemic, the Telangana state SCERT collaborated with SIET to bring out a series of digital lessons, which helped to keep up educational momentum to a great extent, and facilitated academic support to teachers.

—Academic Editors