

## EDITORIAL

Mahatma Gandhi Central University (MGCU) came into being in 2016, materialising the dreams of the people of Champaran in particular and Bihar in general, with the mission to provide quality education in diverse fields of study accessible in the vicinity. As a part of the larger initiative of the Government to develop the scenario of higher education in the country, MGCU is relentlessly pursuing its goal of creating a culturally vibrant and discursive, learner-oriented environment conforming to the global standards, yet rooted in the tradition of the land. With the gradual opening of various study programmes in myriad disciplines ranging from BTech. in Computer Science to PhD in Gandhian Studies, the campus became hub of polyphonic academic voices. This Journal is a spontaneous product of scholarly debates and deliberations echoing in the corridors of the University. Under the broad umbrella of Social Sciences, the Journal seeks to encourage original thinking and scientific research in various aspects of human life and society. The research papers included in the inaugural issue of this journal discuss many relevant and contemporary concerns such as literary studies, status of humanities in the current scenario, education, cross-cultural studies, social work and others.

The first research paper titled “The Humanities, the Idea of a University, and a Bit of Higher Education Plain Speak” by Jibu Matthew George traces the origin of the humanities in the western academic domain, and follows its current predicament worldwide. The author states that humanities, due to its amalgamation of various academic disciplines, has a greater than actualised potential in the university as an institution. The author also expresses his concern over the present state of stagnation of research in humanities, despite the output of a staggering number of academic journals, articles, conferences etc. and is optimistic that the mist over academia could be lifted through a practical stocktaking of the affairs.

The second article titled “Exploring Gaps in the Professional Preparation of Rural Teachers in Bihar” by Chandan Shrivastava studies the state of professional preparedness among teachers in rural areas of Bihar. Through this qualitative study, the author dwells upon the existing challenges associated with the programmes meant for the quality enhancement of the teachers. While showcasing the huge disparity between the theory and practice of such training programmes, the paper suggests a number of remedial measures directed towards the policy makers for the overall development of education scenario in Bihar.

The third paper titled “Secondary School Students’ Misconceptions in Algebra Concepts” by Chandra Tiwari and Roohi Fatima is the result of a larger case study conducted in Kendriya Vidyalayas in Delhi/NCR region. The paper explores the reasons behind the fear of algebra especially among secondary and higher secondary students in India. Among other findings, the author claims that the provision for learning algebra, divorced from the real-life scenario, taught through English medium of instruction, are the major causes of such crisis. The author posits hope that the scenario will change through certain innovative practices in the teaching-learning process, the signs of which are present the current approach of the National Council of Educational Research and Training.

The fourth article titled, “Transformation and Significance of Sanskrit (*Tatsama*) Words” by Bipin Kumar Jha discusses the contribution of *tatsama* words to the vocabulary of Hindi and other modern Indian languages. The writers also show a path forward for sophistication in machine translation of Indian

languages by taking into cognisance the changing nature of *tatsama* words in these languages. Nishu Sharma and Rajeev Kumar, in their article titled "Sardar Patel's Vision of the Contemporary World: Ideas on Geopolitical Environment" revisits Patel's contribution to the solidarity of India and, through the study of letters and historical documents, proves the astuteness of his vision concerning the international relations of India with its neighbouring and far countries.

Shaktipada Kumar, in his paper titled "Tracing the Cultural Tradition of Jangalmahal through Bandna Parab and Jawa-Karam Parab", discusses the instances of what he terms a mnemocultural tradition of India in the interiors of Jangalmahal plateau. Through evocative pictures and vivid description, the author documents the subtle nuances of the living traditions of this region carried from generation to generation through various art traditions. In his paper titled "Revisiting Gender Historiography in the Specific Context of Shudraka's *Mrcchakatika*" Kaluram Palsaniya investigates the issue of women in the specific context of *Mrcchakatika* and attempts to present an alternative to how the status of women should be viewed.

Kshipra Vasudeo in her article, "Dimensions of Federalism in Developing Countries: A Comparative Analysis of India and Ethiopia (1991-2017)" elaborately discusses historical emergence of federalism as a form of government and the current federal structures across the world. The author minutely discusses the similarities and differences between the federal structures of India and Ethiopia, and states how each is suited to the social, cultural and geographical requirements of the respective nations.

In his article titled "Internship practices in the Hospitality Sector (India): A career benefit or precarious experience", Pralay Ganguli studies the role of internship programmes in management studies in India. The study underlines the importance of well-structured internship programmes which would cater to the employment needs of the growing hospitality and tourism sector of the country. Reena M Cherian, in her article "Using superheroes in Art Therapy through Aounselling for Adolescent Boys in Conflict with Law: Illustrations from Juvenile Home in Ernakulam, Kerala" presents the finding of an innovative case study, illustrating the possible use of superheroes for counselling. She enumerates the therapeutic use of the imagination of adolescent boys that gets materialised in the image creation, identification with and then detachment from the persona of the superheroes.

The inclusion of these articles in this issue prove that the main objectives of the Journal have been substantially achieved. The articles will, no doubt, stimulate interest in the areas discussed, and will lead to further research in the vast areas of social sciences which is the domain of the Journal. The conceptualisation and the materialisation of the idea of this Journal, has been a gratifying experience for the entire editorial team. I am thankful to all the authors who have submitted their manuscripts to the Journal and my entire team who dexterously worked on each of them. I must express my gratitude to Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi Central University, for his proactive initiatives to launch this Journal in a time-bound manner. Lastly, I urge the research community to share their feedback on the papers in this Journal and contribute to academic enrichment.

**Prof. Anil Kumar Rai**  
Chief Editor