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- Contribute to building a new social order based on human dignity and social justice.
- Work with a preferential option for the vulnerable and exploited, both locally and globally.
- Build cadre of young, competent professionals having a global perspective and a strong value base of compassion, personal integrity, moderation, tolerance and self-respect.

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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,
The Perspectives team sends warm wishes to all and pray that you and your families are in good health.

As is the norm this issue too brings you articles that cover a range of social issues that are not only real but create an impact on the daily lives of people. We ensure that the articles reflect quality and social analysis in their content.

Mother tongue based multilingual programme (MTBMLEM) in Paschim Medinapur District of West Bengal is an article by Pradhan that looks at the concept of education in the child's mother tongue for greater impact.

The medium of instruction in schools is a determining factor for quality education. In this study the author found that the number of enrollments in the Santhali medium schools declined in all except one school. The interpretation of data highlighted the facts that: Mother tongue based multilingual education has been internationalized and it reaches out to the marginalized groups suffering submission and assimilation in society.

India has been a leader in South Asia, in guaranteeing education in one's mother tongue. As a result this initiative is gaining momentum in some states. In West Bengal the study shows that the programme has suffered reverses due to the lack of enrollment of children between the years 2014- 2016. On the other hand, those schools that exclusively have Santhali as their medium of instruction, have seen the highest growth of enrollment in the same time period. In India many states are working towards providing this opportunity for those belonging to the linguistic minority.

The second article, Shah and Zargar examine issues faced by parents in Kashmir, having children with cancer. The problem of

cancer among children is discussed along with the incidence of the disease. The study's findings highlight some challenges the parents face. They are; Loss of hope, Huge expenses, Difficulties in meeting challenges. The discussion focuses on the plight of parents, their apprehensions, need for emotional support and helplessness.

The third article by Pratima and Jena, is fascinating in that it examines a student's optimum cognitive development by his/ her learning behavior which is a combination of various factors. It talks of the concept of Learning Difficulty (DL) and how self-regulation is important for wellbeing in childhood. Further, the authors talk of the need for resilience building interventions that focus on opportunities to develop personal resilience and access to protective factors in the social environment. This study focuses on developing an intervention programme to address needs of children with LD. The specific objective was to improve learning and cognitive skills of children.

The final article by Shahare assesses the educational status of children from Scheduled Caste (SC) families. The authors' contention is that although education is a basic right for every child, the majority of children from SC families are unable to access education. Further, it focuses on literacy, enrollment, drop outs and social segregation. The analysis is that, because of their deprived background and caste status they do not get quality education, and face various forms of exclusion. Marginalization by society are large is the biggest hurdle they face. Creating an inclusive educational policy will help these children. This policy will have to include, additional residential schools with sensitive teachers plus improved infrastructure.

The book review has succinctly brought out the intricacies of community organization and work. It brings out the essential ingredients of working with people at the grassroots and the struggles involved. The review also points out that some theoretical framework could have been arrived at. What is

undeniable is that it is an important reading for teachers, students and practitioners of social work.

Ultimately they say, there must be a change in the 'mind set' of those in power.

I do hope the articles in this issue will help in your support for those working with such issues.

Elvis Thomas

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