

From the Editor-in-Chief

Deliberations on knowledge creation are central to social progress. In line with this thought, the current issue of *Vantage* aims to acquaint the reader with multidisciplinary perspectives on the subject 'The Expanding Frontiers of Knowledge'; included here are ideas from both, natural sciences and social sciences. Whenever boundaries are expanded or limits are pushed, ripples of these changes are felt in myriad aspects of social life. Implicit here is the thought that the pursuit of knowledge is not done in intellectual silos but it takes place in the very midst of social life. Different aspects of this process are captured in this issue.

We all agree that curiosity and a sense of wonder propel all processes of knowledge, making the intellectual inquiry deep and meaningful. While depth is crucial, at the same time a wide expanse of engagement is the new standard. Multidisciplinarity is the point of reference here. One notes how research, within and across social and natural sciences, seeks to overcome the limits of specialization. Now, academic merit also lies in bringing together different areas of inquiry and emerging holistic perspectives that incorporate interconnections between man and nature. Not only do various disciplines come together, but also different aspects of experience, thus fostering the ethos of inclusivity in research.

Knowledge creation through a multidisciplinary and inclusive lens becomes a befitting point of engagement as we celebrate the Centenary Year of the University of Delhi. The University has always been a pioneer in thought and deed. Guided by this spirit, we think through the following framework of ideas in the current issue:

- Inventing new methodological and conceptual approaches to respond to challenges of a rapidly changing world.
- Exploring Frontier Research as the fountainhead of new perspectives.
- Generating new questions, paradigms, and ways of thinking.
- Pursuing questions beyond discipline-oriented boundaries.
- Fostering critical inquiry for the benefit of society.

As the above framework informs intellectual inquiry, the current issue of *Vantage* combines these perspectives across disciplines and aims to develop a comprehensive view on knowledge creation. Some perspectives include:

- Salience of sustainability and ecological concerns in the modern world. With massive development has come the destruction of natural habitats and ecosystems. Thus creating a pressing need for ecological restoration.
- The place of academia in society and its role in building a progressive society. Critical reflections on the myriad dynamics of university education and its connection with issues of social importance.
- Understanding continuities of past, present and future through archiving. The conservation and preservation activities in the Archives of India, highlight the significance of documentation in social history.

- Digitization and expressions of dissent. ‘Digital’ being the new watchword, it has begun to impact different debates. New forays into feminist debates now use digital platforms for voicing concerns of women.
- Emergence of the idea of the single women’s collective. Perspectives on the struggle of single women from economically weaker sections, after marital breakdown are crucial. This throws a new light on the institution of the family.
- Perspectives on public health and wellbeing. Reviewing the prospects of traditional medicinal plants for the management of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

In addition to the above thoughts, the current issue also includes book reviews in Hindi and English, and a Report on the recently concluded International Conference *Equinox 2022*, organized by the Centre for Research, Maitreyi College under the aegis of *Vantage: Journal of Thematic Analysis*.

So, as we think of the expanding frontiers of knowledge, let us reflect on how each of us may also contribute to this endeavor and take our society and country a notch higher!

Happy reading!

~ Haritma Chopra

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