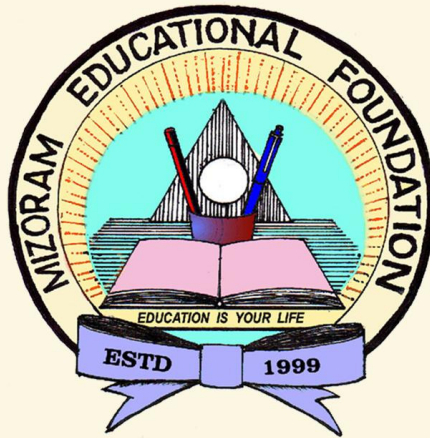


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From the Desk of the Chief Editor

Bringing out of its Issues 3 and 4 of Volume VIII is a pride moment for the Editorial Board of Mizoram Educational Journal. This combined issue comprises mainly of research papers and few general articles which have significant implications for educational policy makers and practitioners.

Animesh Das, a scholar from Integrated B.Ed.-M.Ed. programme, Department of Education, RIE (NCERT) Bhopal, MP explored the difference in academic achievement of senior secondary school students in relation to type of school (government and private), locale (rural and urban) and academic stream (science and humanities). Based on a sample of 241 senior secondary school students from various schools of Purulia district of West Bengal; he found significant differences in the academic achievement of the students. As the students from government schools, rural schools and humanities stream had poorer academic achievement than their counterparts, school authorities have to take certain measures for improvement of the students belonging to these groups.

Teachers' competency in Mizo language: A study with reference to selected variables contributed by Ramhlupuii and H.Malsawmi enlightens us on the importance of having a strong competency over our native language. The study found that majority of higher secondary teachers in Mizoram had normal Mizo language competency and that there was no significant difference between the teachers with reference to gender, locale, school management and teacher status. It gives us the implication that the teachers have to improve further so as to stay grounded to our roots, to preserve our traditions, customs, beliefs, and practises and to be able to pass them on to the next generation to ensure that we don't lose our ethnicity, our identity, or the essence of our culture.

Many people worldwide have some type of disability and live in poor socio-economic conditions. The study conducted by Khawpuisangi Ralte and Lallianzuali reveals that the largest percentages of students with disabilities such as hearing impairment, visual impairment, intellectual disability and physical disability belonged to low socio-economic status and that they and their parents faced some challenges. The researchers highlighted the need for more awareness programs and initiatives with regards to the acceptance and supports of differently-abled students.

Attitude of urban and rural high school students of Mizoram towards healthy adolescent behavior was studied by Zothangpuii and Zodinsang Sailo. They highlighted the criticality of adolescence period in their study. However, the findings are so encouraging that all the high school students of Mizoram were found to have healthy attitude on the risks of use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs, indulging in sexuality and being infected by HIV/AIDS. Rural male and rural female students were found to have healthier attitude than their urban counter

parts on sexuality and HIV/AIDS. Lalmuansangi and Kabita Kumari studied the factors that led the college students towards alcohol and the consequences they had to face due to alcohol misuse. They came out with the finding that the major factor associated with their initiation to alcohol was their desire to have good time and peer pressure. The impact of their drinking habit was reflected in their low academic scores and depleting financial resources.

The paper on perception on the various components of semester system by higher education teachers of Mizoram contributed by Rosy Lalrinsangi, H.Malsawmi and Lalmuanzuali revealed that most of college teachers had neutral perception on the semester system. There were more teachers who had satisfying perception than those who had unsatisfactory perception. Findings also showed that science teachers and arts teachers had more satisfactory perception than commerce teachers in overall perception of semester system. In most of the components of semester system, science teachers and arts teachers generally had a more positive perception on semester system than the commerce teachers.

The state of Mizoram has only one Educationally Backward Block (EBB) in Lunglei District under Tlabung Sub-division in Southern part of the state close to the Bangladesh border. TBC Lalramnghaka and Prateek Chaurasia felt the need of studying the condition of schools in this block and thus conducted an observational study in the light of selected parameters. The study reported that schools in Educationally Backward Block are not behind other schools in other Blocks in terms of physical infrastructure and facilities. The main problem faced is in communication between students and teachers owing to language barriers as the students are mostly Chakma whereas the teachers are mostly Mizo.

Nitu Kaur's article on Integrated Teacher Education Programme: An analysis through comparative perspective is interesting as she highlights teacher education system in Finland and Singapore and then compare them with India. As countries like Finland and Singapore are said to have offered the best model of teacher education, our country has to learn a lot from them. Moreover, NEP 2020 gives high priority to teacher education for improvement of the whole of education. These give us some expectations for a better teacher education system.

In today's world social media has become so popular that it is not possible to live without it. H. Lalzuithangi's paper discusses mass media and its impact on Mizo society in an interesting way. She highlights how media in Mizoram has taken a very long and winding road to reach to the state of today by starting from the time print media became popular and were used for propagation of political agenda of political parties in the state. The impact of the mass media on the various areas of the society and the area of influence of mass media on the youth culture are also discussed in the paper.

The last article in this combined issue is on the etymology and origin of the Ullambana contributed by Yin Zhao. It highlights that Buddhism was disseminated from India to China during the Han Dynasty (202 B.C.-220 C.E.) and emerged gradually as a specific cultural phenomenon with Chinese features. In this paper, Zhao attempts to investigate the etymology and origin of the Ullambana Festival, including the different names of the Ullambana Festival

and the similarities and differences between the Ullambana Festival and the Zhong-yuan Festival of Chinese Taoism.

The Editorial Board of Mizoram Educational Journal wishes that the articles published in this journal would bring benefits to the readers in one way or the other.

Lalhmasai Chuaungo
Chief Editor