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Double-blind Peer Reviewed



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We invite authors to contribute research papers using predominantly the Harvard System. Title of the paper must be associated with complete affiliation of all the authors. Papers must be sent with a 150-300 word abstract, a 50 word bio-note of the author(s) and a certificate declaring that the work is an original piece of unpublished work.

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Representation of Disability in Classical and Contemporary Literature: A Reading of Select Narratives from Sanskrit and Tamil

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The emergence of Disability Studies in Indian academia is a welcome move. The development of a distinct, indigenous orientation and perspective in the arena of Disability Studies is the need of the hour. An analysis of the representation of disability in the selected literary narratives from the classical to the contemporary period is undertaken in this paper in the context of literature in two of our classical languages, namely Sanskrit and Tamil. An examination of how disabled characters are represented in the epics (*The Mahabharata*, *The Ramayana*, *Manimegalai*, *Silappadhikaram*) alerts us to the biases and exclusivist perspectives that seek to keep the disabled beyond the radar of the dynamics of power and hegemony. Prescriptive manuals on the deployment of actors for specific roles highlighting their disability, for instance, the *Vidhushaka* or the slave as outlined in *The Natyashastra* draw our attention to codified principles and formulations concerning disability in ancient texts. The paper proceeds to examine disability arising out of social disempowerment, apart from corporeal difference. Here, characters from the epics are studied, who exemplify how lack of social privilege push them to states of physical mutilation and disability perpetuated by acts of the privileged groups. These acts are located in the categories of caste, gender and other social identities. Intersectionality of disability with other categories located in socially and culturally marginalized spaces is indicated in the analysis. The concluding section highlights the need to politicize the discourse on disability by forging solidarities with other marginalized categories, foregrounding overlapping of disabilities (physical and social) and strengthening the movement for disability rights within the wider discourse of Human Rights. The paper concludes with a brief overview of self-articulation and narratives of disability that have emerged from disabled persons in contemporary Tamil literature. An important difference of perspective and focus on issues pertaining to disability, as reflected in the narratives by the disabled, and those by the non-disabled in the context of representation of disability, in the contemporary Tamil literary discourse is also underscored.

Keywords: disability studies, classical Tamil and Sanskrit literature, hegemony, Indian epic

Women and the *Samgha*: A Comparative Study of the *TherīGāThā* and the *JāTakas*

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This paper reviews the rise of Buddhism which emerged in the sixth century BCE in ancient India. Unlike other contemporaneous religious ideologies, it came with several reformative ideas. The opening of Buddhist *saṃgha* and the idea of renunciation for all (irrespective of any distinctions based on caste, creed, and gender) were its important legacy. Thus, women emerged as active participants throughout the period and formed their religious order (*bhikkhunī-saṃgha*). Both women and men joined the *saṃgha* and attained the highest religious goal, and popularly came to be known as *therīs* and *theras* respectively. They wrote their experiences of religious achievements that came to be known as the *Therīgāthā* and *Theragāthā* respectively. Considering the trends of female participation at such a large scale incited the scholars interested in history to take forth their involvements and practices. This paper is an attempt to represent the subject of women especially the *bhikkhunīs*. The purpose is to delve into the lives of these female disciples as represented in the *Therīgāthā*. This will be explored by using another Buddhist text i.e. the *Jātakas*. Throughout the study, both texts will be compared with an effort to discern common paradigms and to highlight the differences between them. The life of *bhikkhunīs* will be discussed in detail to represent the extent to which Buddhism is marked with egalitarianism in its perpetuation.

Keywords: Therīgāthā, Jātakas, Bhikkhunīs, Saṃgha, Nibbāna

Assessing Empowerment of Women in Sikkim: Milestones and Challenges

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Sikkim, the former Himalayan Buddhist Kingdom has witnessed many development initiatives since its incorporation with Indian Union in 1975 and has made considerable progress in terms of development indicators in recent times. Empowerment of women has always been one of the central focuses of the state, and the state has come out with various women-centric policies and programmes for bridging the gender inequalities in socio-economic spheres. Evaluating various parameters of women empowerment, the paper attempts to assess how the women in the state responded to the state's initiatives and opportunities of women empowerment and appraise the achievement and challenges. The paper concluded that despite socio-cultural and structural constraints, women in Sikkim have come a long way in empowering themselves although there are several challenges to be addressed.

Keywords: women empowerment, human development, gender equality, gender parity index, Sikkim

Synthesis and Analysis of Factors affecting Environmentalism: A Meta-Analysis Approach

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The world today is witnessing the devastating impact of climate change. Unplanned development, selfish economic activities and irresponsible actions of businesses and consumers have made environmental degradation a serious problem that requires active and concentrated efforts from all stakeholders. Though a number of academic studies have identified and examined various factors for their role in mitigating environmental problems and inducing pro-environment behaviour, a consensus with respect to the nature and impact of factors is majorly lacking. Using meta-analysis approach, the present paper makes a contribution in this regard by analyzing and synthesizing the results of 31 previously undertaken research studies. Of the eight factors examined, the findings of the current work establish a positive and significant impact of three factors namely, product characteristics, organizational characteristics and environmental awareness in affecting environmentalism. At the end, the paper outlines the ways in which the remaining factors can contribute in infusing pro-environment behaviour.

Keywords: environmental degradation, environmentalism, green adoption, heterogeneity

Poetics of the Anthropocene: Sympoietic Poems and Fables of Suniti Namjoshi

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This paper argues that Suniti Namjoshi's poetry and fables, by their association with nonhumans, birds, plants and flowers generate 'poetics of the anthropocene' indicating the human turn marked by 'Great Acceleration,' and in doing so she exquisitely conveys the human-nonhuman encounter. The 'nonhuman turn' becomes apparent in her *Poems* (1967), *Sycorax: New Fables and Poems* (2006), and *The Fabulous Feminist* (2012). Namjoshi meditates over the human-nonhuman relationship, the anthropocentric approach, anthropomorphic representations and the 'othering' of the nonhuman in the human world. She draws attention to this unequal relationship between the human being and the planet earth. She revisits mythic characters and animals to examine the normative and suggest new possibilities for a dying planet.

Keywords: Suniti Namjoshi, anthropocene, sympoiesis, human-nonhuman encounter, poetry, fable

Diversity of birds in Jalandhar region of Punjab, India

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The present study documents different bird species present in Jalandhar, Punjab, India. This study was carried out at 11 different sites. The time duration of this study was two and half years (January, 2018-July, 2020). The local and migratory bird population of the area was studied for two hours each in the early morning during sunrise and in the evening during sunset. Each site was visited twice a week during the whole tenure of the study. The bird species observed were photographed using Nikon camera model d5600. The observed bird species were identified following the description of birds given in Dr. Salim Ali's book *Birds of India*. This study validates 84 different species of birds, from 40 different families and 16 different orders. Out of the 84 different bird species, 82 were found to be of least concern and two were nearly threatened according to IUCN list.

Keywords: species, Jalandhar, birds, diversity, IUCN

वृद्ध विमर्श : वृद्ध वर्ग का पैरोकार

सुनीता कुमारी

सहायक प्रवक्ता

मेहर चंद महाजन महिला महाविद्यालय ,चंडीगढ़

साहित्य और सांसारिक यथार्थ का गहरा संबंध है। समाज की प्रत्येक समस्या पर गहन चिंतन करना एवं उसका समाधान प्रस्तुत करना साहित्य का दायित्व है। भूमंडलीकरण के इस दौर में हमारे नैतिक मूल्यों का क्षरण बड़ी तीव्र गति से हो रहा है। वृद्ध विमर्श इसका उदाहरण है। यह विमर्श 21वीं सदी की देन है। वरिष्ठ नागरिक और उनके जीवन अनुभव किसी भी सभ्य समाज की बहुमूल्य विरासत होते हैं, इसलिए उनकी समस्याओं के प्रति समाज का जागरूक एवं संवेदनशील होना आवश्यक है। तभी वृद्ध वर्ग समाज में विशिष्ट इकाई के रूप में अपना स्थान स्थापित कर पाएगा। साहित्य के माध्यम से वृद्ध विमर्श की प्रासंगिकता को रेखांकित करना अति आवश्यक है। कृष्णा सोबती, निर्मल वर्मा, काशीनाथ सिंह, गोविंद मिश्र, पंकज बिष्ट आदि साहित्यकारों ने बुजुर्गों के जीवन का सूक्ष्मता से चित्रण किया है तथा उनकी संवेदनाओं, अंतर्द्वन्द्व और जटिलताओं से पाठक को अवगत करवाने का प्रयास किया है। इस शोध पत्र का ध्येय साहित्य के माध्यम से वृद्ध वर्ग के प्रति सम्मान और सौहार्द का भाव जागृत करना है।

मूल शब्द : भूमंडलीकरण, वृद्ध विमर्श, नैतिक मूल्य-क्षरण

Who introduces the Elderly to Social Media, and What is its Impact?

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Social media has become an integral part of life of people and has changed the way they connect with the world. The elderly are also increasingly making social media a part of their lives and adapting themselves. Existing studies have shown that use of social media has a positive impact on their overall quality of life and reduces the level of isolation experienced by them. This paper looks at the adoption of social media by the elderly (people beyond the age of 60). It focusses on who introduces them to social media viz. family (children, grandchildren), friends, colleagues or self-exploration. The paper studies the impact of who introduces the elderly to social media to its usage. A close ended questionnaire was given to 542 respondents above the age of 60 years who were using at least one of the social platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp etc. The findings reveal that respondents who had explored social media on their own were present on more social networks and were active on more platforms. Further they had lesser apprehensions than those who were introduced to social media by children or grandchildren.

Keywords: elderly, social media, demographics, apprehensions, social networks

***Moby Dick* and *Heart of Darkness*: Exploring Facets of Darkness across Continents**

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Darkness, whether real or metaphoric, is an undeniable reality of human existence, irrespective of race, class, region, or the historical period. Greed, lust, envy and other negative traits comprise the dark psyche of humans that get expressed in various forms at different places and times. Since literature is a reflection of the society, literary writers and critics have time and again utilized and analyzed the dark side of human existence in their works. This paper intends to examine how two great nineteenth-century classics, namely, Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* and Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, explored various facets of darkness. While Melville experienced the uncertainties of residing in an independent but yet-to-be-stable New World, Conrad carried the baggage of the Old World hypocrisies and corruptions. Again, while *Moby Dick* tells a frenzied tale in the mid-Pacific ocean, *Heart of Darkness* makes the readers aware of the horrific realities in central Africa. The secluded, unexplored and mysterious settings are enough for the anticipation of eerie incidents, but the crazy protagonists of the two fictional works with their sinister characteristics enhance the darkness of the plots all the more. Therefore, a comparative study of the topographical, political, cultural, metaphorical, psychical and literal darkness in the two texts is worth scholarly interest and attention.

Keywords: darkness, evil, psyche, colonialism, native, Ahab, Kurtz.

Sea Unites where Land Divides: A Transcultural Reading of *Flood of Fire*

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Flood of Fire is the last novel of the *Ibis* trilogy written by Amitav Ghosh. This novel is concerned with the 19th century opium trade between British India and China. Following the crackdown on opium smuggling by Beijing, the tensions and uncertainties between the two nations escalate. With no resolution in sight, the colonial government decides to wage a war against China. The main objective behind the war is re-opening of the opium trade and restitution of past losses. The tumultuous historical events shaping the history and geography of the Asian continent result in the tossing up of the characters much to their discomfort and agony. In the midst of mayhem and unrest, the only succour these characters derive is by striking lasting bonds of friendship with one another. The present paper is an attempt to prove that the divisions of society on the basis of race, religion, nationality and culture stifle the blooming of relationships between human beings on land, whereas, the sea does not recognize rules of the land and renders them meaningless as the novel illustrates. Compelled by circumstances, the characters of the novel belonging to diverse cultures and nationalities forge deep-rooted bonds of trust and friendship with one another. Ghosh, through the novel, guides humanity to believe in the universal virtues of tolerance, fraternity and camaraderie to make the world a better place to inhabit.

Keywords: opium, Britain, China, colonialism, free trade, love, fraternity.

Attachment and Autonomy as Predictors of Career Decision Making

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Career certainty involves the ability to make decisions and commit to decisions about career, whereas career indecision involves inability to decide and commit. In the late adolescence period, individuals suffer a lot of uncertainty about their career, and parental attachments become less influential as they move more toward social attachments. The quality of attachment relationship with parents as well as peers has an effect on career decision making. The current project is designed to study the relationship of parent and peer attachments (communication, trust and alienation) and dimensions of attitudinal, functional and emotional autonomy with career decision and indecision. The objective is to assess which variables predict career certainty and career indecisiveness in adolescents. For this purpose, a sample of 140 adolescents has been taken with an equal number of males and females in the age group of 16 to 19 years. The psychological tools used are IPPA (Armsden and Greenberg, 1987), Adolescent Autonomy Questionnaire (Noom et al., 1999) and Career Decision Scale (Osipow, 1987). Statistical Analyses is employed to study the relationship of all the variables with career certainty and career indecisiveness. Results show that parent attachment components of trust and communication increase career decision making, whereas parental alienation increases career indecision. Autonomy dimensions are found to be negatively associated with career indecision.

Keywords: adolescents, career decision, indecision, autonomy, parent attachment, peers

A Comparative Study on Profitability of Selected FMCG Companies in India using Step Regression Analysis

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Financial Performance analysis investigates the performance of the organisation. This study focusses on FMCG companies like Britannia, Dabur, Godrej, HUL, ITC, Marico and Nestle. Profitability ratios (NPM, OPM, ROE, CPM), structural ratios (DER, EM, TATR) and efficiency ratios (DTR, ITR, CTR) etc. have been used in this study. For calculating ROE, DuPont 5 point's analysis has been used. Among the selected companies ITC and Godrej are the profitable sectors. After considering the joint effect of ratios Godrej is the risky profitable concern among the selected companies. Britannia, Marico and Nestle are not able to reach the profitable position due to high efficiency and structural position, though, significant impact of variables on ROE has been noticed.

Keywords: performance analysis, profitability ratios, structural ratios, efficiency ratios, step-wise regression analysis.

E-waste Awareness among Educated residents of Chandigarh: A Pilot Study

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Electronic waste consists of electric and electronic products that are discarded. These products contain unsafe materials, which require proper collection and disposal methods. The rate of e-waste generation is increasing alarmingly. The paper includes a survey of literature that reports the generation and disposal rate of e-waste in different parts of world, including India. It is found that proper system for collection and disposal of e-waste does not exist. Developed countries are dumping e-waste in underdeveloped countries. There is a need to sensitize people about the potential hazards of e-waste. The paper also covers a pilot study that was conducted to assess awareness about e-waste among the educated fraternity of Chandigarh, who have access to the latest technology. The study reveals that here is a need to take measures to increase awareness among people so as to implement e-waste laws stringently and develop a concrete e-waste collection and recycling plan.

Keywords: electronic waste, refurbishment, recycling, e-waste awareness

Reviewing Resilience: An Analytical Study of the Effect of Academic Achievement on Adversity Quotient and Self-Esteem in the times of COVID-19 among College Going Girls in Northern India

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In the era of rapid social change where chances and crisis go hand in hand, the existence of moderate adversity quotient, as well as self-esteem in a person, can play a pivotal role in coping up with the needs of the time (Walker et al., 2017). The present study is aimed at analysing the effect of academic achievement on adversity quotient and self-esteem of college-going girl students in northern India during the pandemic of COVID-19. A total of 590 girl students participated in the study. A pre-designed structured questionnaire was used in the study. In the present study, high academic achievement has been found significantly related to high adversity quotient and self-esteem scores of the girl students. However, income and status of accommodation have no significant relationship with adversity quotient and self-esteem of the girl students as per the results. The study recommends that more efforts should be made to enhance academic achievement amongst girl students so that they could be well prepared to cope up with adverse situations in life.

Keywords: adversity quotient, self-esteem, academic achievement, COVID-19