

Editorial



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We are back with another intriguing edition of "Childhood Matters," with a wide range of stories that are tinged with a variety of emotions including hope, joy, grief, rage, and frustration.

The brutal attack, rape, and murder of a young woman in Kolkata, over the past several months has left young girls fearful and apprehensive about their protection and security. Though our country regained freedom 78 years ago, the question of when girls and women would be able to roam the streets confidently and work in peace remains unanswered. The irony is that the crime happened in a big city rather than a lonely, distant place, and the guys who did it were educated, successful men who acted in a very demonic manner. Any penalty pales in contrast to the anguish and suffering the girl endured. The present issue covers the unfortunate event through a creative poem by Subham that attempts to see everything through a girl's eyes while raising uncomfortable questions.

The guest editorial by Pardarshita's Founder Director Rajiv Kumar offers hope that one person can abandon a lucrative career to devote his life to the welfare of the marginalized children, giving them access to high-quality education by helping dropout children enroll in classes and even helping them get into private schools through the EWS program. These children don't number in the hundreds or thousands, but rather exceed a lakh.

The tales of hope: ten-year-old Anna, an orphan who found solace and strength in the care offered by Prayas JAC Society, is now starting college to further her studies and fulfill her aspirations. Another motivational tale is that of armless archer Sheetal Devi, who competed in the Paralympics and earned a bronze medal despite having a congenital illness. Stories like these encourage children to pursue their passions, even if they are seemingly beyond their abilities.

Parents can peruse a plethora of insightful publications, but it's crucial to recognise the needless fixation on mathematics and, by extension, science, engineering, and medical field, given the plethora of disciplines and professions available. Prioritizing a child's interests and passions above helping them with their life journeys should come first. Every field is captivating and fascinating when a child's enthusiasm is combined with perseverance, hard effort, and unwavering dedication.

This volume's edition comprising insightful and engaging essays about child psychology, play therapy, and kids from diverse backgrounds will be helpful in assisting parents in raising their kids. You can all read and appreciate some extremely intriguing stories that are brought to you in a new format with the addition of a multilingual section, the Regional Rhythms.

Happy reading, dear parents and children!

