

Editorial**Dr. Sunita Reddy,***Chairperson, AIF, Associate Professor, JNU*

When the idea for this digital magazine, “*Childhood Matters*” first emerged, one of the most common questions we were asking among ourselves was: Who is this magazine intended for? Who is going to read it? I have always believed that our publication ought to have value for both adults and children. As I’ve been studying and watching kids, I’ve come to the conclusion that adults can also learn a lot—sometimes even from kids. There should be a mix of seriousness, information, amusement, learning, guidance, and counseling in this magazine—something that will interest everyone. I hope we are getting nearer to our objective as time goes by.

This magazine contains some very important content about children’s rights, including an essay about children and war, and a review of a film based on actual events that revealed child maltreatment in facilities for orphans owned by powerful, politically connected people. We salute ‘Red Chilies’ production, for making such a bold film based on true events. As sensitive human beings, we cannot possibly ignore what is going on in other regions of the planet, when sheer survival of life itself is at stake. It is intolerable to witness the impoverished youngsters who have hardly experienced the goodness of life, losing it in battles for conflicting agendas of polity. Any such war on children is strongly condemned by our Foundation.

This issue also includes interesting articles written from the perspectives of psychologists and parents regarding exam stress and tests. Since most of the children have passed their annual school exams for this year, we should all be able to learn from this and help children prepare better for future examinations. This issue also has some exquisite poetry and essays as well as some inspirational quotes by Swami Vivekananda.



We just completed a study with children from Delhi’s *bastis*. They represent the even more marginalized of the lot, and starting from this issue, we will be continuously sharing anonymized personal accounts from them to get a slice of the world they occupy. We are really happy that we had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Sylvester Peter, the Guest Editor for this issue, who uplifts and enlivens the lives of many young people, or ‘Angels’, as he calls them, living in the slums in his vicinity. This world would be a beautiful place for children to live in if all of us recognized our own blessings and started to feel genuine empathy, compassion, and assumed at least some responsibility for their welfare, whatever is possible in our limited capacities.

