

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

The world is diverse, unequal and hierarchical. Children too come from diverse socio-economic backgrounds with unequal resources and thus going through diverse experiences. One thing which is not under our control is our birth: where we are born, which home we are born into, born with a silver spoon or born in resource constraint and struggling families. The ecology- home, parents, siblings, neighborhood, community, nation, state, school, teachers, peer group all make a lifetime influence on the child, shaping the present and the future of the child.

The life experiences of children born and brought up in cities, towns and rural India are diverse. The issues, concerns and challenges are different and so are the opportunities. One of the articles shows the life of children from the tribal communities and their everyday activities. Despite resource crunch, the joy of living close to nature cannot be measured. To presume that they are in any way backward and unhappy shows our ethnocentric bias. With basic necessities fulfilled children can be happy souls. I had the pleasure of witnessing the happy children of Great Andamanese in 2005 when I was researching there. The whole debate on “development” therefore can be turned upside down with such an approach.

On the one hand we have millions of children who are deprived of food, adequate nutrition, grow up under-nutritioned or suffer from malnutrition while on the other the privileged children too are malnutritioned due to regular consumption of junk food. To direct our focus on this burning issue, a few articles on the importance of fitness, and the right kind of nutrition for children are included in the current issue of our digital magazine.

We are also bringing to you some interesting poems that sprouted from a child’s imagination, an article on digital technologies and another on the experience of motherhood and positive



parenting. AIF in this issue is delighted to introduce its readers to BUDS, an organization working for children BUDS and to share the poetry and messages written by children who are from BUDS centre of learning, in our magazine.

I am sure all of you will enjoy reading this edition and are eagerly looking forward to the coming issues.

Like many of us, I too wish to see the world transform into a better place for children. We seek your cooperation to make it a better, in any small or big way.

Greetings for New Year, 2023!

Love and Bestest wishes to all the children.

Dr. Sunita Reddy

