

## Editorial Note

Dear Reader,

Research is an activity which most of our university departments and academic institutions are predominantly engaged with. The main objectives of research in any discipline may be enumerated as- opening up of new vistas for academic excellence; endeavouring to find ways and solutions to enduring and intriguing questions and queries hounding the minds of the intellectuals; preparing working grounds for the newer and newer scholars; creating the body literature for most of the parts of our syllabi; suggesting means of better understanding of the subject; generating greater awareness about the problems amongst the academia; and making coveted attempts in the direction of overall comprehensiveness of the subject at different levels. Our efforts for making our subject scientific, understandable, wide, inter-disciplinary and modern, have led us to test various strategies of research and attempt different methodologies for diverse problems. From normative to empirical, numerous approaches have been tried and tested by our scholars. The approaches and methodologies being followed have sometimes become the characteristic feature of some of our university teaching departments and research institutions. Some of them feel elated in describing their achievements besides identifying themselves with particular brand of research methodology and approach. The methodological denominations are mostly mechanical and deal with the technical aspect of the pursuit of greater knowledge. But the differences in approaches being followed have greatly been converted into strict ideological compartmentalisations amongst the scholars of the discipline. Some of our great researchers have been proudly propounding the exactness of some particular ideological approach in understanding and solving the major problems of our socio-political set-up. Some of our renowned teachers have been spreading the idea of one particular approach to be the sole repository to reach the truth. This oneness amongst the academia unfortunately gives way to sheer intolerance for the other view and hampers the smooth, swift and easy growth of the dialogue between them. Thus, the basic premise that the knowledge can best be increased by healthy debate gets demolished. This type of academic intolerance is against the very edifice of intellectual upwardship. It also generates groupism and factionalism among the intellectual quarters and inculcates unhealthy practices in the affairs of the discipline. This is also unfortunate to note that most of our academic quarters have been infested with this contagious disease. The gravity of the situation can well be understood by the fact that the research output of our university departments and research institutions can best be classified on the basis of ideological orientations which most of the time are claimed to be the difference of approaches but are mostly the difference of political inclinations. Therefore, the greater part of the body of literature in our discipline (this may be true of some other disciplines also) suffers from the lack of impartiality while confronting any serious question related to the practical aspects of the subject. This bias in our studies gets manifested in our conclusions and suggestive remedies. We, as a community, should address these questions sincerely and try to make serious efforts in creating an environment of healthy and constructive debate in the discipline, as propounded by the ancient Indian sages and saints :

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2 October, 2004