

Editorial

The role of one who considers oneself to be an academic or a scholar is to broaden the understanding of the mind and as Marcus Aurelius said, “Nothing has such power to broaden the mind as the ability to investigate systematically and truly all that comes under thy observation in life.” Thus, the work of the scholar is well laid out- to systematically investigate and observe life. When we look at the etymology of the word 'scholar', it has its roots in 'school' which is derived from the Greek *skholē* “spare time, leisure, rest, ease; idleness; that in which leisure is employed; learned discussion;” also “a place for lectures, school”. This being said, we find that to be a scholar or to belong to any school of thought is no longer a leisurely activity anymore. In fact, people in the academia, those engaged in scholarly pursuits are perhaps the busiest section of society- what with a seminar/workshop/conference presentation, a research project, a paper for a journal and/or a review, all with datelines jostling for the attention of the academic. Moreover, with information easily accessible to all and considering the rate of knowledge updating and dissemination, to put out fresh, current and relevant ideas on paper is fast becoming a herculean task. Nevertheless, for the

scholar to matter, one must write, share views and opinions, analyse and critique with the emphasis on quality and excellence.

Consequently, one finds that one is caught between the hammer and the anvil. The leisurely exercise of conversing and gaining knowledge that was the norm of the ancient Greek philosophers- to observe and investigate would be ideal; but the hammer of requirements demanded from an academic would not allow one to rest on the anvil. However, this hammer is also required if one is to forge one's mind into a sharp and incisive tool that will cut down the philistine attitude that one sees around. Therefore, some kind of balance need to be worked out, for it cannot be more reiterated that it is the ideas at the drawing board that makes our society foresighted and progressive.

Research, writing and publishing are important aspects of an institution to be relevant and at the same time to provide leadership in the field of education that is expected of reputed institutions. The FAC Journal Editorial Board is proud to state that it has not wavered from its objective of providing a space for those associated with the academia to present their quality researches and analyses. Being a multidisciplinary journal, it will be noted, as the readers leaf through the

papers in this edition, that there is a good variety to pique one's interests. The discourses range from the local, national and to the international as seen in the papers on the role of ethnic communities in Foreign policy and cyclonic storms/hurricanes; from the personal to the shared as in the studies on writing lives, culture and heritage and mythical beliefs. Critical views and reviews on new policies and programmes are all engaging readings that would enrich the knowledge seeker and at the same time provide roadmaps toward an informed future. Some of the papers are localised studies that shed light on the issues as well as problems faced by communities and ways to mitigate the challenges and constraints.

Annie Ernaux was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature 2022 "for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory". She is a French author who wrote mostly autobiographical work. Anders Olsson, Chair of the Nobel Committee for Literature in his interview after the announcement opined that she "renewed literature" and gave "new direction". One of the papers talks of 'autobiographies trending' in Naga literature and how the writers' experiences

go beyond the personal to larger issues. This concurrence is a positive sign that our researchers are conscious of the times, perhaps even prophetic.

The Nobel Laureate, on being asked about her message to young writers said: "I think that when we write, what is really important is that we need to read a lot. Sometimes young people say, 'Oh no, I don't read... I write!' Well, no. That's not possible. You need to read a lot. And the second message I would give them is not to strive to write well, but rather to write honestly..." This is advice that one needs to take seriously, more so for academic writing. If one sees a dearth of quality writing among researchers and academics, the fault may be in one's volume of reading and resorting to appropriation of another's thoughts without acknowledgement.

As one peruses this edition, it is hoped that readers will benefit and be enriched from the many perspectives presented. Moreover, there is optimism that the observations, comments and explications would engender more research based academic writing. The editorial team would also like to acknowledge the referees for their part in raising the quality of this journal and looks forward to further intellectual association.