

An Introduction to Special Issue

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As the Head of Post Graduate Department of English at School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Jain University, Bengaluru; among other papers on Literature for MA English students, I taught Indian Literature for five hours per week, 20 hours per month and 80 hours per semester. I knew right from the beginning that this bunch of 30 enthusiastic students deserved an equally enthusiastic platform to present their varied skills. The only condition I told them was that it should be on Indian Literature - any aspect - poetry, prose, fiction, non-fiction, play, varied interpretations are welcome. And what a pleasant surprise was in store as the students from diverse parts of India and the globe (nine from Syria and one from China) wrote abstracts, full length paper and made power point presentations on not just Indian literature but Indian culture and traditions starting from classical to contemporary period.

The Syrian student surprised me with their renditions of Ramayana, Mahabharata among other Indian texts and the lone girl from China made a beautiful presentation on Sarojini Naidu's poem 'Bazaar's of Hyderabad'. This further inspired the Indian students to proudly display their skills and literature of their own country and it was an enriching experience for all and a humbling experience for me who honestly felt that I had underestimated the strengths lurking behind my own students which routine classroom teaching and listening had denied.

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Think India Journal has always supported us in all our academic endeavours and they agreed to publish these thirty research articles which is treasured not just as a mandatory journal publication but a 'memento of memories' as the students call this process of writing a research article. For many it was a first time experience and cherished for a life time. I thank each one of you for being a part of this amazing academic process and let us strive further with the motto, '*Our journey has just begun.*'



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