



Connecting Thinkers..

Editors' Message

Dear Thinkers,

We are what our thoughts are. As doers and thinkers. There are two types of thinkers, positive and negative, and scientific research has shown us that optimal life performance requires a 3:1 ratio between positive and negative thoughts. Positive thinkers have five essential qualities. The first is *Self-Belief*. Positive thinkers have endless faith and unbreakable confidence in themselves. The second trait is that they enjoy life with a *Passion*, never waste valuable time being idle and thrive on the challenge of learning new things. The third trait is *Courage* which helps us overcome fears, limiting beliefs, cultivate perseverance and move beyond self-doubt. The fourth trait is *Gratitude*. Positive thinkers rarely complain or criticise for too long and instead are always grateful for everything in life, good or bad. Finally, the fifth trait is *Focus*, which helps us in visualising our goal, mapping our path towards it and remaining focussed on the next step on that way.

Let us look back also and reflect on Randy Pausch, a Professor of Computer Science, at the Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., who is remembered for his famous "Last Lecture" that he had delivered more than a decade ago. A month before giving that lecture, he had learnt that the pancreatic cancer he was being treated for was terminal. Before speaking, Pausch received a long standing ovation from a large crowd of over 400 colleagues and students. When he motioned them to sit down, saying, "Make me earn it", someone in the audience shouted back, "You did!" During the lecture Pausch was upbeat and humorous, shrugging off the pity often given to those diagnosed with terminal illness.

At one point, to prove his own vitality, Pausch dropped down and did push-ups on stage. He repeatedly stressed that one should have fun in everything one does, and that one should live life to its fullest because one never knows when it might be taken. He also stated that he would rather have cancer than be hit by a bus, because if he were hit by a bus, he would not have had the time he spent with his family nor the opportunity to prepare them for his death. He ended by stating, most meaningfully, "It's not about how to achieve your dreams, it's about how to lead your life. If you lead your life the right way, the karma will take care of itself, the dreams will come to you."

Thus as researchers we must try our best to always remain positive thinkers in our life, come what may.

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GUIDE'S COLUMN

Career Opportunity in Food Safety and Quality Assurance

Post independence food security was the primary agenda for independent India. With the green revolution India is nearly self-sufficient in food with occasional import of food items. The Indian population is growing very fast and to feed the ever-increasing population, food production must increase accordingly. With rapid urbanization agricultural land is shrinking day by day.



To provide food for this vast population, the productivity must increase at a faster pace. To achieve this enhancement in productivity, the use of chemical fertilizer and crop protection chemicals will also increase. From food security, India must handle the issue of food safety. The Food Safety Standards Act 2006 has been introduced by Food Safety Standards Authority India (FSSAI) “to lay down science-based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import, to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

This law ensures quality food to consumers by preventing adulteration and setting standards for increased consumer welfare. The export of agricultural produce from India is on the rise. At the same time India must comply with the strict food safety and health standards set by the importing nations. For regulatory compliance and to provide safe food to consumers it has become mandatory to test food for residues and contaminants and for nutrient labelling. This has increased research in food safety and testing of food commodities.

Several laboratories have come up across the country to carry out research and testing of food and opened several career opportunities for post graduate science students. The opportunities are there in agriculture, packaging, processing, labelling, product development and quality assurance. The opportunities to work are available in small family run facilities, medium size companies as well as in large multinationals. With increase in consumer awareness the demand for quality food will be on the rise and the demand for Food Safety and Quality Assurance Professionals will also be on the rise.

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Dr. Reetika Syal, one of the Editors of Thinklet since its inception, is on leave having accepted a short term Post-doctoral stint. We welcome Dr. Priyanca Mathur Velath, an Associate Professor at CERSSE, as the new Editor of Thinklet. A big THANK YOU to Dr. Reetika Syal for the splendid job she did!

Interview with Prof. E.V. Ramakrishnan

Dr Mythili P. Rao: *Please throw some light on your own journey as a Research Scholar. Can you recollect the stage at which you realised the importance of looking at literature from the perspective of a comparitist?*



Prof. E.V. Ramakrishnan : My evolution as a scholar is closely linked with the reorientation of English Studies in India. When I studied for my post-graduation in English in the early nineteen seventies, I never heard the term “Comparative Literature” in the academic circles. When I became a Research Associate at the Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages (CIEFL, which later became EFLU, Hyderabad), the discipline of Linguistics had an aura which was awe-inspiring. Almost everyone I met there, was eager to speak R.P, or what they thought was R.P. I found it amusing and pathetic at the same time. The term ‘mimicry’ would gain currency in Post-Colonial criticism much later. I found the atmosphere at the CIEFL suffocating to the extreme. I was working in the Material Production Department and was engaged in preparing textbooks, which had to conform to standards set by British Council Experts. No material from Indian literature was ever acceptable to the textbooks in English. It was all Mark Twain or Jerome K. Jerome etc, not to mention standard prescriptions for Indian classrooms. I used to make suggestions regarding the content, but found they were not welcome.

It was a big relief. The place was not unreal and had its own cultural moorings. Teaching students who knew only Marathi was challenging and gradually I learnt to read and also speak the language. *Though my work was appreciated, I felt this was not the place for me. I got a lecturer’s job in a college in Jalna in Marathwada,*

I had begun writing in Malayalam from my college days. When I look back, I feel that it was this engagement that saved me from the perils of following the beaten track of research and study in English departments. I was publishing short stories and essays in Malayalam even as I was teaching in Jalna. This made me curious about the state of Marathi writing. I made friends with many writers in Marathi in and around Jalna and Aurangabad. Prof. Nemade who is a well-known Marathi novelist was a faculty in the Department of English at Marathwada University (which got renamed after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar). Through these friends I got to read contemporary Marathi literature. I wanted to take up a topic related to modern Indian poetry in Indian languages for my research. But this was not possible. Prof. G.S.Amur, a reputed Kannada writer, was the head of the Department of English at Marathwada University then, but he was helpless as the Board of Studies did not allow study of Indian literature at English departments. I ended up doing my doctoral research in American poetry.

With regards to your own development of scholarship who and what have been the influencing factors? I became aware of the colonial burden in English curriculum as I started examining issues of pedagogy and ideology in English teaching. Fortunately for me, by the early eighties, the new theoretical formulations of Structuralism, Readers’ Response and Reception Studies etc began to appear. I remember attending a ten day workshop at Bombay University English department on theory, where Robert Young, Anthony Easthope etc were present. Many of these theoretical positions discussed in the Workshop gave me conviction to question the prevailing assumptions regarding what is taught as literature in our Post-graduate classrooms.

By this time, I had moved to South Gujarat University (which is now Veer Narmad South Gujarat University) where I strongly argued for some reforms in the syllabus. Thanks to the enlightened leadership of senior teachers like Prof. Anjana Desai, I could bring in Indian literature in English translation. We also decided that if a candidate chooses to translate a text from an Indian language into English with a critical introduction, it would be considered for M.Phil or Ph.D. Of course, the texts needed to be approved by the teachers and they have to be of a certain standard. By this time, .

It was favorably reviewed by critics like Meenakshi Mukherjee and Ganesh Devy. My research helped me to keep in touch with the literatures of India from languages I knew, Malayalam, Hindi, Marathi and also Gujarati. My second major project was on the modern novels of these languages and I have published several essays and a book in Malayalam on modern Indian novel. Most of my research students have taken up topics related to comparative studies of Indian literatures. This was not a conscious attempt, but it happened organically as I evolved as an academic. In retrospect, I feel I was lucky to be part of the generation which was in the vanguard of transformations in curriculum and research methodology. We began to discuss social sciences seriously and our writing became interdisciplinary.

I had already completed my book on Modernism in Indian Poetry with Reference to Malayalam, Marathi, Hindi and Gujarati under the title, Making It New: Modernism in Malayalam, Marathi and Hindi Poetry

When I taught Shakespeare's plays, I was using Stephen Greenblatt's essay. I had written a long essay in the *Indian Express* Sunday edition on the new Black Women Writers from the U.S much before Tony Morrison and Maya Angelou became current in the academy.

As a literary critic in Malayalam, I constantly wrote on issues of relevance to the writers in Indian languages, and this kept me in touch with the local and the cosmopolitan.

Dr. Mythili P. Rao: *What is the position of Comparative Literature in India? What are the opportunities and challenges of Comparative Literature in India ?*

I taught Black women writers to many generations of students. Recently a student of mine called me to say how he is teaching a poem by Maya Angelou and remembered my lectures. My emphasis on Black American, African and Latin American writers came out of my immersion in Indian writing and more particularly Malayalam writing.

Prof. E.V. Ramakrishnan: In fact the challenge before the Indian comparatist is to be local and cosmopolitan at the same time. You cannot be 'local' unless you have roots in at least one Indian language and know it from inside.

You cannot be a cosmopolitan unless you are exposed to the best that is thought and written in some of the world languages. The problem with the Indian comparatist is that barring a few, they do not take the enormous efforts that are necessary to keep in touch with the literary productions in the living languages of India. Here I would like to underline the significance of translations. Not from Indian languages to English but from one Indian language to another, as well. We have not taken Translation Studies seriously though it is one of the major interdisciplinary fields of study in countries like Italy, Turkey and Israel whose contributions to the disciplines

would like to underline the significance of translations. Not from Indian languages to English but from one Indian language to another, as well. We have not taken Translation Studies seriously though it is one of the major interdisciplinary fields of study in countries like Italy, Turkey and Israel whose contributions to the disciplines are path-breaking.

We repeat platitudes about diversity of Indian culture, never making any attempt to understand or interpret this diversity. To see a Hindi writer who knows some of the major living writers from Malayalam or Tamil, or to meet a Malayalam writer who takes an interest in contemporary Hindi writing is rare indeed. Sixty years after Independence, we have become a nation of strangers. This is where Comparative Literature has its tasks cut out for the entire academia in the country.

Dr. Mythili P. Rao: *What is India's position in terms of its contribution to this domain of knowledge? How has India contributed to the wealth of world knowledge in terms of comparative literature?*

As comparitists we need to study not literature alone, but films, theatre, popular culture and many related fields. Comparative Literature in India has the potential to become a leading field of study, provided we devote time for studying the languages of India and their complex and long literary traditions.

Prof. E.V. Ramakrishnan : The world perceives India through the lens of its past classical achievements. Orientalism is a living force in international comparative literature even today. Someone like Sheldon Pollock gets worldwide visibility because he is an eminent Sanskrit scholar. Sanskrit is important for India and we have impressive scholarship in the field. However, to promote Sanskrit at the expense of living languages of contemporary India will result in creating a distorted image of India. International scholars of Comparative Literature have some understanding of Tagore as he got the Nobel Prize. They are aware of Salman Rushdie and Arundhati Roy as they got Booker Prizes. But they are hardly aware of the world beyond Indian English. The problem also lies with us, comparitist. There are few translations that are done with the rigour and precision that A.K. Ramanujan showed in his translation of *Samskara* by Anantha Murthy. Unless we produce major translations accompanied by scholarly analyses of translated texts, comparative literature in India will not make its mark across the world.

A writer like Perumal Murugan in Tamil or Vivek Shanbag in Kannada is able to attract the attention of the best critics in the world. This is a good sign. Translations of their works have created ripples across the Western world. They have the breadth of vision and a deep grounding in their native tradition that makes them exceptionally relevant to the study of India. Comparative Literature in India will have to produce works of scholarly depth that will identify works of this quality and explain their significance and relevance to the world at large.

We need interpret contemporary Indian classics to the world .

Prof E.V.Ramakrishnan
Professor Emeritus, Central University of Gujarat

Course Work in Term II of the Ph.D. Programme

Ph.D. is an intense and high order academic Programme requiring students to tread an unexplored or less explored path all by themselves, of course, with guidance and support of their research supervisor. The skill development programs offered by Jain University in the second term of the Ph.D. program is an excellent way to make this journey of PhD students a directional and comfortable one. My involvement as resource person in this venture in two such workshops was highly exciting and enriching. Having got this opportunity twice reaffirms the faith the system has in me in guiding these researchers with right values and help them embark on their Ph.D. journey with little more ease.

The sessions on 'Ethics in research writing' and 'Review of literature' explored the various do's and don'ts of research practices. It was truly fulfilling to clear the students myths and apprehensions in these matters with my own research experiences and lessons learnt, making the sessions experiential and realistic rather than conventional lecturing from the books.

The sessions culminated with interactive group exercises as the popular Chinese belief reads 'Tell me, I forget, show me, I remember, involve me, I understand'. The involvement of the participants in the workshop was full of enthusiasm and transformational. I strongly believe that not only did the experience provide me with an opportunity to make a change/make a difference in the lives of students, but it also provided me the opportunity to grow and learn about myself as an educator and as a person. Looking forward to many more such opportunities in the future.

The sessions commenced with understanding the student's perspectives on the topic and slowly progressed towards making them appreciate the concepts and requisite tools for practice in their research.

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“I believe that if one always looked at the skies, one would end up with wings.” —Gustave Flaubert

Endless Endeavor – A Pathway to Higher Academic Pursuits

Having been a passionate dancer since my childhood I always wanted to be academically qualified in the field. It is during the course of Master of Fine Arts, the excitement and the thrill developed as I worked on the dissertation and this was the stage of realisation for me about my interest in Research. The question on how to take this forward resulted in multiple options but highly ranked amongst them was the Jain University (performing Arts) for its Quality. The dilemma of opting for M.Phil or PhD turned out to be another difficult situation. However after understanding the strict régime the university follows and my lack of confidence in the field of research I decided to equip myself to the fullest.

Coming from the background of Performing Arts, it was very less known to me that Research itself has its own methodology. A day before the first session, a casual browse on the internet gave me a panic moment, as everything looked so technical and I doubted on its connectivity to performing arts.

In contrast to my thoughts I was totally bowled over on Day 1 when the first topic “What is Research” was handled and explained in very simple terms. As days progressed each and every class was more enjoyable. What made it more exciting was the experiences shared by the faculty which knowingly or unknowingly established a connection in spite of students coming from different disciplines.

The openness plus encouragement in exchanging and accepting the different viewpoints of students and correcting them as well was one of the motivational features I observed in all the faculty members. Learning’s to us happened in various forms like discussions, photos, videos, presentations, assignments and fun activities which made it all the more interesting. And this is probably the reason that made us hooked on to our desks for 3hrs that too after taking a long break from college.

The course itself was designed creatively which not only made it effective but could also connect across streams.

The knowledge gathered in the course has certainly molded me better both academically and personally and the difference is seen. The course not just stimulated the curiosity and interest to study but sustained the motivation to go further. However the journey is absolutely not as simple as one can think of. It is a slow process, but doing half an inch on a regular basis shall positively help in reaching the goal. I am definitely enjoying this phase and happy at the right choice of taking up M.Phil because I feel it’s important to get the baking tray ready first, before baking the cake.

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My Research Journey

Course work in the beginning of my research journey was the most enriching experience, with an exposure to interact with various resource persons and develop the right research aptitude. The interesting assignments, various activities, skill development programs helped us to deepen our research inclination and look at various possibilities of inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary research. The last six months of report writing was the most crucial aspect of the entire research work when everything done since beginning will have to be written in chapters. Hence it is very important that research design and the process carried out must be clear from the beginning and all the related documents must be kept in place.

It is best to write in our own language for this will help us sail through the plagiarism check post submission, peacefully. Post writing of thesis, The attempt was to put whatever research work done in reality in the most effective and presentable manner. Post evaluation, during the Viva exam, though, I was anxious, presenting my work confidently and also answering all the questions from the examiner and audience satisfactorily, helped me to sail through. Conscious efforts to build my research competencies, interacting with several experts, scholars and resource persons, my own conviction in my research topic and the genuineness and honest efforts to learn throughout helped me to sail through successfully. My guide's patience, support throughout were highly noteworthy.

Smita Kavatekar

(Smita has just completed her Ph.D Viva in Commerce at Jain University and is awaiting its result)

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My Journey as a Research Scholar in Jain University

When I first came to our department at the Atria Campus, I was a little bit disappointed by the small compound because I thought the campus will be large with play grounds as I love playing football in my leisure time. Then I was bogged down with all the rigmarole of fulfilling all the requirements to get Residential Permit and had to make several rounds of the International Student Office, Atria Campus, and JP Nagar Campus. I thought to myself many a times – Have I come to the right University? The initial classes of the Research Methodology course confirmed that I came to the right place. The curriculum equipped me to understand the importance of research methods especially that of data in research, as our Professors repeatedly said, “Let your data speak”. The coursework made me understand the importance of practical application of all that we read and study. As a researcher working on Myanmar issue in India, I have been facing many other challenges like scarcity of resources, practical application of knowledge and challenges mentioned above. Despite all these challenges, the research program has made me understand that research is a difficult, expensive but a noble endeavour. It has prepared me to go forward and swim across all the challenges that have come my way .

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Workshops for Research Scholars– Batch of 2017

All Research Scholars of 2017 batch are attending Workshops as part of Term 2

For Ph.D and M.Phil Scholars of 2017 Batch:

1) Six General Research Methods Workshops in May-June 2018. Out of the six workshops, each one has registered for 3 workshops.

2) Three Subject Specific Research Methods Workshops in July-August 2018. All three are compulsory. These workshops will be for one day each, and will be held on Saturdays from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm

For M.Phil and Ph.D Scholars of 2017 Batch:

Skill Development Workshops in June 2018. The SDP is a two-day workshop where the scholar has to attend two days of Skill Development.

The General Research Workshop have commenced in May and 2 have already been completed



Asia Pacific
Refugee Rights
Network

*Upcoming at the CERSSE is the **First South Asia Short Course on***

'Refugee Rights and Advocacy'

from June 4th to 8th, 2018, jointly organized by CERSSE, Jain University and Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN)

Achievements and Publications

Mr. Nagendra K, Research Scholar and Assistant Professor, School of Engineering and Technology, Jain University has co-published a chapter titled 'Wind and Photovoltaic Energy Systems' as his research outcome in a book titled *Energy Technologies for Clean Environment* edited by Er. Chhavi Kumar 'Bharti' and Dr. Pavan Kumar 'Bharti', published by Discovery Publishing House Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi, ISBN:978-93-86841-22-3.

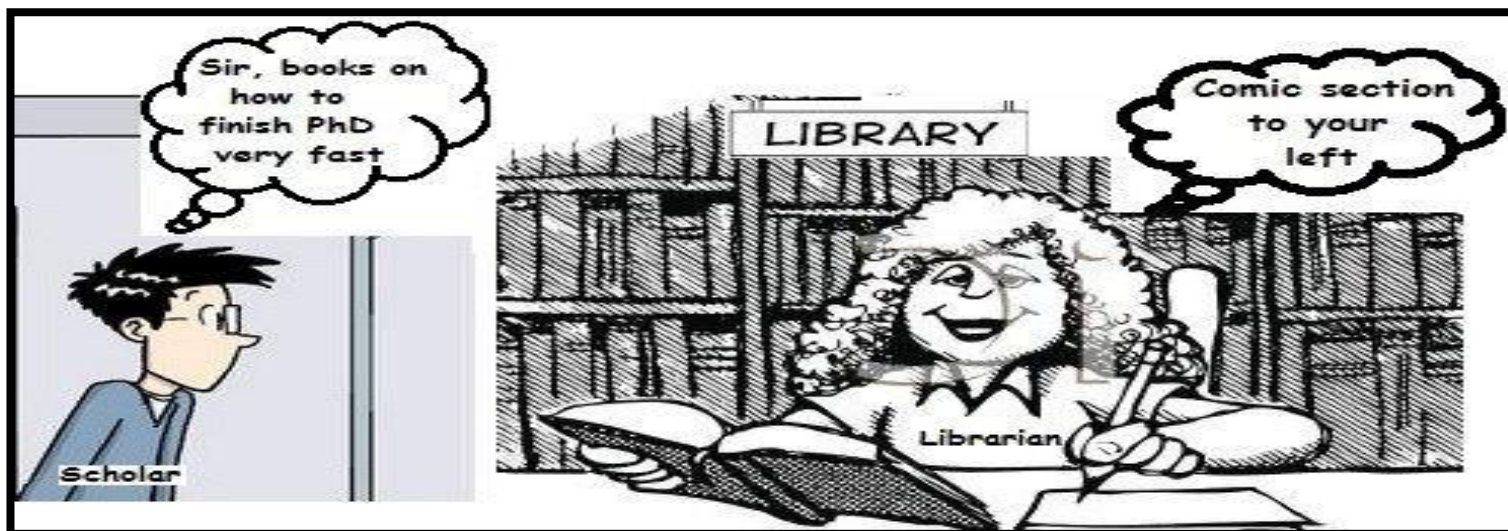
Ms. Mary Conice, Ph.D Research Scholar under the guidance of Dr. Usha MS of Jain University (Microbiology) received *Young Scientist Award* for contribution in research on "Cytotoxic activity of protein from the *E. Coli* isolate pe74" by Dr. Dharmasa, Senior Lecturer of Caledonian College, Oman at the 73rd International Conference in Future Trends held on 26th May 2018 at Chennai organized by International Organization of Scientific Research.

Dr. Srividya Shivakumar, Associate Professor, P G Department of Microbiology and Ms. Meenakshi Ravuri, Maulana Azad Research Fellow, Ph.D Research Scholar, Microbiology, Jain University, have had two research papers accepted for publication in international journals indexed by Thomson Reuters viz.,

a. Title: "Lovastatin Production from Endophytic *Meyerozyma guilliermondii* Isolated from *Hibiscus Rosa-Sinensis*", Journal: *International Journal of Biology, Pharmacy and Allied Sciences*

b. Title: "Isolation and Screening of Lovastatin Producing Endophytic *Aspergillus terreus* from Medicinal Plants" Journal: *Advances in Bioresearch*

Thinklet Congratulates the Achievers and wishes them Good Luck for all their future endeavours!



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Responses to Thinklet Issues

Sarita Kothadiya, Research Scholar in Cultural Studies, Jain University

I received the recent Thinklet issue and I was very happy to go through it. The headline message that we must be a 'Jnanartha' (Knowledge-seeker) is very inspiring. All articles are very informative. I am very thankful to you for including my article too.

N R Solomon Jebaraj, DSBA, Bangalore

I thank the entire team of Thinklet magazine. It is giving me a lot of information in various aspects.

Team Thinklet

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ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE SHOULD BE SENT BY
20th June 2018
WITH **NOT MORE THAN**
250 WORDS

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME, E-MAIL ADDRESS AND
THE KNOWLEDGE DOMAIN OF YOUR INTEREST