

## *Editorial*

### SIGNIFICANCE OF RESEARCH IN DENTAL EDUCATION

In the last decade, the field of dental research in India has witnessed exponential growth. The primary intent of research is to create enhanced knowledge and find newer ways making exiting knowledge available to others. One of the hallmarks of dentistry being an esteemed profession is its commitment to an ever-growing body of knowledge.

Research in itself is not a separate entity but it is a systematic approach of understanding, assessing, documenting and reporting clinical observations.

Each and every research involves a certain amount of serendipity. However, most often, the ground breaking researches arise from the doings of the disciplined and trained minds. Everything that a practitioner does is dependent upon scientific research and practice draws the greatest benefit from research based innovations and inventions. To understand the role and implication of research in dental education and practice requires an appreciation of dentistry as a learned profession. Research allows the dental students to develop a deeper sense of the bio-social significance of this profession.

The key lies in developing in the dental students a taste and aptitude for complexity and problem solving. Intellectual curiosity needs to be encouraged. All dental education institutes need to inculcate in their students a spirit of research of and train the young minds accordingly so that new knowledge is assimilated and eventually makes its way into the very heart of dental practice.