INACCESSIBILITY IN THE FIELD OF RESEARCH AND ACADEMIA

INTRODUCTION

The realm of research and academia, more often than not, is deemed to be inaccessible, because of the myriad obstacles it entails. To delve deeper into this topic is to unveil how the two fields are swamped behind paywalls, paucity of papers in diverse languages, "opaque writing", ableism et al. makes it far from inclusive. It is considered a trend to maintain the status quo in the realm of research and academia by excluding a section of the population to be able to engage, have a discourse, and relate to academic/research work that exists. Being cognizant about the benefits of having an inclusive space in research and academia, several universities, publishers and institutions are focusing on a) increasing research participation, and b) the importance of open access, yet there is a long way to go . This month's issue of the TPC encapsulates the innumerable impediments in the field of research and academia, and the dire need to accelerate its transition to a more inclusive and cohesive model.

Disclaimer: All opinions mentioned in The Paper Crane are not the beliefs of the IJPSL, but that of the author.

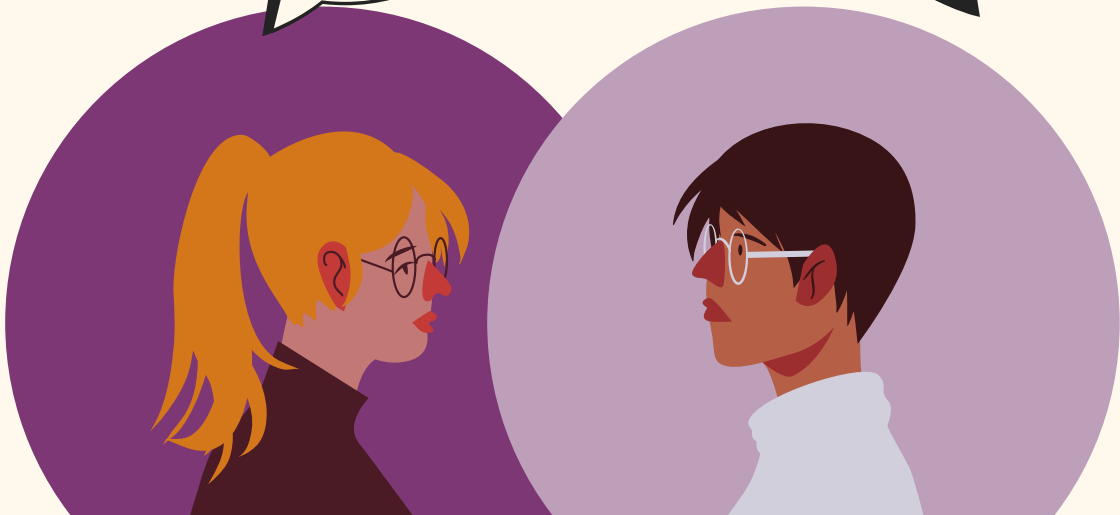Hey, how's your exam prep going?

I am so frustrated! I cannot access readings for this paper, they're either locked or stuck behind paywalls, makes me feel so helpless! But I guess that's what's happening with all of us.

Wait, what?

What happened?

I mean, my college provides open access, so that's not the case with me!
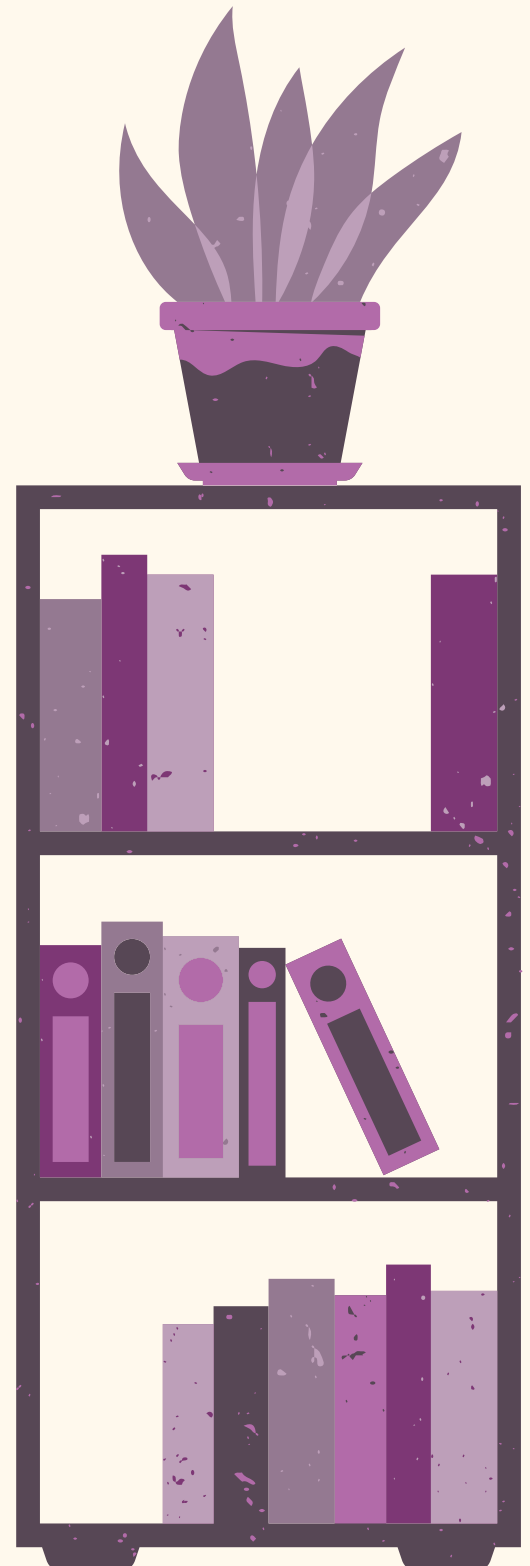
Oh...

INACCESSIBILITY IN RESEARCH AND ACADEMIA

by Jeeval Chadha
Student, University of Delhi

Academic papers' substance is frequently indigestible due to its complication. Due to the fact that academic research is frequently hidden behind paywalls, the number of people who can connect with, debate, and react to academic work is limited and essentially stagnant. This inaccessibility reflects society's extreme inequality, resulting in disparities in intellectual, social, and economic capital, and contributes to the system's long-term sustainability. Allowing everyone access to academic research has three advantages: it improves comments and voices, which further helps to critically analyze publications, it allows individuals to develop and learn in new ways, and it increases the impact of academic research.

Money should never decide the impact of research. While a growing number of universities, publishers, and business organizations are seeing the value of Open Access in terms of expanding engagement with academic work, there is still a long path to tread. The fact that academic language is sometimes inaccessible in its written form has an influence on how it is disseminated.
By inhabiting the confluence of entertainment and academics, there is an apparent method to make research even more accessible and simpler to absorb.

Solving the problem of accessibility of academic research has far-reaching repercussions and offers a new means of revolutionizing the way people think, and more crucially, are permitted to think.
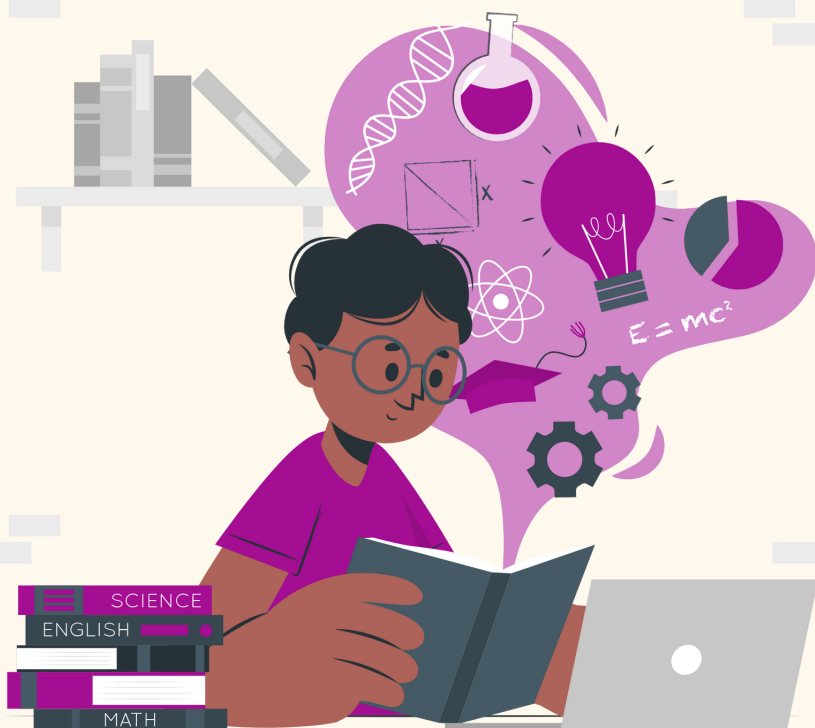
ALAS, IT SHALL BE ACHIEVED: A FOREWORD TO DEMOCRATIZING KNOWLEDGE AND EDUCATING ALL

by Ridhima Aneja
Associate Editor at the IJPSL

Even though the struggle of freedom in India officially lasted till 1947, it still continues till date, as we continue to lend a democratic direction and pathways for utilization of resources. We continue to fight for the reform of the education sector to democratize knowledge, and offer opportunity in real terms to citizens irrespective of all unconstitutional barriers. In a hole where no scope existed, we've struggled to democratize and banish the hierarchy to make education resources more accessible, in what also looks like a revolution, proposed and ushered in by the private sector.

The Edtech revolution, which has further been fuelled by the needs of the pandemic, has also brought into focus the involvement of the private sector in a) upholding the sector, and b) supporting the government in mass education and reforms in education regulation. Strategic actions, clearly guided with the intent of further democratizing academia and research, will further federate the institutional barriers posed to any learner and contributor across global education frontiers.

The sustainable development goals were instituted to largely achieve this. A clear collaboration of innovators, private sector and government agencies, powered by strong voices of individuals and sustained action towards this intent, shall prove to be path breaking and usher transformation of global governance frontiers, empowering each person to achieve his unique potential.

OVERCOMING LANGUAGE BARRIER IN RESEARCH

by Namah Bose
Research Reviewer at the IJPSL

India as a country has a multitude of languages ranging from Bengali, Hindi, Tamil. Malayalam, Tulu etc; there are 24 scheduled languages within the country . Primary research can be severely affected due to the subject's inability to speak english. Even today, a majority of the discourse happens through the English language. The manner to overcome this lack of accessibility could occur in phases. First, including and translating research works in as many languages to make every work accessible. Second, researchers making use of any research work in a language different from the one they use for communication should ensure that the translations are appropriate and do not lose coherence. Third, governments should encourage research in different languages as this ensures that thoughts and ideas expressed in different languages are not lost. India is a specifically diverse country and the research gap is widening due to the language barrier, and immediate actions should be taken to avoid the increase of this barrier.

JOURNAL FEATURES

The Sustainability of Online Education in the Indian Context: A SWOT Analysis:

by Srishti Snehal and Riya Sharma

The manuscript titled 'The Sustainability of Online Education in the Indian Context: A SWOT Analysis' is a simple yet effective piece of work conveying the feasibility of online education in present times through Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat (SWOT) analysis. The authors have attempted to explore the same through by employing an inclusive lens of gender, class and caste. The inequity and access to resources has also been highlighted effectively.

Understanding the Gender Gap in Enrolment in Undergraduate Courses in India:

by Bula Kalra and Sampada Singhal

This paper is based on the gender disparity of higher education in India, within the context of education equity and the existing differences of admissions within the gender spectrum into professional undergraduate courses in the country. This paper takes into account several case studies and available data to substantiate the cause of the paper with policy recommendations focusing on ensuring educational equity and availability.