

Editorial

The year 2020 forced the entire humanity to stop and take stock of as a puny virus ravaged its way through the privileged and underprivileged without bias. Suddenly the stadiums were empty and the displays of art and culture shifted to online platforms. Humanity was forced into a dialogue on how priorities should change. Even though humankind had stepped on moon and was now travelling further afar it took one year to develop vaccines against a virus. There was a hue and cry- not against the defective social policies or lack of governance but against the delay in developing a medicine or vaccine- did science and technology fail- why was it taking so long?

The scientific community did not show an inclination to defend itself and the sole voices of protest was drowned by constant propaganda and post truth. Reduced funding for independent and basic research, lack of incentives to stay on in a research career or even aspire for one was not sufficiently addressed. The lacunae in science teaching and lack of opportunities to initiate undergraduate science students to a research was also part of the dialogue.

The Research Council of St. Thomas College (Autonomous) recognised this scenario as an opportunity to realise a long standing dream- starting a science journal. Keeping the motto of the college in mind “Veritas Vos Liberabit”- the truth will set you free, Veritas was launched as a vehicle to assist the pursuit of truth through the scientific method.

There is no truth in science for science is dynamic and changes with the accumulation of every morsel of knowledge. We believe that every science student and teacher should be given an opportunity and incentive to pursue robust research which at the best could solve the myriad problems of Anthropocene and at the least hone the research and communication skills of the aspiring researchers. Let this process contribute to the pursuit of knowledge and ultimately the elusive truth.

Come 2021 a new dilemma faced the world – should one be vaccinated or not. In a world so governed by science and technology the fear of getting vaccinated and the collective social abdication of scientific temper in favour of post truths and pseudoscience shows how rote learning has failed science education. Knowledge generation and dissemination in fundamental sciences need to be transformed into technology and innovation. The challenge of new subject frontiers by hybridizing various pure sciences should be met by the same

rigour in science education by boosting scientific temper, elasticity of thought and research and ethical research communication.

VERITAS is being launched with these lofty ideals in mind. Let the pursuit of knowledge set us free from the shackles of ignorance.

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