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“Similar organisations to those imagined exist”: Apartheid South Africa in the Detective Fiction of James McClure

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Abstract

During the apartheid era detective fiction was seldom considered a major genre in South African literature. As Deon Meyer has suggested, “you don’t tend to find crime thrillers in any community where a ‘non-democratic’ situation prevails.” James McClure, in whose fiction apartheid itself determines the criminal environment, was one of the few exceptions. Whereas the traditional attraction of detective fiction lies in the depiction of the intricacies of the criminal mind and the unravelling of complex mysteries, the detective fiction of apartheid offers the additional fascination of determining whether the author is using the genre to articulate a political position. This article considers the extent to which McClure’s novels are social documents revealing the ideology of racism and the psychology of those who practice it. Do they constitute covert indictments of apartheid or are they simply escapist fiction? What, indeed, do they tell us about the possibilities of the genre?

Keywords

South Africa apartheid, detective fiction, racism, criminal justice system.

“You’re a free man in a free country”
(Ebersohn, 1990, 237)

Demolishing Frameworks: The Phules as Pioneers of the Renaissance in 19th Century Maharashtra

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Abstract

There was an emergence of a political movement led by Jyotirao Phule in the second half of the 19th century which challenged caste-class hegemonies in the context of colonial modernism introduced in Maharashtra. This period in Indian history is the Renaissance in Maharashtra in the later decades of the 19th century. Savitri Phule was an equal partner with Jyotirao Phule in their commitment to the cause of women's emancipation.

Keywords

Caste hegemonies, inequalities, social enlightenment, critique, prevalent ideologies, women's emancipation.

Cyber Romantic Poems, the Individual and Life in the World Wide Web

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Abstract

In the contemporary global scenario, cyber world has essentially become an inevitable presence in our everyday life. This paper henceforth attempts to analyse and study the increasing, inevitable presence of the cyber world, in the day to day life of the individual, relating it primarily to the cyber romantic poems, in various online poetry sites. How does the cyber world promote the new vistas of love and creativity? How is it influencing the social, the individual and the creative aspects of identity, life, love and literature? What are the various psychological and social aspects, associated with the increasing influence of cyber space in the love life and creativity of individuals? These are the questions, that this paper intends to analyse and explore. In examining these questions, the paper would use an analytical method, reading the cyber romantic poems chosen for the purpose of study from the social, cultural, psychological and literary perspectives.

Keywords

Creativity, communication, identity, individual, society.

India's Compliance with International Conventions on Women's Human Rights

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Abstract

Millions of women are denied their fundamental human rights and therefore discriminated for no other reason except for their gender status. In spite of innumerable legislations and safeguards available for women at national and international levels, the plight of women has not changed. Keeping these in focus, an attempt is made here to highlight the initiatives that the international community has taken under the auspices of the United Nations and its related agencies, and also to show whether these initiatives have made positive impact on member states especially India to observe and enforce the norms and principles contained in the international covenants and conventions. Against the analysis, the paper concludes with some observations on whether legal instruments alone--be it international or national--can ensure the observance and protection of women's human rights.

Keywords

Discriminatory treatment, predicament of subordination, fallout, culture of silence.

Missing Girls: A Challenge in India

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Abstract

India is baffled by the anomaly of imbalanced sex ratio along with many other Afro-Asian countries. Socio-cultural practice of infanticide, and now foeticide continues, and ironically the technological development in medicine has accelerated the gap in the sex ratio. This has affected the demography in India and the abuse of the technology has fabricated the social fibre of the Indian society despite general awareness and unending efforts of both the public and private sectors at formal and informal levels. The paper examines the discourse and the rate of the imbalance of sex ratio from a socio-political perspective and refers to the rigid social structure imbued with the patriarchal values that perpetuate the social evil and dilute the steps of each sector to bring any impact. The paper examines whether global interventions to include child mortality rate as one of the eight Millennium Development Goals will be meaningful to build a nexus between the academicians and social activists to bring desired results.

Keywords

Sex ratio, infanticide, foeticide, Millennium Development Goals.

Relationship between Scholastic and Non-scholastic Achievements of School Students

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Abstract

The present study is based on a sample of eight hundred students drawn from secondary schools of Haryana. It was planned to assess the relationship between scholastic attainments and non-scholastic attainment of school students of class X in respect of gender and locale. Scholastic attainments was ascertained with the help of report cards of students and other school records and Non-scholastic attainments was ascertained with the help of self-made scale. The data was analysed by Product Moment Correlation and Z-test. The main findings are: (1) a significant difference was found in scholastic attainment of male and female as well as rural and urban school students, (2) a significant difference was found in non-scholastic attainment of male and female as well as rural and urban school students, (3) no significant correlation found between scholastic attainment and non-scholastic attainment of school students.

Keywords

Scholastic attainment, non-scholastic attainment, school students.

Creativity of Senior Secondary School Students of Sikkim in Relation to Some Personal and Institutional Variables

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Abstract

The explosion and the rapid advancement of knowledge have focused the attention of educators, psychologists, planners and leaders in various walks of life on values of creative potentials in promoting technological progress with a view to raise the status of common people. Creativity may be considered as specific creative expression, unique production in any field: it may be unique scientific process responsible for some creative contribution in the field of science, technology or otherwise. Creativity deals with the unusual and original excellence in the field of science or scientific or in any field of productivity. Creativity can also be thought as scientific method or scientific process primarily involved in production of unusual and original contribution. Creativity is a multidimensional attribute differentially distributed among people and includes chiefly the factor of seen problems, fluency, flexibility, originality, inquisitiveness and persistence. The objective of this study was to assess the creativity and academic achievement of senior secondary school students of Sikkim, India in relation to personal variables (gender and caste) and institutional variables (government and private school, ICSE and CBSE boards) totally and component wise. The sample of the study was 120 students consisting of 60 girls and 60 boys of different castes from four private and government schools of different boards of Sikkim, India selected on simple random basis. The tool used for this study was Passi test of creativity (2001). The study was descriptive study design of ex-post facto type. The findings of this study was that gender, type of management, different boards and caste did not play significant role in their creativity level, but significant in case of academic achievement. There exists positive relationship between creativity and academic achievement.

Keywords

Creativity, personal variables, institutional variables, academic achievement.

Course of Study and Community Influence the Contraceptive Awareness Level among Women Students

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Abstract

Young people's life today is different from that of previous generations. Today young people are living with modern facilities such as internet, television, and mobile services which offer many kinds of entertainment, including those that promote unhealthy behaviour. They move from one place to another to get their education and job. They study different courses to get good job. Young people come from different communities and join together in colleges to get their education. So these youngsters share their opinions, attitudes and beliefs among them. Hence the present study is carried out to understand the influence of community and course of study on contraceptive awareness level of women students.

Keywords

Community, course of study, awareness level, contraceptives, women students.

Community Mobilisation for School Management and Supervision in Elementary Education in Jammu and Kashmir

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Abstract

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a comprehensive flagship scheme of the Government of India to attain Universal Elementary Education. SSA has major areas of interventions including education of out-of-school children, quality improvement, special focus groups, community mobilisation, civil works etc. In the past few years, a strong need has been felt to involve the communities in the education process, that is, in school management and monitoring systems so that the quality of education is enhanced. Under SSA, a great stress is laid on community mobilisation and community participation in planning about schools and the entire educational process at the elementary level. SSA has made adequate provision for community involvement in facilitating the implementation of various aspects of the programme. The proposed paper explores the need of involving communities in school education in Jammu and Kashmir and thus understands the roles and responsibilities of Village Education Committees in promoting education in J&K. The paper would also explore the community mobilisation initiatives taken by the J&K government for universalisation of elementary education in the state and would suggest strategies for better community mobilisation in J&K schools.

Keywords

Community mobilisation, school education, Kashmir.

Ecological Intelligence: An Emerging Concept for Environmental Decision Making

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Abstract

Connection to the nature is essential for a healthy person; healthy people will build intelligent natural relationship to natural spaces. Daniel Goleman proposed the concept of Ecological Intelligence that facilitates decision-making skills related to environment. It is the totality of cognitive, affective and kinaesthetic skills that supports human-intelligent adaptation, wholeness, and connection within a changing natural environment. Ecological intelligence deals with the manifestation of behavioural attributes that contribute in the making of decisions that are ecologically safe at personal, local and global levels. A new pedagogical approach is essential to make learning reflexive, experiential, inquiring, experimental, participative, iterative, real-world and action oriented. The present paper throws light on the novel concept of Ecological Intelligence and its significance in the educational system.

Keywords

Eco psychology, ecological intelligence, ecological conscience.

A Study on Effectiveness of Interactive Teaching on Knowledge Regarding Global Warming among Adolescent Students

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Abstract

Earth is the planet in the universe blessed with favourable conditions for millions of species, including humans, to live and thrive in. Since the mankind came into being, mother Earth had to devise newer strategies to preserve her in a hostile ambience. Man's actions and abuse/overuse of resources are leading to extreme climate changes, uncertain environmental sustainability, and health care challenges. The biggest challenge that mankind is facing in this century is "global warming." It is time to rethink, modify our attitude and behaviours to safeguard earth, and in turn for preserving safety of humankind. The study adopted single group pre-test post-test design with Interactive Teaching, to assess the level of knowledge among junior college students. 30 students are selected through simple random sampling, their pre-test knowledge scores are assessed by administering a structured questionnaire. Then interactive teaching was conducted with the help of explanation, and discussion with the assistance of LCD projection. The post-test was taken 8th day after the teaching session. In the pre-test, 70% were in below average. In the post-test the knowledge scores were significantly raised to cent percent. The pre-test mean was 1.28 and post-test mean was three. The calculated "t" value is 19.90 which is higher than the table "t" value 1.699 at df=29 with 0.001 level of significance. The study indicates the need for sensitising and improving the awareness of the future generation of the risks and prevention of global warming.

Keywords

Effectiveness, global warming, interactive teaching and knowledge.

Prevention of Sickness in Small Scale Industries in India

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Abstract

This paper proposes to discuss the scenario of Small Scale Industrial Sickness in India, to identify the pragmatic approach for the futuristic decisions regarding such units and to redefine the role of the promotional agencies in industrial level in India. The paper is based on the secondary data, interviews and also suggestions given by the officers of District Industrial Centres (DIC), State Financial Corporation (SFC), Lead Bank. Stakeholders ranging from owners, corporate management, and financial institutions to suppliers, customers, and unions. A periodic audit of various management functions by the owners may keep the organisation reasonably healthy; the unions provide information as to what is happening at the level of workers, particularly malpractices indulged in by supervisors and managers and mismanagement at these levels, various tax reliefs and subsidies provided by various financial institutes and government. The findings help to know the reasons of sickness in small scale industries in a developing country like India and also help the policy makers to solve these problems.

Keywords

Entrepreneurship, employment, motivation, economy, small scale industry, sickness and training.

What's on the Menu: Important Food Sources for Aquatic Mesocarnivores in the Laikipia Ecosystem of Central Kenya

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Abstract

Aquatic mesocarnivores are important wildlife species because of the recent hypothesised ascendancy of mesocarnivores to the role of keystone species. This has been made possible due to extermination of apex predators in the world over the past 50 years due to anthropogenic pressures that have accelerated habitat fragmentation. The study therefore sought to find out the specific food items that this important aquatic species consume. The scats of two aquatic mesocarnivores were first examined, to determine the specific taxa of food consumed standardised sampling procedures on the determined taxa was then carried out. It was found out that the Anchieta's rocket frog (*Ptychadena anchietae*), Nile and Savannah Monitor lizards, fish of *Labeo sp.* and *Clarius sp.* were the specific food sources. Macroinvertebrates of Order *decapoda* were also found to be important specific food sources. Knowing this specific food bases is important in mesocarnivore conservation as anthropogenic practices that may decline them are to be managed and regulated for posterity.

Keywords

Aquatic mesocarnivores, mesocarnivore "release," keystone species, Central Kenya, Laikipia ecosystem.