

## Editorial

As we publish the July issue of the Journal in 2023, the fourth and final meeting of Education Working Group (EdWG) of G20 under India's presidency got over in Pune on 20-21 June, 2023. The outcomes of this meeting and three previous meetings of EdWG, which were held in Chennai (from 31st January to 2nd February, 2023), Amritsar (from 15th March to 17th March, 2023) and Bhubaneswar (from 26th April to 29th April, 2023) were presented, discussed and finalized in the Meeting of the Education Ministers of the member countries on 22 June, 2023 in Pune. The EdWG has shared the best practices of the member countries in the realm of technology enabled learning, research, collaboration, future of work and Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN). The final report of this EdWG and those of other working & engagement groups of various tracks on various themes will be released in form of declaration later in the month of September in Leaders' Summit in New Delhi.

The report recommends making tech-enabled learning more “inclusive, equitable, relevant, effective, qualitative and collaborative at all levels”. The focus on inclusive, qualitative and collaborative tech-enabled learning underscores the stance of G20 countries on technological integration in education in light of human rights and sustainable development goals. The G20 education ministerial meeting reaffirmed the need to develop a technology ecosystem, leveraging the potential of digital technologies in enabling inclusive, equitable, contextualized accessible quality education; encouraged the development of standardized frameworks for educational technology; capacity building of teachers and trainers to ensure availability of quality, effective and safe tech-enabled learning and assessment. The criticality of measures required towards overcoming the digital divide for all learners also emerged as one of the important themes and the key role of open educational resources, interoperability of digital resources and leveraging data analytics in hastening educational progress were reiterated.

Group of Twenty Presidency, the Government of India has prioritized four key areas under the G20 Education Working Group (EdWG) which are a) FLN and lifelong learning, b) leveraging digital resources and technologies for accelerating educational progress, c) the impact of future of work on education systems, and d) greater synchronicity and collaboration between higher education, research and development and societies within and across boundaries. In case of digital technology, EdWG has highlighted the contextuality of the digital transformation of education across the member countries as each G20 member is at a different stage in its journey of the development of sustainable, inclusive and equitable access to tech-enabled learning. The tech-enabled learning in different countries has taken a different route but there have been some commonalities in the initiatives by the G20 actors. The member countries fair differently as the Republic of China has reached 100% internet access for all types of schools at all levels, while Argentina is focusing on equitable distribution of technological materials under its Conectar Igualdad policy and Italy is working on National Plan for Digital Schools to help digitalize their learning process and methodologies.

The three major areas of intervention across the countries have been the development of digital platforms, ensuring infrastructure and equitable access to it, and eContent creation. At the level of infrastructure some countries are focusing on the level of material infrastructure like equipment and others are focusing on providing better connectivity. Digital platforms are being used not only for school education but also for higher education and VET and hence serving a plethora

of educational and learning needs. Quality eContent creation is the natural next step with the focus being on the digitization of learning material. Therefore, G20 countries are concentrating on creating econtent, for instance, UAE created bilingual content, and Turkey and India created content for CWSN.

The year 2023 has been a momentous year for India's diplomacy. India is presiding over the G20 forum, a forum where countries meet, debate and discuss the common concerns of sustainable development. When the Asian Financial Crisis of 1997-99 struck, the finance ministers of the Group of Seven (G7) and the leaders of Group of 8 created a new body-G20 (Kirton, 2013, p.ix). Initially, it was a forum for Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of the 19 countries and the European Union to focus on global economics and financial issues and in 2008, it was elevated to the level of leaders' summit. G20 represents 85% of the global GDP and about two-thirds of the world population. It discusses issues ranging from economics to those of socio-politics including education. This year's presidency lies with India with the logo of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (One Earth - One Family - One Future). The three-member management group consists of the past, present and future chair/precedency together referred to as Troika. The preparations for the G20 Summit are conducted through the established Sherpa Track and Financial Track which are responsible to prepare and follow up on issues and resolutions adopted at the Summits. Financial Track, led by Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, focuses on the economic and financial issues of the member countries while Sherpa track focuses on socio-political issues like education, agriculture etc. Sherpa represents the leader of the country. Apart from the two tracks, Engagement Groups also form part of the structure of the G20, which consists of participants from non-government entities like businesses, labour, youth, women and researchers of the member countries who can make policy recommendations to G20 leaders. Over the years, different Presidencies have led to the constitution of different Engagement Groups like Supreme Audit Institutions 20 (SAI20) was introduced under the Indonesian Presidency and India under its Presidency has created the Startup20 engagement group. A lot needs to be done in incorporating extended technologies (AR, VR and MR) and AI in creating digital learning resources. Multilateral cooperation is the key to the success of these initiatives.

The July 2023 issue has twenty two manuscripts in total. There are nineteen research articles, one review article, one communication article, and one book review. These articles deal with mobile augmented reality, inclusive enrollment policy, ICT and disintegrating teaching-learning process, massive open online courses, open educational resources, web-enabled student support services (WESSS) in open and distance learning (ODL) system, and artificial intelligence. I would like to thank all the authors and reviewers for contributing to taking out the 2nd issue of the 5th volume of the Indian Journal of Educational Technology.

**(ABHAY KUMAR)**  
Editor