



SOUTH ASIAN JOURNAL ON EDUCATION

Volume 01, Issue 01

August, 2024



SOUTH ASIAN JOURNAL ON EDUCATION

An initiative of the Pioneers Youth Organization



PIONEERS YOUTH



THE IDEA BANK



SAJE
South Asian Journal
on Education

South Asian Journal on Education (SAJE)

Volume: 01

Issue: 01

ISSN: In-process

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Preface

It is with great pride that we present the inaugural edition of the *South Asian Journal on Education (SAJE)*. This journal represents a significant step forward in our ongoing mission to promote and enhance the quality of education across South Asia and beyond. SAJE is an initiative spearheaded by the Idea Bank department of the Pioneers Youth Organization, a youth-led non-governmental organization, registered in Sri Lanka, that has been at the forefront of advocating for quality education in the South Asian region since its inception in 2019. The foundation of SAJE was laid with a singular vision: “to provide a platform for the youth of South Asia and scholars from across the globe to publish their research and academic work related to the region. In a world where the costs associated with academic publishing can often be prohibitive, particularly for young scholars, SAJE offers a peer-reviewed, open-access journal that does not impose any publication fees.” This initiative underscores our commitment to making academic publishing more accessible and equitable, particularly for emerging scholars who are passionate about contributing to academic excellence.

The success of this journal is made possible by the dedication and voluntary contributions of our esteemed review panel and all those involved in the publication process. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to these individuals for their unwavering commitment to academic excellence and their invaluable role in ensuring the quality and integrity of the journal. The scope of SAJE is intentionally broad, encompassing not only education but also related fields that contribute to the enhancement of academic excellence within the region. The current volume of the journal is a reflection of this broad scope. The theme for the current edition, “Development of Quality Education in South Asia,” has inspired a collection of six articles that offer diverse and thought-provoking perspectives on education.

Among the topics covered in this edition is a discussion on the gaps in peace education in schools in Sri Lanka, another article examines the impact of madrasa education on social mobility in Pakistan, and the issue of sexuality education in South Asia is also addressed. Additionally, this edition includes a study on the implementation and development of self-directed learning in Sri Lanka, the post-COVID-19 impacts on Sri Lankan government universities and finally the role of artificial intelligence in revolutionizing legal education is explored. In addition to these six articles, this edition also features two invited articles that add further depth and breadth to the journal. The first invited article proposes a shift in the role of schools in reimagining education in South Asia, challenging traditional notions of education and advocating for a more holistic and inclusive approach. The second invited article explores the role of education in enhancing legal literacy and access to justice in South Asia, emphasizing the importance of education in empowering individuals and communities to navigate legal systems and advocate for their rights. We are deeply grateful to the authors of these invited articles for their scholarly contributions, which enrich the discourse on education in South Asia and provide valuable insights for policymakers, educators, and scholars alike.

As we publish this edition of SAJE, we invite our readers to engage with the content, share their feedback, and contribute to the ongoing dialogue on education in South Asia. Your feedback is invaluable to us and will help shape the future direction of the journal. Please feel free to contact us at saje@pioneeryouth.org for further information or to share your thoughts.

Saif Ur Rehman
Secretary SAJE

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