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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** A.T. Resmi is presently serving at the Institute of Public Enterprise (IPE) Hyderabad as a Faculty in the School of Human Resource Management and Organisational Behaviour Management. She received her PhD from the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) and holds a Masters in Social Work in Medical and Psychiatry specialisation. She also holds a Bachelors degree in Psychology. She received her PhD from the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) and holds a Masters in Social Work with medical and psychiatry specialisation. She also has Psychology as her Bachelors degree. A researcher with varied research pursuits, she is interested in areas of health management, human resource

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Understanding quality of life is increasingly important in healthcare, where the relationship between cost and value raises complex problems. For instance, health providers must make economic decisions about access to expensive drugs that may prolong life by a few months and weigh these against alternative uses such as preventative medicine. In this special issue, we focus on examining the growing field of research concerned with developing, evaluating and improving the quality of life, well being measures, etc., within health-related research. The role of research is vital, as it contributes to the development of appropriate treatments as well as measures to prevent the diseases. For centuries, scholars and scientists have questioned the benefits of medical interventions. Contemporary versions of these questions continue to emphasise the need to equate value received with money spent. Answers to those questions require measures of outcomes, risks, access, appropriateness, costs and collective responses to public perceptions, expectations, needs, etc., through healthcare management and research. Accordingly, this special issue is aimed at meeting the challenges posed and overcoming the existing gaps.

We seek to publish quality researches conducted in the areas of medical research, technology assessment, critical appraisal, cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analyses, clinical decision analysis, operations research, health systems research and health services research, etc., which can all be accommodated under the rubric of healthcare research. It is intended for practitioners from healthcare, industry and technicians from a wide range of medical and related fields. The papers of this special issue have real value relevance, be primarily focused on real time implementation and the target audiences of this special issue are researchers, practitioners, consultants and technicians.

We are delighted to offer six articles in this issue of the *International Journal of Logistics, Economics and Globalisation* to address the researches carried out in various streams of medical and healthcare research.

The first article by Jihene Jlassi, Abedderrahman El Mhamedi and Habib Chabchoub has examined the effectiveness of multi objective programming model for nurse scheduling. A concept model was developed with a goal programming (GP) model that accommodates both hard and soft constraints for a monthly planning horizon. The relative importance values of the soft constraints have been computed by the analytical hierarchy process (AHP), which are used as coefficients of the deviations from the soft constraints in the objective function. In this paper, an AHP-based GP approach has been proposed to computerise the scheduling process. The proposed GP model is capable of generating high-quality monthly schedules in reasonable time considering all the hard and soft constraints in the scheduling environment.

The second article by Bushara Bano, Parvaiz Talib, Balan Sundarakani and M. Gopalan have addresses the causes of stress, its consequences and prevention strategies to check it at early stage before a burnout takes place in an organisation. The authors have positioned this article as a conceptual paper, which explores the basis for treatment of employees at organisation to minimise their stress in terms of work overload, role ambiguity, role stagnation, personal inadequacy, role isolation and various other stressors. The paper succeeds in bringing out the distressing dimension of organisational stress and tries to bring out the necessity for better coping strategies to combat work stress.

The third article by G.N. Sumathi and Yves Ducq have explored the attitude of healthcare professionals and has comprehended the influences the quality of care they deliver to patients, in the Indian Primary Health Centres (PHC) The authors have successfully brought out a conceptual framework that examines the impact of healthcare professionals' perception about work place experiences which encompasses HRM practices, PHC infrastructure and social support in the work place on pro-social organisational behaviour. The study promises to deliver to the existing literature when empirically tested, this study would highlight the human resource issues so that the system could respond effectively to the demands in healthcare workforce.

The fourth article by Shubhra Hajela is a qualitative research paper which brings out the cultural and social influences in HIV/AIDS in India. An issue with burning importance, the article focuses on the issue of HIV/AIDS which cannot be studied solely within the medical paradigm with its deterministic approach to disease and illness. Shubhra Hajela with her in-depth competency in qualitative research uses a social constructivist approach along with behavioural, psychological, social and cultural dimensions in order to find out the effect the social understanding and response towards HIV/AIDS and those living with it.

The fifth article by Tanuka Roy Sinha, Debmalloya Chatterjee and Päivi Iskanius has brought out an empirical analysis to combat work stress of nurses using fuzzy evaluation. The study has succeeded in minimising the uncertainty in human judgment using triangular fuzzy numbers (TFNs). The author points out that dealing with the patients suffering from critical illnesses, lack of reward/recognition/apprehension and fatigue induces maximum stress among nurses. The results suggest that counselling sessions, reward/recognition, rotation duty, a separate rest room and support from in-laws, etc., enhances nursing efficacy.

The sixth article by K. Ganesh, S. Ganesh, T.T. Narendran and V.R. Muraleedharan has considered resource utilisation in the context of drug supplies to the public healthcare. Drug inventory management assessment tool (DIMAT) is developed to quantify the shortcomings of the drug supply/management in terms of performance indicators. This is followed by a simulation study to access the performance of the system with the set of measurable parameters used in DIMAT and develops an approach to model inventory policies of public distribution system. The study also provides an insight into the causes of the outcomes of the public drug distribution in the state of TamilNadu, India.

### **Acknowledgements**

The editors hope that the readers are able to yield as much from the work of these impressive researchers and practitioners. The editors' team greatly appreciates the comments, suggestions and feedback from their prestigious readers and visitors. The editors also look forward to building on this special issue with many more issues over the coming years, as they engage in productive dialogue to combat today's cultural, social, medical and technical challenges which would promote more and more intellectual robustness and dynamic researches.