

Editorial

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As I read Arindam Banerjee's reflections on management research in India (published in this issue), I kept wondering: is management research in India obsessed with numbers? Is it relying too much on 'valid knowledge' through 'scientific approaches'? Are we making attempts to go beyond the usual, to embrace the larger facets of creation of knowledge? Are we aware of the controversies over interpretations of observations?

Banerjee talks about the problems of multi-tasking and the need for collaborative research. His paper, however, reminded me of Joseph Needham, who visualised research, even scientific research within a larger framework of history, philosophy, sociology and anthropology. He was one of the first to argue that it takes more than the natural world to construct scientific knowledge, that social and cultural behaviour can affect the outcomes of such arguments. Needham also tried to explore the social and philosophical roots of creation of knowledge outside the West. In Cambridge, he had been working on chemical embryology. But as a frequent visitor to China, he risked floods and bandits, hitchhiked over thousands of miles. He attempted to perceive the basic of science by stepping beyond the usual domain, identifying

science with socialism, and both with the salvation of mankind. He tried to locate the basis of all production, even aspects of scientific production, within culture. While Banerjee's crisp paper talks about the manifestations of the problems of management research in India, the roots might be lying deeper. They might be in our understanding as well as in our methods, both of which are taking too long to come out of certain narrow approaches to understanding phenomena around us.

Maybe I should have ended with a more positive outlook; this is the last issue under the current editorial board. A new and international editorial board is expected soon. Once more, I wish to thank Sagarika Ghosh and Nupoor Singh at Springer, without whom we could not have come all this way. I must also thank Malgosia Slowinska and Astrid Huizer at the Springer Netherlands office. Malgosia has been most patient; she gets things done quietly but quickly. Astrid sends emails on things pending and sometimes suggests that he will take care of things even before I ask him! Finally, on behalf of the current editorial board, let me thank our subscribers, many of whom have written to us of their excitement about the co-publication with Springer.

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