

Editorial

In this latest issue of *Decision* we present five research papers and three book reviews. The first article by Niharika Gaan on the effectiveness of virtual teams investigates the relationship between the selection of collaborative tools, demographic dissimilarities and virtual team effectiveness and explores the consequence of such relationships. The author finds that the impact of temporal rhythm on virtual team performance is strengthened through demographic dissimilarity that mediates the relationship between collaborative tools and virtual team effectiveness. The second article by Mary Mathew *et al.* analyses the determinants of patent value, focussing on the relationship between the price of the patent and some inherent characteristics of a patent.

The third article by Raju Majumdar analyses the determinants and the role of secured and unsecured borrowing using evidence from the Indian corporate sector. The author claims that, while the role of leverage as an instrument of mitigating agency conflicts and asymmetric information is well appreciated, there is scant if any evidence on the role of secured debt in mitigating agency issues, as well as the determinants of secured and unsecured borrowing mix in a firm's total borrowings. This exploratory research paper primarily aims at addressing this issue, using a sample of publicly traded Indian manufacturing firms. The fourth article by Monalisha Pattnaik examines an EOQ model for perishable items with constant demand and instant deterioration. This paper explores the economy of investing in the economics of lot sizing in the 'crisp' (CEOQ) model. Finally, the fifth article by Sangeeta Arora and Meenu examines microfinance interventions and customer perceptions, specifically looking at the rural poor in Punjab. The study delves into the role of micro financing intervention to analyze how far it has been successful to meet the financial needs of the rural poor in terms of their preference for formal and informal sources of finance, their financial awareness and the level of satisfaction with regards to micro financing services.

There are three book reviews in this issue. Avantika Tomar reviews the book *Compensation* by G. Milkovich, J. Newman and B. Gerhart. Manish Thakur reviews the book *Universities at the Crossroads* by André Béteille. And finally, Soumya Sarkar reviews the book *Business-to-Business Marketing* by Ross Brennan, Louise Canningand and Raymond McDowell.

On a personal note, it looks like this will be the last issue under my editorship. I am grateful to my editorial team members, to my staff at the research and publications office, especially to my Senior Editorial Assistant Ujjal Banerjee. Finally, I thank Avantika Tomar for doing a splendid job assisting me during these two years.

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