

Perspectives and Outlook on Research

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At 25 years of age, the speaker still has fond recollections of a scintillating school education, for the most part in Stanes School, Coonoor, in the enchanting hills of The Nilgiris, Tamilnadu, India, where he had graduated as the district-topper.

Following this was a resourcefully rich University education in Electronics and Communications Engineering from SASTRA University in the temple town of Thanjavur, Tamilnadu, resulting in first-class with distinction, following which the speaker took to a research dominated career, spending around two years with the Semiconductor Research and Development Career in IBM India, Bengaluru.

All this while, the speaker had been learning and practising the Carnatic tradition of Indian Classical Music from his mother, who has performed on Doordarshan and the All India Radio, while also simultaneously studying the theory of music, particularly the effect of music on human health and emotions, which fetched the speaker a Ph.D. by Thesis from Denmark.

At a time, when the tradition-oriented purists warned against anything other than full-time academic courses, the speaker took a daring decision to quit a six-digit salary in favour of diversified research, unrestricted by industry deadlines, and enrolled in an online dual MBA course – HR and Finance, in Don Bosco University, Assam, India, while working as a Teaching Assistant cum Research Scholar in his Alma Mater, SASTRA University.

The focus of the speaker's research during this time was on the hitherto rarely explored discipline of nonlinearity, its effects on various academic fields, including physical and life sciences, mathematics, engineering and computing, management and economics, music, history and the geo-sciences. One consequence of such a diversification is that the speaker was able to apply ideas borrowed from physics, mainly chaos theory, to a quantitative understanding of how a company's HR decisions and policies reflect in share revenue, and how such a knowledge would help in appropriate business strategy. The project report was hailed as "excellent" and its presentation "outstanding", by Don Bosco University.

Having gained valuable research experience and knowledge from both academic and industrial perspectives, the speaker decided to become an independent researcher, while rendering his services in the field of biomedical signal processing to RedMed Systems, a startup in Bengaluru, India specializing in affordable and preventive healthcare.

All through this career, the speaker has been aware of various means of publishing one's research, including journals, patents and books. In this process, the speaker has been exposed to the unfortunate condition of the peer-reviewed publishing (journal) industry (See, for example, the following links):

<http://www.livescience.com/8365-dark-side-medical-research-widespread-bias-omissions.html>,

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1420798/>, <http://www.editage.com/insights/publication-and-reporting-biases-and-how-they-impact-publication-of-research>,

<http://allaboutwork.org/2013/06/15/is-peer-review-truly-unbiased/>, <http://www.voxeu.org/article/geographical-bias-top-journal-publication>

Given this, and the appalling state of research in India (17.5% of the world's population producing just 3.5% of global research output, as on 2010), the speaker once again dared to go beyond conventional journal publishing and chose the completely open and transparent e-print archive – viXra.org, for publishing the 80-odd research papers the author had written during all these years. The rationale was that if the “peer” in the peer-reviewed journals were just ordinary people – other authors and readers, and if a paper's performance in a journal is assessed by the number of citations and reads, then viXra serves the exact same purpose, only better, since the platform is completely open and free for people (the ultimate “reviewers” and “impact creators” of peer-reviewed journals), to read and download, as well as assess and comment on the papers in viXra. All the papers can be accessed and read in http://vixra.org/author/sai_venkatesh_balasubramanian.

The thinking and effort in publishing papers in viXra seems to have borne fruit, when a German Publishing House invited the author to write a monograph-book combining several of the speaker's research works. This invitation was accepted, and the speaker has written a 230 page book, describing the principles of Nonlinearity and the enhanced perspective gained in the several disciplines mentioned earlier, as well as seamlessly blending into age-old and time-tested concepts mentioned by treatises and works on Indian Spirituality, wherein the author is initiated into the most esoteric philosophical tradition of Shri Vidhya. The book (ISBN: 978-3-639-86329-1) has been successfully reviewed, and is awaiting launch on January 20, 2016.

Looking back at all the years of growth, development and progress this far, the speaker but wonders if there has been a pattern, where all these various events have fit in beautifully like pieces of a puzzle. However, one theme – one recurring motif can be deduced – the idea of “Non-Conventional” Thinking, daring to go beyond traditions and conventions, be it joining an online course, or quitting a high-paying job, or working on unexplored, seemingly controversial areas of research, or choosing an e-print service as the primary publishing platform.

The speaker realizes that in a country like India, where around half the population is under 25 years of age, where people are so many and resources are so few, where even “cut-throat” is not enough to describe the level competition, seen by children as young as eighth-grade preparing for the IIT's, where world-class institutions like IITs, IIMs and IISc sometimes seen as on par with MIT and Harvard, yet the research output is at a paltry 3.5%, in such a country, the speaker realizes that to survive, prosper and grow as well as contributing to the country and community, “Non-Conventional Thinking” is indeed the Mantra. It is this idea that the author wishes to share with the world, contributing to a small yet significant step towards enabling, empowering and transforming the youth of the world.

While the speaker shall continue involving in perspective-enhancing research with viXra as the primary platform of publication, the speaker is however willing and shall accept invitations to publish as books, monographs and in peer-reviewed journals, from publishers that deem the quality of research work by the speaker to be meritorious and credible.

The above mentioned sentences and points shall be deemed a formal declaration to the public of the speaker's perspectives and outlook on research, innovation and publishing, and a copy of this declaration will be uploaded to viXra.org.

Signed,

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(The Speaker)
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