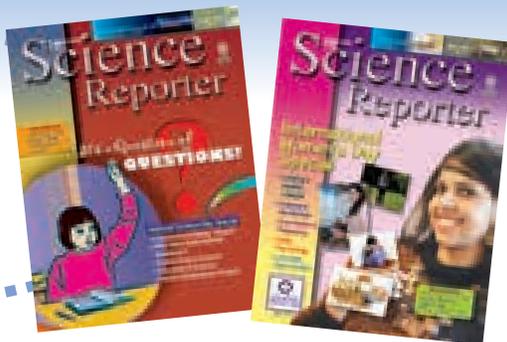


# Science Reporter



## MENTAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN

I want to thank Ms Jaimini Sarkar and *Science Reporter* for bringing out the highly informative article, **Child Mental Health Deserves Attention**.



Mental health of humans is of utmost importance just like physical health. Most people are mentally unhealthy in some way or the other and children being special their mental health deserves special attention. An astonishingly high number of children around the globe are mentally sick and considering India's rich demographic dividend this issue needs to be addressed on a war footing.

It is pathetic to see small children of even 2-4 years of age running recklessly from school to tuitions, from drawing classes to dance classes, from singing classes to karate classes and so on. The children have no leisure time. Lack of an 'emotional anchor' results in frustration, often leading to violence. The children spend more time with TV, mobiles, computer games, all of which feed them with inappropriate, violent stuff. I fail to understand the reason behind Dr. P.D. Bansal's observation, as mentioned in

the article, that the difference between children from joint and nuclear families was insignificant.

The governments in India have continuously neglected the issue and do not have any plan or framework to tackle the issue. The civil society must pressurise the government to ensure that there are sufficient number of psychological counsellors in each school, private or government-aided, right from the primary level.

Rahul Bhowmick  
Siliguri, West Bengal

## FOIBLES OF THE GREAT

In the feature article **The Great are also Human** (SR, February 2015), Pradeep Kumar Basu has praised Jagdis Chandra Bose, who was not keen to patent his discoveries but like the sages of yore believed that the bounties of knowledge should be made available to all.



Another instance that comes to my mind is that of Sir Humphrey Davy, who refused to patent the Safety Lamp discovered by him: he gave it without charge to the miners. In recognition of his selfless service he was presented with a silver dining set by the grateful miners.

But as the article suggests, even renowned scientists are vulnerable to human foibles just like any other person.

Davy possessed a fair amount of vanity and arrogance. In the beginning the Swedish scientist Berzelius wrongly considered chlorine to be a compound, whereas Davy thought it otherwise. Though Berzelius soon realized his mistake he was sufficiently annoyed because of Davy's behaviour. Davy in later life, as President of the Royal Society, exhibited an erratic personality: tactlessly irritating and alienating the august members. The great scientist was even jealous of his own assistant Michael Faraday, who was nominated and elected to the august Society, but Sir Davy opposed his selection.

Dr. S.K. Gurtu  
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## MAGICAL SQUARES

In the February 2015 issue, Wallace Jacob's interesting article **Magic Square** dealt essentially with magic squares of 3 and 4. This reminds me of an informative letter by Prof. K. Smiles Mascarenhas which appeared in the March 2013 issue of SR for generating "Birthday Magic Squares". Since it helped me to impress a good number of people I am taking the liberty of reproducing it so that SR readers may benefit from it. The simple rule is given below:

A	B	C	D
D+1	C-1	B-3	A+3
B-2	A+2	D+2	C-2
C+1	D-1	A+1	B-1

A is the day, B is the month, C the first two digits of the year and D the last two digits of the year.

Shashi  
Indore, Madhya Pradesh

## INHABITANTS OF THE DEEP SEA

Besides the angler fish that has a bizarre shape (**Dangerous Mating Games in the Animal World**, February 2015) the ocean depth is home to denizens which show remarkable



physiognomies. At several thousand metres depth some fishes have degenerated eyes, probably atrophied because of disuse. The Brotulid fishes living in the abyssal zone have no eyes. The lantern fishes have light-emitting organs. It uses the luminescent bait to lure its unsuspecting prey. The male and female sea herrings too have light-emitting organs.

Since food is hard to come by cross-toothed perch can swallow prey bigger than itself. The gulped eel or pelican eel has a similar capability. The dragon fish *Malacosteus* can extend its lower jaws to devour unsuspecting fishes.

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## HAVE YOUR SAY

If you feel strongly about any article or write-up published in *Science Reporter* or have some information to share with the readers, please write to us at the postal address given in the magazine or send an Email at [sr@niscair.res.in](mailto:sr@niscair.res.in).