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GYRA Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

Determination

Dear GYRAites,

In the annals of history, few stories capture the indomitable spirit of human curiosity and resilience as powerfully as the voyage of Ferdinand Magellan. Driven by the conviction that a westward route to the Spice Islands of the East Indies existed, Magellan set sail in 1519 under the flag of Spain. Despite facing immense challenges, including treacherous seas, mutinies, and the loss of ships, Magellan and his crew persisted. Though he did not survive the journey, his expedition completed the first circumnavigation of the Earth in 1522.

Magellan's journey teaches us a vital lesson: exploration is not just about the destination but about the courage to venture into the unknown. Like Magellan, who relied on maps that later proved inaccurate, you too may encounter unexpected obstacles in your research journey and personal pursuits. However, it's through these challenges that true discovery happens.

As you embark on your research project, remember the legacy of explorers like Magellan. They remind us that while the path may be difficult, the rewards of perseverance, innovation, and unwavering belief in one's vision are boundless. It was determination and curiosity that defined Magellan's epic voyage.

"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time." – **Thomas A. Edison**

Upcoming Events

Virtual Symposium

For those interested in hosting the Virtual Symposium in October & November, please drop an email to thinkgyra@gmail.com

CURIOUS FACTS

"The Mysterious Dark Oxygen: A Deep-Sea Adventure"

Recently, in the mysterious depths of the ocean between Hawaii and Mexico, a team of brave scientists embarked on an extraordinary mission. Their goal? To uncover the secrets hidden in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone—a place where sunlight never reaches, and darkness reigns supreme.

Picture this: a vast swathe of seafloor, 4000 meters below the sea level, covered with potato-sized rocks. These rocks, known as metallic nodules, contain dissolved metals like lithium, cobalt, and copper. Over millions of years, these metals accumulate on shell fragments and other debris, forming the nodules. But these nodules aren't just ordinary rocks—they're like tiny batteries waiting to be activated.

In 2013, lead researcher Prof Andrew Sweetman noticed something peculiar. An enormous amount of oxygen was being produced at the seafloor, even in complete darkness. Imagine that! Oxygen, the life-giving gas, emerging from the abyss. Sweetman had been taught that oxygen only came from photosynthesis, but this discovery challenged everything he knew.

Here's the magic: when these metallic nodules come into contact with each other, they spring to life. Like a team of superheroes, they split seawater into oxygen and hydrogen. It's like a torch powered by multiple batteries—alone, they won't light it up, but together, they create enough voltage. This dark oxygen production process defies our assumptions about life's origins.

Why does this matter? Well, it turns out that about half the oxygen we breathe comes from the ocean. And now we know that even in the pitch-black depths, oxygen is silently being crafted by these nodules. But beware! Mining companies want to collect these valuable rocks, risking the delicate balance of marine ecosystems.

So, young researchers, remember this tale of dark oxygen. It's a reminder that our planet still holds secrets waiting to be unveiled—even in the darkest corners of the sea. Who knows what other wonders await us down there?

GYRA Scholars Shine at ICCE 2024

The Global Young Researchers' Academy (GYRA), an international research organisation, proudly celebrated the achievements of differently-abled children at the 2nd International Conference on Comprehensive Development and Education for Children with disabilities (ICCE 2024). Held from July 25th to 27th at Amrita University, Mysore, the event was co-organized by Adelphi University, USA, and Amrita Vishwavidyapeeth, Mysore, with a mission to amplify the voices of individuals with disabilities.

The conference was inaugurated by Pavan John Antony, Professor at Adelphi University, and Baby Shari, Chair Holder of UNESCO's Community-Based Disability Management and Rehabilitation, who delivered the keynote address.

Special scholars trained by GYRA presented their research under the guidance of advisors Nisha VM, Jose Satyadas, Renju Joseph, Renjitha CS, Manjula Devananda, and Shahita Sageer. Notable presentations included studies by Advait Raghunath, Umm Habiba, Jesinta Jerin, and Hanna Maryam from Ernakulam Nirmala Special School, who explored the effects of salt on plant growth and the causes of colour changes in plant leaves. Rita Fatima and Jomon K. from Kannur Don Bosco Speech and Hearing School, along with Adidev C, Ann Maria Joseph, Amaldev P. P., and Aibn Isaac, presented research on butterfly lifestyles and shared personal case studies on advancements through schooling and research. The use of sign language for poster presentations was particularly lauded.

Finosh G Thankam, Global Founding President of GYRA, delivered a plenary talk on GYRA's research potential, emphasizing the importance of inclusive education. Additionally, Nisha VM presented a paper on training scientific research among people with disabilities, and Sr. Ancy of Holy Cross Training Centre, Mumbai, another presentation on career-oriented training, engaging in sparking meaningful discussions.

If you'd like to join GYRA, please feel free to contact us @ (9778234964) / (8547420090)

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