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Coming from the discipline of Music, I have experienced that generally it is not very easy to get research students to recognise authenticity in data, accomplish a critical analysis and achieve precision in expression. When I participated in a seminar organised by SARII, I had the pleasure and honour of meeting Dr. Palaniappan and since then I have been greatly impressed and inspired by the quality of research perceptible in his articles, for instance, on Pāṇars and on Vaiṣṇava Saint-Poets.

I have directed a few scholars to seek Dr. Palaniappan's guidance, when their contributions combining Tamil and Music sent to me, appeared to have some shortcomings and needless to say they greatly benefited, in being able to sift objectivity from subjectivity to start with. Now I am delighted to learn that SARII is planning to establish itself as a research institution with a permanent endowment and a full-time staff.

The difficulty with most institutions is that they are not able to assure a uniform scholarship level among the entire faculty and consequently, the question changes from 'which institution' to 'who in which institution'. I am glad that SARII, with Dr. Palaniappan as the principal guiding spirit, would be an institution that we could easily and safely recommend to those who are sincere and serious in equipping themselves with proper methods of research.

I pray that the vision and dream of Dr. Palaniappan to found an academic body with official status for continuing his selfless mission becomes a reality.

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