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EDITORIAL NOTE

As I write this note for yet another issue of *Social Science Researcher* I cannot but place on record that the tectonic shift brought about by Sars Covid-19 in the world of thought and ideas has now been overcome. In other words, I had recorded the ill effects of this shift in the note for the last issue: That “we did not expect COVID-19 and the crisis it brought about took its toll on us. Research seemed one of the victims of the disease and the fear it caused in our midst; and teachers ended up working hard only to grapple with technology and the challenges of on-line education.” Our issue in September 2020 contained just three submissions. We only hoped things will change for the better but our hopes were dashed and we ended up with fewer submissions in February 2021 and all those dealt with the pandemic!

Things have changed to the better this time and we have had a flood of submissions this time and I must place on record that none of those were about the disease. The tectonic plates seems to have re-adjusted and research in Social Sciences, which is our concern and the journal’s is back on tracks. The further point to make, as a marker of encouragement, is that all these submissions have come from young scholars, whether teachers or researchers. I do not intend wishing away the impact of the disease here and it is for science in the genuine sense of the term to deal with it and we in the world of social sciences will engage with this and the challenges in the days to come; the point, however, is not to stress that science and scientific research proceeds dreading the methods of linear mathematical modelling and instead keep at



its core such scientific truths as the *Butterfly Effect* or the principle in Quantum Mechanics, namely *Schrodinger's Cat*.

This indeed is the mission we had set out for *Social Science Researcher* when we began: To resist the temptation to stick to barriers set by disciplines and the delusion of apeaking the absolute truth. The task we set for ourselves was to construct a room whose architecture ensured free flow of ideas and also bits and pieces of information that can, at another time and in another space, serve as nourishment to ideas. In other words, we will consider ourselves accomplished as long as all that is published here is useful, either by way of fresh ideas and perspectives or just information that will fertilise the making of ideas and perspectives.

AnupriyaSaikia, a faculty from the Department of Education, Sri SriAnniruddha Deva Junior College, Dibrugarh writes about the experience with the mid-day meals scheme based on her field survey while Vibha Iyer, a faculty in Economics from the Zakir Hussain Delhi College has dwelt indepth into the theoretical aspects of imperialism and how some of them are skirted in present day studies of this and the perils of these on scholarship. Abhilash Kaushik, a Research Scholar from the Department of English, Cotton University deals with the postcolonial alterity and attempts to demystify this from a Japanese text adding to the scholarship on this subject.

Dr. Vaishali Raghuvanshi, a faculty from the Department of Political Science in a college affiliated to the Benaras Hindu University along with Rukmani Singaram, a Research Scholar in the Faculty of Management, CHRIST University, Bangalore have an essay here on culinary diplomacy and locate this in the case of the Asian Tigers in the larger area of soft power in international relations while Dr.E.K.Santha, teaching Political Science at the SRM University, Gangtok, along with Tshering Doma Kaleong, teaching Political Science at the Sikkim Government College, Namchi narrate the history of the nexus between the Monastery and the Political in the Democratic structure in Sikkim from within the scope of the Constitutional scheme.



In addition we have, in this issue a fine exploration into the eco-feminist perspective in Gandhi's thinking and a book review by Nitish Kumar Duwarah, a Post Graduate Student from our own North Lakhimpur College.

Well. We at *Social Science Researcher* fervently hoped, six months ago, that will things return to where we were and the set-back caused by Covid-19 and the dislocation it caused in the academic world as much as everywhere else will become memory. It seems we were right and hence justified to keep going even with fewer submissions in the last couple of issues. We are happy to have resisted the temptation of choosing the easy way!

And as is our commitment, we will not hand out prescriptions; in other words, we are here to raise doubts and attempt at answering some of the questions that bother us. Ours is not an endeavour to arrive at final answers; and least of all to let the editor's opinion determine the contents and the arguments by our contributors.

Over to you dear scholars and look forward to your continued support by reading, sharing and contributing to this effort.

(Dr. V. Krishna Ananth)

Editor – in – Chief

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