
Editorial

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As the journal enters its fourth year, it is deeply gratifying to see the successful completion of three years of the journal and to present this last issue of the third volume. For the punctual publication of this issue, I am grateful to contributors, reviewers and the SAGE production team.

At the time of writing this editorial, the world was witnessing unparalleled national and international events, which have stressed and traumatised directly impacted people and regimes, and shocked most observers, wondering about different directions emanating from those ghastly events. Human-caused catastrophe—poverty, hunger, suffering, unrest and insecurity—was striking in the midst of the airlifting and exit of the American-led troops from Afghanistan and paradoxical power resumption by Taliban, craving for international legitimacy and acceptance. The creation of new acronyms—AUKUS (the alliance of Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States), QUAD (the alliance of Australia, India, Japan and the United States), EU’s (European Union) Indo–Pacific strategy—and resulting international policies and actions, flying of Chinese fighter jets over Taiwan, the testing of missiles have radiated the blue, calm Asia Pacific ocean red, fuelling the region to cause fire at any time. It appears to have created a fertile ground for insecurity, instability and an arms race amongst many countries in the Asia–Pacific region. On top of these developments of multinational alliances at the cost of trustful relationships, military regimes have emerged in Sudan, Ethiopia–Tigray, Myanmar and Haiti by killing their own democracy and people. In all these intensely disturbing developments, there is little explicit focus on building, cultivating and maintaining peace.

For humanity, two fundamental questions and options remain alive: Why cannot we build peace through peace? Is it not practical? Why do we need to create an arms race, the threat of war and deliberate regional tension to achieve peace? In this globalised, digitalised, modernised global village, can we move beyond national borders, parochial national vested interests and politicisation of global interests, including the dominance of power over resources, towards just and fair global governance? Our efforts to achieve the 17 sustainable development goals are a step towards global governance. Similarly, a global consensus and pledge in Glasgow to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 by taking appropriate action by all governments is an excellent direction towards global governance. How can the same governments achieve manufacturing, sale and use of arms and fossil fuels, and net global carbon emissions to zero by 2050 at the same time? Are these not contradictory? Beyond the pledge, more thoughtful action is needed not only to reduce emissions but also inequality, hunger and human suffering.

This issue includes my presidential address, both welcome and concluding speeches, raising some global concerns, delivered at the 22nd international online conference of the International Consortium for Social Development, organised by the Centre for Social Development in Africa, University of Johannesburg, South Africa,¹ six articles and two book reviews.

By applying Gramsci's concept of hegemony, common sense and counter-hegemony, Neera Agnimitra and Manoj K. Jha scratch their heads over the relevance and irrelevance of community organisation ideas of Murray G. Ross and his book, *Community Organization: Theory, Principles and Practice* in the Indian context. Their analysis shows how professional imperialism (Midgley, 1981) over more than six decades has failed to understand and address local/grassroots level community organisation complexities and hurdles caused by normalising hegemonic community power structures, in which the poor, marginalised and disadvantaged groups (subaltern community of people) cannot think of countering the hegemony. The authors argue that community organisers and subaltern groups can and need to use, where relevant, Gramsci's concepts to develop strategies to counter hegemony and facilitate political choice. Some of their ideas and arguments dovetail well with my own views and writings that point out the misfit between the UK/US-based curriculum and the local realities (Pawar, 1999) in the Indian and similar country contexts, and imperatives for political engagement (Pawar, 2010, 2014) in community development work.

In a way, their analysis and arguments hold in the next article entitled 'Participation in Community Development Micro Projects in Niger Delta Region of Nigeria: Implications for Social Work Education and Practice', in which Oghenechoja Dennis Veta, drawing data from grassroots communities, shows that certain dominant elements in communities and a range of other factors do not allow and or facilitate greater participation of people in the micro-projects and therefore, sustainability of such projects diminishes. Dennis' analysis suggests a role for professional social workers to engage in grassroots level community projects to raise awareness and empower people so that they can gain control of their circumstances and determine their development trajectory to create and sustainably use their social and physical infrastructure.

In their article, 'The Rohingya Refugee Crisis: A Threat to Peace and Security in South Asia', Dr Hossain, Dr Ali, Dr Azman, Dr Ahmad and Dr Mehedi explore the living conditions of Rohingya refugees and views of impacted people. Their analysis of the narratives of select Rohingya people, the host community, government and international/non-government officials clearly brings out the violation of basic human rights of Rohingya people and shows how continued living in such inhuman conditions can pose a security threat to both local host community and the region. They make good suggestions to prevent this threat, to promote peace and to actively engage regional associations to seek long-term solutions.

The COVID-19 pandemic has directly or indirectly impacted everyone. But it has impacted the marginalised minority groups more than the others. In their analysis, Satarupa Dasgupta, Sunny Sinha and Raina Roy bring to light how the lives of one of the most neglected groups, namely, the transgender community, were severely affected by the lockdowns in India. Due to restrictions on the

movement and social/physical distance measures, they were not able to participate in the policymaking process, though they were the main subject of the policy and not able to access basic services. Under normal circumstances, the transgender community experiences significant psychosocial and economic issues, but this article exposes how those issues exacerbated during the pandemic and threatened their lives and livelihoods. The authors call for creating suitable policies and programmes to enhance their participation, overall well-being and human dignity.

Globally, there is a mixed response to a range of vaccines and generally, the public is confused and reticent about which one to opt for. Sometimes, even when there is no choice. As aftereffects of COVID 19 vaccines are largely unknown, it is critical to establish a reliable, valid, transparent and accurate reporting, collection and dissemination of aftereffects of vaccines, including good grievance mechanisms, to people in each country's context and in a global comparative context. Towards that end, in their article, 'Reporting Issues of Adverse Effect of COVID-19 Vaccine in India: What we know or don't know?', P. Dixit, S. Chanda, L. K. Dwivedi and M. Bhatia discuss the need for such a system in India. On a similar topic, M. Bhatia, V. Putcha, L. K. Dwivedi and D. P. Singh comparatively analyse serious adverse events and fatal outcomes following Pfizer BioNTec and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccinations in the UK. Their analysis suggests the need for the awareness of aftereffects of the vaccination so that people can make informed choices, for better vaccine policies and programmes, and documentation systems, and for more research at both national and global levels.

Finally, the issue ends with two interesting book reviews. The first one is about *How Caste Can Guide Progress in the United States*, reviewed by Preston Osborn and the second is about *Witch Hunts: Culture, Patriarchy and Structural Transformation*, reviewed by Neha Mishra.

I hope you enjoy reading these articles and find them intellectually stimulating and useful in your research, teaching and practice.

Season's greetings and best wishes!

Manohar Pawar
Editor-in-Chief

Notes

1. You may view all abstracts at <https://confsa.eventsair.com/22nd-biennial-conference-of-the-international-consortium-for-social-development/speakers>

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