

Vol III Issue 2 December 2017

ISSN 2395-7352

**MIZORAM UNIVERSITY**  
**JOURNAL OF**  
**HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
(A National Refereed Bi-Annual Journal)



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**MIZORAM UNIVERSITY**  
NAAC Accredited Grade 'A' (2014)  
**(A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY)**  
**TANHRIL, AIZAWL – 796004**  
**MIZORAM, INDIA**



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## From the Desk of the Chief Editor

On behalf of the Editorial Board I am happy to place before our readers Volume III Issue 2 December 2017 of *Mizoram University Journal of Humanities & Social Sciences*. The response from the readers and the contributors has been overwhelming. We are happy to note that this volume contains 15 research articles including 1 in Hindi, on divergent areas of Social Sciences and Humanities. We are happy to share with you 1 lead article and 2 invited articles on Media in India in commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of Media Education in Northeast India. Media Education was introduced in Gauhati University in 1967 under the leadership of Prof V Venkatrao and Prof Deba Prasad Baruah.

The lead article on “Philosophical and Anthropological Explorations of Digital/New Media Materialities” by Prof. Gopalan Ravindran pioneers a dialogue of Digital/new media Materialities. He look at what constitutes digital/new materialities and how these materialities are shaping our being. At a time when the digital/new media cultures are growing rapidly in India, there is a need to engage with their contexts in terms of the material logic of matter, form and being.

In one of the invited articles, “Nationalism and Power Politics: Disruptive Media Narratives in India”, Prof K.V.Nagaraj engages us with the contemporary discourse on Media and nationalism. He emphasises that dissent is the bedrock of democracy. Unfortunately, the high priests of nationalism cannot withstand any divergent opinion. According to him, Mass media is supposed to be the guardian angel of democratic values, but when it becomes the custodian of synthetic values and champions of disruptive narratives, the society as a whole declines. The fourth estate should not transform itself into a fifth estate. The mass media in India should guard against irrational and emotional advocacy of nationalism, for their exists a subtle difference between nationalism and patriotism.

The other invited article on “Indian Society and Media: Reading and Understanding” by Prof. Sisir Basu endeavors to point out to some frames which will be able to help us to read, understand and analyze the Indian society. He observes that the media in India is not in good shape. Quantity does matter but the quality of the quantity matters. The media is now in the hands of the political and economic power.



Hence it is not free to report its observations impartially and honestly. A lot of this reporting is constructed, thus reality loses out on the quality of Indian democracy which is now under a cloud.

Another invited article titled “Demonetisation: Reality and Rhetoric” by Prof. Srinibas Pathi is a very significant and pertinent article reminding us of the shocking reality of one year anniversary of demonetisation in India. He argues that if economists and political commentators are to be believed, it would have caused inconceivable damages to Indian political economy by the time we would look back and evaluate it after a few years from now. No amount of tall talk can justify demonetisation till date in the face of ground realities and countless sufferings of the common people of India.

There are 3 articles from the Political Science discipline. The article by Ms. Navaneeta Deori sets to analyse the relationship between India and Maldives from 1968 onwards when Maldives became a republic till contemporary times, with special emphasis on the changing foreign policy approaches of both the countries in the last decade. Also the article examines the concerns which India has for Maldives as a neighbouring country.

Sanjoy Roy deals with, and highlights the role of the BCIM corridor in improving the connectivity and overall socio-economic development of NER in general and Tripura in particular with a focus on the prospects and problems. He emphasizes that although BCIM corridor will offer a window of optimism to Tripura regarding its connectivity with many South-east Asian countries, BCIM EC is not going to materialize very soon. Rather it would be better if Tripura explores and reaps all possible benefits from Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project as situational alternative and formulate plan for its sustainable development. Lalengkima in his paper critically analyses the role of civil society groups. He has raised a debate among academicians : that civil society in Mizoram wields so much power that it might be able to control the state and government. But the role of civil society is slowly declining mainly because people do not justify most of the actions taken by the civil society groups.

This volume contains 2 interesting papers in Humanities. Dharmendra K Baruah examines the production of space in select colonial texts produced in the nineteenth century eastern frontier of Bengal. He focuses on the discursive construction of landscape along a range of tropes in *Travels and Adventures in the province of Assam* (1855), a nineteenth century colonial text by Major John Butler. He concluded that Butler’s text is a typical instance of the colonial discursive pursuit to asserting the racial and civilizational superiority of the ‘White Man’, carving out of military and economic space was premised on production of epistemic nullity. This nullity is evident

in constructing landscape through a politically crafted discourse of disquiet. Saikh Ahasan Kerim observes idealism and women's empowerment in *Sultana's Dream* by Begum Rokeya in the light of Post colonial studies. Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, a person with a great personality, gifted with creative talents, was the pathfinder if not the pioneer of women's awakening in Bengal. Saikh Ahasan Kerim in a wider perspective, that Begum Rokeya wrote for the marginalized mass staggering behind in a society.

The study by P.Suhail & Y. Srinivasulu attempts to consolidate the opinions of various authors on service quality perception of patients by reviewing different articles on the same topic on a conceptual basis. This discussion is followed by the major factors affecting healthcare along with accessing the new trends in the Indian healthcare sector on the basis of data from the secondary source of information. Here the findings indicate that every perception and determinant related to healthcare are connected with the socio-economic, demographic-cultural, technical and politic-legal environment.

Rachel Kabi & Kh. Kabi's submission on the Challenges Confronting Women in Media begins the discussion with the brutal murder of a Woman journalist. Gauri Lankesh, the 55-year-old publisher and editor of the Kannada tabloid who took on political activism was brutally murdered on September 5, 2017. The authors attempt to comprehend the complexities of their job and the motivating factor for women journalists to continue with zeal and enthusiasm in spite of being confronted from different spheres. Amidst strong opposition and harassment women journalists' face in their profession, they continue to deliver because journalism is their calling and passion. Ankuran Dutta & Anamika Ray have tried to find out the roots of journalism in Mizoram, more particularly the present scenario of Print media industry in the state. According to them the present status of the press in Mizoram is far from satisfactory. The circulation is limited so also the advertising revenue. In the absence of any industrial or corporate support, newspapers in Mizoram mostly have to depend upon the government support.

Irene Lalruatkimi in her paper attempts to explore the usage patterns of social network sites by college students in Aizawl. The study reveals that social networking sites are used as time pass, entertainment and also for gaining knowledge as well. Teenagers nowadays are sometimes inclined to satisfy their social needs first before accomplishing what they need for school. The study also highlights the need for sensitizing the youth on social media literacy. Embassy Lawbei traces the early communication method of the MNF at the genesis of the uprising and how it had successfully operated from underground using 'Runner system'. She unearthed how

the operations of the MNF relied heavily on the runners. The heavy security measures undertaken by the MNF during its operation from underground stations involve censored letters and curbing the free movement of postal service. Runners were sworn to protect the information even if caught. The success of the MNF operation could be credited to the successful adoption of Runner system.

The Hindi article by Aradhana Shukla and Sanjay Kumar is on the works of Abhimanyu Unnuth from Mauritius who represents Hindi Diaspora literature. His works *Lal Pasina*, *Gandhi Ji Bole The*, and *Aur Pasina Bahata Raha* documents the life of indentured Indian labourers in Mauritius. Abhimanyu Unnuth has depicted a sad but moving history of the living conditions of indentured Indian labourers and their struggle for sustainability, rights, social upliftment and freedom.

This being the last issue of the current Editorial Board, we take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the many contributors who have submitted their valued writings during the past three years which has not only enriched, but contributed to the academic standards upheld by the Mizoram University Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences.

A new Editorial Board will be constituted by the Mizoram University authority which will continue the work initiated by us. We wish the MZUJHSS continued academic success.

Margaret Ch. Zama  
Chief Editor