ISSN (P): 2395-7352

eISSN : 2581-6780

MIZORAM UNIVERSITY JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

(A Bi-Annual Refereed Journal)





ISSN 2395-7352 eISSN:2581-6780

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MIZORAM UNIVERSITY

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

ISSN 2395-7352 eISSN:2581-6780

MIZORAM UNIVERSITY JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

(A Bi-Annual Refereed Journal)

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From the Desk of the Chief Editor

George Orwell, alias Eric Arthur Blair in his 1949 magnum opus *Nineteen Eighty-Four* talked about a future in which everything belongs to the state and where everyone is under the diktat of the imagined Big Brother. His notions of Thought Crime and Thought Police compel the critics across political cultures to use them as similes in describing totalitarian regimes or dictatorial tendencies throughout the world. The ideas of dichotomy and contrast both are represented by two emotions such as love and fear for the Big Brother. The main slogans of the ruling party in the imaginary state of Oceania are: War is Peace. Freedom is Slavery. Ignorance is Strength. Even so many years after the expiry of actual 1984, the impact of Orwell's writing is still there. The writings on the wall across political regimes suggest that the all-pervading and all-powerful Big Brother, though with varying attributes and colours, is still around.

The smart mobile phones have just become the convenient instruments for round the clock reconnaissance. The rampant use, misuse and abuse of some of the social media platforms have put the issues of privacy, individuality, confidentiality in the back burner. Even free thinking and expression of considered opinion on public matters is seldom appreciated by the powers that be. Uniformity and conformity are the contemporary buzz words. In fact, thinking differently or out of the box has been the single most important impetus for innovation and human progress. Academics, researchers, writers, et al have a pivotal role to play in this regard.

The Mizoram University Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences is now indexed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). As a result, our Journal is now accessed by a large number of authors and critics from more than twenty-eight countries around the world. I express my heartfelt thanks to the University authorities, national advisory board members, advisors, members of the Editorial Board and website consultant for their support.

> Srinibas Pathi Chief Editor