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From the Desk of Chief Editor

I am privileged to place before the galaxy of learned readers the current volume of the Mizoram University Journal of Humanities & Social Sciences. With the present issue (Vol. VII No. 1, June 2021) the Journal is entering into seventh year of its publication. The present issue is the 13th step in the miles long journey. The present issue contains one Lead Article, 21 research-based articles and one Book Review. The journal is multi-lingual in nature covering articles written in English, Mizo and Hindi. The journal follows blind peer view system and is indexed at Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). The Mizoram University Journal of Humanities & Social Sciences (MZUJHSS) is an Open Access journal and allows its readers to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full-texts of its articles and to use them for any other lawful purposes while quoting the name and bibliographic details of the journal. All the articles published so far in the journal are available for free download on its website (<http://mzuhssjournal.in/>).

The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic has changed the normal life of everyone. When the first phase of lockdown rolled out in March 2020, people were expecting it to be a short break from the routine work. But gradually the weeks turned to months, and now most of the academic institutions are being closed for over one year. In the backdrop of the present new normal, Prof. S M Sungoh takes a look on the events around us, and found that it is not unusual to feel swelling stress and panic. She attempts to give a conceptual background on stress management and how to cope with it. Prof Srinibas Pathi took a look on the scenario of higher education in India at a time when the Govt. has introduced New Education Policy to be adopted and at the same time unprecedented pandemic situation also posing tough challenges. He observed funding situation, gross enrolment ratio on one hand and quality of higher education and research on the other. In another study, Mr. Sanjoy Roy took an in-depth look on the New Education Policy 2020 in the light of its target of 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in school education by 2030. He evaluated the decision taken by the Government of Tripura to implement the NEP 2020 in the state.

The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution incorporates provision of district councils by giving autonomy within the states. Most of these autonomous district councils are located in North East India. Ms. Lalbiakzami Ralte, Mr. T. Lianhmingsanga and Prof. Jangkhongam

Doungel in their joint study highlighted the Article 244 (2) and 275 (1) of the Constitution of India (sixth schedule) which empowers autonomous councils and highlight the functions and the administrative set up of the ADC's in Mizoram. In another study, Prof. Vanlalchhawna made an attempt to study one of the three ADCs functioning in Mizoram, viz. Mara Autonomous District Council, (the other two are Lai Autonomous District Council and Chakma Autonomous District Council). He gave an insight into various fiscal transfers to the district council and its impacts on socio-economic development of the district. The focus of research in the field of economics is more on the inclusive growth and financial development through reallocation of resources for equitable growth, in this backdrop, Mr. Masroor Ahmad tried to look at the link between financial development and economic growth. The study re-established that financial development and economic growth complement each other. Small food & grocery shops play a vital role in satisfying food & grocery needs of the people and at the same time provide job opportunity to many families, thus a study by Ms. Priskil Lalremruati and Dr. Lalneihluangi Fanai is very contemporary. The study assessed financial performance of select food & grocery shops in Aizawl and found that the overall financial performance of the food & grocery shops is good even though there are many aspects in which they can improve.

To understand the culture, community and tradition of society, one should look into the written & oral literature and music of the place. Mr. Ali Ahmed & Prof. Sivasish Biswas tried to look into the fiction-based story 'The Collector's Wife' (Mitra Phukan, 2005), which portrays the story of a woman exiled in an unknown land amidst compulsion. She starts a new relation with an unknown person which leads her towards a life of mere struggle and void. In another interesting study, Ms. Nunchawii Hatlei & Dr. Mousumi Guha Banerjee made an attempt to study the rituals, superstitions and traditions of the people with special reference to the Vaipheis belonging to the cognate Chin-Kuki-Mizo/Zo ethnic group located in the north-eastern region of India, based on available literature, visual media and interviews with stakeholders. Ms. Reuben Lalchuangkima, Ms. Estherine Lalrinmawii & Prof. H. Malsawmi made an attempt to conduct an experimental research to find out the influence of music training on student's music achievement and found that training given to the students does have a significant impact on their music achievements.

India is a land of diversity, and north eastern region of India is not at all an exception. Mizoram, the southernmost state in the NE Region of India, is a land inhabited by different tribes, which are known to have unique culture and traditions. Mr. K. Lalrinchhana, Prof. K. Robin and Prof. K. Zohra conducted a study on the traditional marriage system among the Maras, one of the tribes of Mizoram. An article by Mr. Lalthlanchhuaha traces a brief history of the entry of Christianity into Mizo society, drawing from 'historical painting' of Tlangrokhuma and later the institutional critique of the Church by Isaac Malsawmtluanga. This is an anecdote that might help build a discourse on visual studies and its relation to the Mizo identity. In another study, Prof. Nani Bath and Ms. Rinki Babin made an attempt to study the policies and the

underlying philosophy meant for the frontier people of Arunachal Pradesh and found that they were guided by “external considerations”. The authors argue that the issue of refugees and “outsiders” needs to be resolved democratically keeping in view the interests and aspiration of all stake holders.

During last one decade or so, electronic media is becoming an essential part of life, and the present pandemic period is no way an exception rather during this period the use of social media has reached to its zenith. Ms. Gospel Lalawmpuii and Dr. Lalremruati Khiangte conducted a study based on primary data to know how parents and school teachers played their role in monitoring the social media use by middle school students. The study revealed that majority of the middle school students use social media for educational purposes, during the pandemic. Teachers accepted that they do not monitor their students’ use of social media. In another study based on primary data, Dr. Nitu Kaur and Prof. R. P. Vadhera, tried to explore the impact of online teaching-learning process during the prevailing pandemic on students and their parents. The findings revealed that parents and the students both held mixed feelings about this mode of education. It has also been concluded that students regarded real classroom experiences to be far superior to the online classrooms. Another interesting study on use of electronic media is conducted by Dr. Lalropuii and Mr. Lalngaihawma. In their study, a base line assessment of the e-District project rolled out in Mizoram, was carried out which found a positive perception of users on the cost savings, time savings, qualities of governance like level of corruption in the system, adherence to the time frame of the service delivery, level of accountability of government functionaries and the overall quality of governance.

Now a days, sustainable development and protection of environment is becoming more and more popular in academic writing and professional talks. Ms. Lalmangaihzuai and Prof. Lynda Zohmingliani conducted a study to analyses the environmental awareness of college students. The study revealed that majority of college students in Mizoram, both male and female, had ‘high’ awareness towards environmental issues. Involvement of women in sex work is very disproportionate to health including high rates of violence, poor sexual health, and vulnerabilities to HIV and STIs compared to the general population. Ms. Lalhriatpuii and Prof. Zokaitluangi in their attempt to study women sex workers highlighted that they scored lower on Resilience and Internal Locus of Control than General Female; and the Resilience and Locus of Control has a significant negative relationship.

The Govt. of India adopted the policy of liberalization, privatisation and globalisation (LPG) of the economy during initial years of last decade of 20th century and during the same period initiated Look East Policy, which is revamped and improved in 2014 as Act East Policy. Dr. A. Shyamkishor, in his study, tried to establishes the linkage between Globalization and India’s Act East Policy and tried to evaluate its expectations and the ground reality. The Act East Policy is an attempt to extended various policies and programmes to physically connect with

Southeast Asia and the Far East through the north-eastern region through transnational highways, railway line, and waterways. He concluded that the borderland might just become an ‘overhead bridge’ to connect between mainland India and Southeast Asian countries bypassing the North Eastern Region.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the reference time forever. Now the events will be seen in the perspective of pre-COVID era and post-COVID era. The higher education scenario is also experiencing a sea-change. Dr. Pooja Walia conducted a study based on primary data among university students. It was found that about 50% the respondents possessed moderate knowledge and more than 25% of the respondents had good knowledge with reference to COVID-19. Further, female students found to have more knowledge than male students, however no significant difference was found between knowledge of rural and urban students with reference to COVID-19. Since the spread of the pandemic, the travel between and within countries has been restricted up to a great extent, airlines have been forced to close completely or significantly reduce their operations. In the light of such backdrop Mr. M. C. Cant & Mr. J. A. Wiid conducted a study to analyse the net effect of this on the travel agencies, as they have been severely hit with the declining number of travellers. In another study by S. Fajana & A. Ilesanmi attempts to identify the challenges posed by the current COVID-19 pandemic on labour administration functions in Nigeria and offered suggestions to optimize the adoption of best practices in labour administration in Nigeria by looking at the experiences of Singapore and Hong Kong.

K. G. Singh & Prof. J. K. Patnaik reviewed a very contemporary book, viz. “What After Modi Sarkar?” authored by Taachal. The book was published by Notion Press, Chennai.

I, on behalf of the editorial board members, place on record a heartfelt thanks to all the contributors, without their valuable contribution this issue of the journal could not have seen the day light. A special thanks goes to Prof. S. M. Sungoh, Department of Education, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, who agreed to give the lead article for the journal. Thanks are due to all those experts who devoted their valuable time in reviewing the papers for the journal, and giving their valuable suggestions for improvement of the quality of the papers selected for the issue. Further, I thank Prof. Lynda Zohmingliani, editor of the present issue, for her untiring efforts to finalize the issue on time.

With this issue, the journal in entering into its seventh year, this is the thirteenth issue of the journal, but the first issue by the newly constituted editorial board. At this point we, the members of the editorial board, would like to offer our gratitude to the members of the previous editorial boards and advisory board of the journal.

A big thanks goes to all the members of the advisory board of the journal. We wish to thank our patrons, Prof. K. R. S. Sambasiva Rao, Honourable Vice Chancellor of Mizoram University and Prof. J. K. Patnaik, Honourable Pro-Vice Chancellor of Mizoram University for their continued support and encouragements. We wish to thank our advisors Prof. Lalnundanga, Registrar, Mizoram University and Prof. Srinibas Pathi, Department of Public Administration, Mizoram University.

Bhartendu Singh
Chief Editor