

EDITORIAL

It is quite exciting and pleasing to bring forth the first issue of the Journal of People's Studies (JPS). The journal has evolved over a course of time due to several reasons. Most of the individuals associated with the journal, along with their academic and scholarly commitments, have been part of various socio-cultural, economic and political processes. This is the uniqueness of JPS collective, which one cannot find in most mainstream journals. While scanning on several journals it was observed that most of the journals are discipline-centric, and what was missing in those were 'the people'. For us communities and their inter-connection with various aspects in and around constitute the most important part. All of us are connected with various communities in different ways and means. The evolution of research disciplines has a critical historiography, which over a period of time has tended to ignore 'human beings' off and move to a more advanced level of the discipline. It is based on these disciplinary focus such journals evolve. We, therefore, felt it necessary to give a different name in order to bring the core concern to the centre. Through several discussions and deliberations what emerged was people's studies and therefore named it as the 'Journal of People's Studies'

We believe that people are the most important link within all disciplines, subjects and topics, therefore 'people' turns into a discipline and science in itself. Since, people remain the centrality, the focus would be to convert community's knowledge, wisdom, experiences, history, social system, social organisation, democratic engagement, politics, culture, lived realities of life, relationship with nature, ancestors, spirituality, faith, beliefs, science technology, courage, resilience, struggle, liberation, inter-community relationship, problems, crisis, conflicts, wars, solution seeking, mitigating crisis, bravely facing disaster, managing crisis, etc. into critical theories, scholastic engagement, grounded grassroots intellectualism within academic domains.

Each issue would have a broad theme with several sub-themes. The contributors are welcome to write on core theme or any of the sub-themes or come up with a new or inter-disciplinary theme. It is also a space for the voices that have been unheard of hitherto. One should not have hesitation of any sort to bring in any kind of knowledge on any given topic of any issue in future. This is the first edition and therefore it did not have any specific theme or topic. The theme/ topic method is adopted from the next issue onwards.

This issue has three sections. The first one consists of 'Articles.' There are six papers with bringing in critical analysis and perspectives from the margins. Gatade engages with entire question of Hindutva and how communal fascism is tuning out to be the greatest danger for a peaceful society. The advent of Modi is also the emergence of religious fascism in South Asia. How torture victims could rebuild themselves through testimonial therapy is the subject of the discussion by Raghuvanshi, Parveen and Khan. They engage with it at length from their personal experience based on multiple experiments. Kamble challenges the whole notion of decentralised democracy from the perspective of marginalised groups like Dalits, specifically discussing the development concerns. He delves with the theoretical questions in the very notion of Panchayat Raj and how it is discriminatory in its very design. Venkateswarlu and Ramakrishna analyse the correlation between increase in child labour and the depression in adult wage. Gaffar

brings in the problems faced by students of international studies and relations in India. George explores the connections between state sponsored violence, corporate loot, plunder of resources and weakening of the Adivasi system of democracy and engagement. He expresses his fear of Adivasi genocide.

The second section is of 'Documents' where Teltumbde writes an obituary to P. A. Sebastian who had been a pioneer of the cause of human rights. In the third section 'Review', Sandilya reviews the book by Padel on Sacrificing People. The reviewer engages with the topic from the present phase of history of cultural alienation and cultural genocide.

Several persons contributed to the production of this issue. The support of the entire Editorial Collective is extremely appreciable. Particular mention of a few is needed here. While we have been consistently editing this issue with all energies, Vivek Sakpal has been ardently in doing all the needful from behind and updated the contents on the website. Priyanka Sandilya has taken time from her very busy schedule to set the pages for this edition in the current format. Garima Rajgarhia designed the front cover. With the Journal, we aspire to initiate a meaningful engagement that goes beyond the confines of academic discourses and addresses the issues that form an integral part of the tapestry of people and their relationships with varied concepts and institutions.

Goldy M. George
Pragya Mishra