From the Editor

Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to present the sixth issue of Explorations. The present issue consists of two papers published under the ‘Articles’ category, one Review Essay and two papers under the ‘Research in Progress’ category.

The first article, titled National Register of Citizens: Politics and Problems in Assam, by Sanjay Barbora discusses the updating process of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam which entailed elaborate use of technology, law and the bureaucracy to determine citizenship. While acknowledging the benefits derived from the use of technology, the article emphasises on transformation of citizenship debates through a closer, nuanced attention to ethnographic details about other contingencies, such as floods and climate change, which greatly influences the habitats of a large section of the population.

The second article, titled Skill Development and Youth Empowerment Schemes in Sikkim: a Gender Perspective, by Yumnam Surjyajeevan and Sandhya Thapa identifies the skill development and empowerment schemes of the government for the youth of Sikkim and evaluates how they are responding to such schemes. Further the article makes a critical assessment of the achievements and gaps of these schemes. While doing so, it has also taken into consideration the gender dimension.

The next article, titled Select Ethnographies on Water in India: a Review, by Kanaka Himabindu Pottumuthu and Haripriya Narasimhan is a review essay on select ethnographic studies on water from different disciplinary perspectives, viz. anthropology, geography, urban studies and cultural politics. Based on such studies in both urban and rural India, the authors argue for increased attention from social scientists working in and on India to ethnographically capture people’s interactions with a resource like water that is of considerable political, economic and social significance.

The first paper under Research in Progress by Sapana Devi Karam is titled The Next Resistance or Change? Manipur in the Neo-liberal Era. This paper examines the changing cultural attitudes and tastes, especially in the context of material and
symbolic culture, among the rising middle class in the wake of the growing influence of the neo-liberal economy in Manipur. The paper also focuses on the activities of the non-state actors towards restriction of the mainstream Indian culture, and argues that in the face of the emerging consumerism among the middle class the strength of such resistance is on the wane.

The second paper under Research in Progress by Aashish Khakha is titled *Adivasis, the Fifth Schedule and Urban Development: a Study of Greater Ranchi*. This paper looks into the various contestations surrounding the urban development of Greater Ranchi area in the tribal state of Jharkhand. The paper recounts how such development initiatives result in blatant violation of the various laws for the protection of the tribal people (Adivasis) and examines its impact on the tribal society living in that area.

*Explorations* invites your contributions for future issues of the journal. We will appreciate your feedback or suggestions on the journal.

**Chandan Kumar Sharma**  
Department of Sociology  
Tezpur University  
Editor, *Explorations*  
Email: explorationsiss@gmail.com  
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