It is my pleasure to present the eleventh issue of Explorations. The present issue consists of nine papers published under the 'Articles' category and one book review.

The first paper titled *Urbanisation and its impact on the Peri-Urban Areas: A Study in Guwahati, Assam* by Indrani Sarma & Sarmistha Das examines the effects of urbanisation in three villages located adjacent to the city of Guwahati. The study highlights how the process of Peri-urbanisation transformed the livelihood patterns of the local communities in the context of the commercialisation of land. The study argues that peri-urbanisation is an opportunity for the development and the challenge of coping with structural changes.

The second paper, titled *Politics and the Peasantry in Assam- Locating the responses in Doyang Reserved Forest* by Indrani Talukdar dwells on the politics of peasantry with special reference to Assam. It contextualizes and complicates the diverse form of peasant protests, from everyday forms of resistance to organised protests. The paper argues that the nature of peasant protests is responsive, not reactive to the state and broader ethnic politics.

The third paper, titled *Hybrid Identity and Cultural Commons in the Foothills of Assam-Nagaland Border* by Antora Borah, analyses the making of hybrid identities and their implications for the gender, cultural and religious implications of the Naga society. The paper gains importance in the context of contested citizenship and religious identity in addition to the patriarchal practices.

The fourth paper, titled *Intertwined Education and Social Inequality: A Sociological Analysis of Schools and People Groups in Nagaland* by P. Temjennungla Imsong & A. Wati Walling, attempts to examine the nature of the relationship between social inequalities and educational accessibility in the backward areas in Nagaland. It highlights the educational achievements of the Nagas in advanced and backward areas.

The fifth paper, titled *Negotiating the Question of Caste, Islam and Indian Muslims: Caste Elements among Meos of Mewat* by Altaf Hussain, examines the role of the caste system among the Muslims of Mewat. The study analyses the consensus and contestations concerning the Mewat and Islamic identity. The paper submits that despite systematic efforts towards Islamisation, even today, the Meo community takes pride in their Hindu-caste identity and follows the associated cultural practices.

The sixth paper, titled *Assemblages and Documents as Tools for Managing Complexity: A Study on the Practices of Adaptation to Floods* by Mridusmita Dutta, explores the state's role in mapping the natural disasters and floods in Assam. What are the means of managing the natural
risks and methodological protocols followed in measuring the degree of loss caused by natural disasters and floods? The paper critically analyses the need to shift the focus from the sociology of governance to governmentality by launching specific schemes to address the problems. The paper highlights the social construction of floods and adaptation mechanisms.

Paper seventh, titled *Understanding Cultural Sensitivity and Competence in Health Care: Reflections on Antenatal Care from Rural Lucknow* by Riddhi Srivastava & D R Sahu, examines the role of culture in health care delivery and management. The paper highlights the significance of local culture and people's beliefs about health, illness and treatment.

In paper eight, titled *Healthcare for the Infertile: A Sociological Perspective*, Madhubanti Sen and Khaikholen Haokip analysed the prevalence of infertility in India and the social and cultural meanings attached to the infertile couple in Indian society. It highlights the growing popularity in the healthcare industry for infertility treatments and the issues related to access to reproductive technologies within the broader neo-liberal market context.

The ninth paper, *An ethnography of the 'labour lines': How has access shaped my study?* Premshila Singh presents the methodological issues and challenges the scholars have faced while conducting the fieldwork among the tea plantation workers in Assam. The study aims to examine the role of the mobile phone in the everyday life of the people staying in the labour lines of a tea plantation in Assam.

**Book Review**

Book Review: *Ceasefire City: Militarism, Capitalism, and Urbanism in Dimapur* (2020) by Dolly Kikon & Duncan McDuie-Ra by Author(s): Viliebeinuo Mom

Explorations invite your contributions to future issues of the journal. We will appreciate your feedback or suggestions on the journal.

I sincerely thank the Indian Sociological Society office bearers, and the selection committee of Explorations (ISS E-journal) for choosing me as an editor. I thank Prof Chandan sharma and the team for systematically publishing the periodic issues.

Thanks & Best Wishes

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