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From the Desk of the Chief Editor

It is once again my happy privilege to write a brief editorial for *Mizoram University Journal of Humanities & Social Sciences (MZUJHSS)*, a National Refereed Bi-annual Journal running into its 2nd year. The response to the 1st and 2nd issues have been most encouraging, drawing good response from both established and upcoming research scholars alike, from across the country. This journal strives to maintain stringent research standard of high quality, at the same time it also plays a facilitative role to encourage new areas of research from upcoming research scholars.

This Vol 2 Issue 1 of June 2016 carries 16 papers from across the disciplines of Humanities and the Social Sciences. The invited lead article from Dr. Sunil Behari Mohanty on “Early Childhood Care and Education” also known as ECCE, stresses on the importance of, and challenges faced by the now essential trend of school education on this aspect whose first framework had been declared by UNESCO 2000, and later by UNESCO 2010 which clearly states that “ECCE is part of the right to education and the main foundation for holistic human development. ECCE is instrumental in poverty eradication and a critical stage to lay the foundations for sustainable development.” In keeping with the note struck by the lead article, the next to follow is a relevant study on the “Effectiveness of Training for Elementary School Teachers in Mizoram in the Context of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan contributed by H. Lalrinliana and B.B. Mishra. This study of the SSA in providing education for children of 6 to 14 age group, focuses on aspects of the effectiveness of, and extent of fulfillment of objectives, of the capacity building of teachers through its training programs.

The relevancy of activity based teaching of mathematics for pre-service teachers is highlighted by Lokanath Mishra in his paper “Teaching of Mathematics in Internship Period of B.Ed Students : A Case Study”, and wherein the contributor has developed a model for the implementation of such an activity for teaching of the specific subject. In order to help bring about improved quality in the current technical education offered by 7 technical institutions in Mizoram, the article on “Problems Faced by Students pursuing Technical Courses in Mizoram: An Analytical Study”

submitted by Lalhmangaihi Ralte and Lalhmasai Chuaungo examines the all important issue of key challenges that are adversely affecting the quality input of technical education in Mizoram.

At a time when the Indian nation commemorates the 125th Birth Anniversary of the great social reformer and champion of the marginalized in India, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, also known as Father of the Indian Constitution, it is only appropriate that an article contributed by K. Vidyasagar Reddy entitled “Dr.B.R. Ambedkar: A Socio-Political Missionary” celebrates and pays tribute to the great man. This submission notes a telling point – while the constitutional contribution of the man is recognized by all, there is little noted in academic discourses about his social revolutionary activities. An article from Srinibas Pathi titled “Biju Patnaik and Women Empowerment” amongst other things, makes a study of a great man who during his time initiated lasting contributions for the empowerment of women and the spreading of awareness about gender parity and equality which bears witness to his progressive ideas and inclusive policies, at a time when such ideas were still considered sensitive and often radical.

The post-colonial era has seen several so called third world countries taking economic and planning policy initiatives and bringing their nations within the global spectrum. Bangladesh is one such country, and Biswajit Choudhury provides a telling study through his article “Political Economy of Rural Non-farm Sector Development in Bangladesh” Although India has adopted parliamentary democracy for its system of governance, decades under this very system is now being scrutinized realistically due to its apparent failure to solve the several problems faced by the nation. This aspect is examined in the article “Elections and Electoral Reforms: An Imperative for Bringing Good Governance in India” submitted by A.P.K. Singh. Biswajit Mohapatra makes a laudable attempt to study what many would consider a complex issue best left untouched, in his article “Understanding Extremism and Extremists in North East India”. The study on “An Analysis of the Movement of the Mizo Union for Mizo Autonomy” from L.H. Chhuanawma gives an interesting and relevant interpretation to the very usage of the inclusive term “Mizo” by the first indigenous political party from the erstwhile Lushai Hill - the Mizo Union in the mid 1940s. His analysis also reveals that the ideology for “Greater Mizoram” was actually initiated by this political party – a historical fact that many are unaware of today.

Drug abuse and its related issues as one of the more worrisome social problems in Mizoram is a subject taken up by a good number of research scholars

in current times. This particular article on “Siblings of Substance Abusers: The Moderating Role of Parental Warmth in Academic Problems” submitted by Lalremruati Pachuau and Laldinpuii H.K. Fente however, studies an aspect often overlooked – the neglect or parental rejection of non-drug abusers who are the siblings of drug abusers. V. Ratnamala and R. Lalrinkima have compiled an interesting study of a highly relevant topic of the region - “Print Media Representation of Conflict between Mizo and Bru with Special Reference to 16th Lok Sabha Election”. This article gives an objective study based on primary research method of content analysis of newspaper dailies of Mizoram covering the span of one month samples, while scholarly attempts that utilize the theoretical perspectives of Gramsci’s hegemony and Van Dijk’s take on racism and minorities, contributes to the added value of interpretation for its readers.

While it is a well-known fact that environmental protection is linked to sustainable development of natural resources, new concepts and practices related to this very relevant issue is the focus of the submission made by Baishali Dey and Nikhil Bhusan Dey in their article “Environmental Accounting and Reporting Practices of Major Industrial Units in Assam”. They have based their study on primary data collected from selected companies under major industrial units of the region. Issues of ethics and trust have also become essential ingredients of commerce and business as borne out by the study on “Customer Trust in Advertising Media: A Study of University Students in Mizoram” contributed by Lalhrualtuangpuii and Bhartendu Singh. This work has used a pre-developed instrument called ADTRUST Scale and takes on students of this University as its subject of study.

The journal is rounded off by two submissions on cultural and literary studies. “Old Mizo Deathways: The Cultural Construction of Death and Dying” from Kristina K. Zama attempts an interesting interpretation of old Mizo cultural concepts, beliefs and practices related to death in a community. The article takes on the views of select cultural theorists on the one hand, and posits it with old Mizo belief systems and values along with Christian tradition on the other, on treatment of the dead and burial rituals / practices which brings in new perspectives and problematization of these concerns. Thongam Dhanajit Singh makes a study of “Alienation in Larkin’s “Mr. Bleaney” : A Critique” vis-à-vis the prevalent theme of alienation in postwar British poetry, while at the same time, attempting to relate the intellectual and political movements of the postwar years with the poetry of Philip Larkin.

On behalf of the Editorial Board of MZUJHSS, I express my grateful thanks to all paper contributors, and subject experts who helped assess the submissions, thereby facilitating the successful completion of this journal. The continued success and growth of this journal is due to the excellent team work of Editors of the individual volumes as well as members of the Editorial Board which has provided a conducive working space and forum for all concerned. A special thank you goes out to Dr. Sunil Behari Mohanty for agreeing to contribute the lead article of this issue. We are especially grateful as always, for the continued support and encouragement received from our Patron Prof. R. Lalthantluanga, Vice Chancellor, and our two Advisors Mr. C. Zothankhuma, IDAS, Registrar, and Prof. Lianzela, now in his newly assigned role as Head of the Department of Economics.

Margaret Ch. Zama
Chief Editor