

## Editor's Note

I am delighted to publish the latest issue (Vol. 33, No. 1) of the SUST Journal of Social Sciences. It is challenging to maintain and preserve scholarly publications. Despite this, we have been able to publish all issues on schedule and without interruption for the past three years, which gives us great joy and reason to be positive about the future of this publication. Our contributors are aware that the journal is dedicated to excellence and employs a double-blind peer review method in which the identities of both authors and reviewers are kept hidden. One of the main missions of this journal is to publish original, up-to-date research as well as timely and incisive reviews from a variety of social science and humanities fields. As such, the journal aspires to be lively, engaging, and accessible, and at the same time integrative and challenging. Readers may detect progress in this direction by looking at the increasing average downloads and views per article. These are encouraging indicators. We were able to get to this point thanks to the continued support of our esteemed VC sir, Professor Farid Uddin Ahmed. I would like to express my thanks to the Associate Editor, the Editorial Board, and the intellectual acumen of our readers and contributors (authors and reviewers) whose contributions have made it possible for us to publish another issue of this journal in due time. In the near future, I hope the Journal will be indexed in reputable scientific databases. Now, onto the issue at hand. The content of this issue of the journal consists of three papers from three different research areas; which may be of interest for our readers.

The issue opens with 'নজরুলের আত্মানুসন্ধান: প্রসঙ্গ ব্যথার দান' by Dr Rejaul Islam, a professor of SUST. In it, Islam attempts to explore how Kabi

Kazi Nazrul Islam expresses himself in the story *Bethar dan* (ব্যথার দান). Although Kazi Nazrul Islam is most renowned for his work as a poet and lyricist, he is not a novice in the short story genre. *Bethar dan*, Nazrul's first collection of short stories, has six stories (ব্যথার দান, হেনা, বাদল-বরিষণে, ঘুমের ঘোরে, অতৃপ্ত কামনা, রাজবন্দীর চিঠি). Though there are six different stories in this collection, they all share similar themes. Mostly all the stories are set abroad and the themes of love, separation, World Wars etc. are narrated through the epistolary method or, at times, as reminiscence. Despite having various names, Golestan, Henna, Kazaria, Pari, Moti, and Mansi are all like many petals of the same flower. That pain, arrogance, estrangement, and wrath can all be expressed in such plain and easy language, is incomprehensible without reading the stories of Nazrul. Perhaps the stories are a reflection of his fervent attitude and suppressed anger. Nazrul never wrote an autobiography but suggests that his life lies hidden in his writing. In his own words, "the events I write of are not from my life, but the mystery within the writing is mine." I believe that Rejaul Islam's study can provide something particularly valuable to Nazrul research.

In her paper, Ms. Afnaan Ahmed aims to assess the current scenario of access to finance for the missing middle in Bangladesh using data gathered from secondary and primary sources. The missing middle, dominated by SMEs, has been identified as one of the most important driving forces of economic growth and development. It is indisputable that financing aids in the establishment of new businesses as well as the expansion and diversification of current ones. Businesses cannot be sustained unless they have adequate and consistent finance. However, it is apparent that financing in the SME sector has mostly been ignored by the policymakers and funding institutions of Bangladesh. This type of firm is categorized as "missing middle" on Bangladesh's funding map. According to the study's findings, banks pay little attention to lending to SMEs, leaving them dependent on MFIs and NBFIs. This study proposes that in a country like Bangladesh, where many people are unemployed and capital is scarce, the activities of the missing middle should be considered the thrust sector, with banks and financial institutions providing growing

financial support.

Ms. Nurunnahar Mazumder et al. attempt to explore the sources of poverty that limit access to livelihood assets and capacity among *Adivashi* people in Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT). Using both quantitative and qualitative data, the study demonstrates that educational inadequacy, poor social contracts, a lack of business knowledge, forced migration, forest reservations, and other factors are the primary causes of poverty among CHT people. The researchers argue that political dispute between the government, Bengali and *Adivashi* local leaders, a lack of economic, social, and service-related security, a lack of social settlement, and other factors all contribute to a lack of livelihood assets, which creates barriers to being functional and capable of eliminating poverty.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who assisted in organizing the Journal's day-to-day operations throughout this trying time. I am a firm believer in the power of collaboration, and I am confident that by working together, we will only increase the Journal's productivity and scholarly impact. Needless to say, any submission, whether individually or jointly written, will be greatly appreciated and will contribute significantly to the journal's development and success.

**Editor-in-Chief**

Mohammad Jasim Uddin, PhD (Helsinki)

Professor of Sociology