

## Editor's Note

It gives me immense pleasure to introduce the latest issue (Vol. 33, No. 2) of *SUST Journal of Social Sciences*. This journal is published twice a year, in June and December, by Shahjalal University of Science & Technology Sylhet, Bangladesh. *SUST Journal of Social Sciences* is an open access journal that disseminates research in the areas of humanities, social sciences, and business administration. The objective of this journal is to publish up-to-date, high-quality and original research papers alongside relevant and insightful reviews. As such, the journal aspires to be vibrant, engaging and accessible, and at the same time integrative and challenging. For the students, teachers, and researchers working in and interested in the aforementioned disciplines, this journal provides an authentic scholarly platform. 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. Readers may detect progress in this direction by looking at the increasing average downloads and views per article. Additionally, the significant improvement in the quality and number of articles submitted to our journal for review is encouraging indicators that give us reason for optimism about the future of our publication. Now, onto the issue at hand. The content of this issue of the journal consists of three papers from different research areas; which may be of interest for our readers.

In many nations, particularly rising nations, the informal sector plays a significant role in both the economy and the labor market. It contributes significantly to the creation of jobs, the production of goods, and the generation of income. In Bangladesh, the informal sectors account for the majority of economic activity in terms of both

employment and GDP. In his paper, "Involvement in the Informal Sector and Poverty Alleviation: A case study from Sylhet, Bangladesh," Mohammad Maniruzzaman Khan evaluates whether involving in the informal sector plays a role in the alleviation of poverty in the city of Sylhet, Bangladesh. The findings of the study demonstrate that participation in the informal sector benefits the population under investigation in a number of ways, including increased earning potential and greater access to nutritious foods, affordable healthcare, and regular savings opportunities. This article opens up an avenue of discussion that makes clear the fact that in-depth research is needed in this area to explore the suffering of these people because employment in the informal sector of the economy is commonly characterized by undefined workplaces, risky and unpleasant working environment, low levels of productivity and skill, low or inconsistent income, and other factors.

In their paper, "Political Economy of Labor Migration Governance in Bangladesh," Md. Mahbub Alam, Asish Kumer Banik, and Syeda Ismat Ara Jahan explain why and how the regulatory framework for labor migration has been centralized. This study examines different ordinances, laws, and rules for the governance of migration in Bangladesh and comes to the conclusion that, regardless of political regimes, there has been a lack of willingness to set up a straight forward, affordable, and easy-to-implement governing system for the migrants.

In "Practicing Black Art: Female Empowerment in the in *The Book of the Thousand Nights and One Night*," Ms. Touhida Sultana offers a feministic reading of the main text from a power perspective that incorporates the theories of Foucault, Butler, and Simon de Beauvoir. She explains how women use magic as an instrument to achieve their goals. Focusing her research on various tales in the "Book of the Thousand Nights and One Night," the author makes the case that each tale not only depicts the history of magic but also a worldview that is male-centered, male-dominated, and immutable. The female characters have to live their lives in accordance with the desires and directives of their masculine counterparts. To escape such subjugation they use

necromancy and witchcraft in attempts to break the laws of the physical world in order to live lives of their own; in this way, the subalterns strive to achieve their one and only objective of surviving patriarchal domination.

Nowadays, decent employment—especially in the context of labor economics—is one of the most divisive and frequently discussed topics in the field of development. A job is considered to be decent if it enables an individual to work in a secure environment, receive a fair wage, and provide for his or her family through social security. In his paper, “Regional Employment Patterns from a Decent Work Perspective: Implications and Strategic Responses,” Md. Mamin Ullah seeks to critically examine regional employment patterns from a decent work perspective. According to the author, a variety of problems still exist in the labor economies of many African and South Asian nations, including gender inequality, age discrimination, working poverty, occupational gender segregation, low labor productivity, and a slow or negative pay growth rate.

Finally, we would like to express gratitude to our honorable Vice-Chancellor Professor Farid Uddin Ahmed for his generous support, advice, and constant inspiration in publishing each issue of the journal. I would like to thank the esteemed academicians and researchers who submitted articles, and the referees who kindly devoted their valuable time to review the submitted works, and the language editors who kindly edited the accepted works. I also would like to extend my gratitude to the Associate Editor and the members of the Editorial Board; as well as the staff who contributed to our journal. We hope all our readers may refer this scholarly journal to their colleagues and students as part of a collaborative effort to spread knowledge. 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 papers that you wish to submit, either individually or jointly written, are much appreciated and will make a substantial contribution to the development and success of the journal.

Best wishes and thank you in advance for your contribution to the SUST Journal of Social Sciences. With the hope to meet again in the next issue of SUST Journal of Social Sciences, I hereby extend my deepest respect to you all.

**Editor-in-Chief**

Mohammad Jasim Uddin, PhD (Helsinki)  
Professor of Sociology