

Note from the Editor

For a number of reasons the publication of this issue has been delayed. The most important of these is the South Asian Sociology Conference held in Dhaka during March 10 and 11, 2008. All our efforts were diverted to this unique event. This was for the first time that such a gathering of sociologists of the region took place in Dhaka. Sociologists from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka joined hand with their Bangladeshi colleagues to deliver on a number of issues like gender, environment, poverty, globalization etc. The most important outcome of the Conference was the formation of an ad hoc committee and adopt the draft constitution of the South Asian Sociological Society (SASS) with its Head Office at Dhaka. The formation of such a Society was a long felt need of the sociologists of the region and will give new direction and meaning to sociology in the region as it will project South Asian sociology to the rest of the world. We are very proud to be a part of the occasion and shall render all necessary support to the Society to promote sociology in the region.

The current issue is a very special one as it brings together some current problems faced by the third world countries to day. The most important of these is the use and misuse of power in its various dimensions. Saidul Islam makes a brief review of all the different theoretical approaches to the understanding of power and comes up with a typology of his own. Using Nigera as a case S.O. Adebayo and A.J. Ogunleye look at the psychological dimension of power and build a personality profile of the Nigerian politicians. They characterize the politician as a “receiver”, as “the exploiter”, “the hoarder”, “the marketer”, and finally as “ the producer”. I believe that the personality profile projected in this essay is a very apt presentation of the politician in much of the third world and shall contribute greatly in understanding the ills of politics in most third world countries.

The third article in this series by Olufayo Olu-Olu goes to the direct analysis of the misuse of power, again by taking Nigeria as an example. Using some hard data he shows the extent of corruption in today’s Nigeria, reputed to be the second most corrupt nation in the world. Through a sample survey of the opinions of the different sections of the population he comes to the conclusion that although people are disgusted with the extent of corruption there, the war against corruption would be “hard to win since the acts are perpetrated by the policy makers themselves”.

Shahadat Hossain looks at the state of appalling poverty in the City of Dhaka and argues that the poverty follows the pattern of “urbanisation without development”. He traces the historical growth of the city in its fortunes and misfortunes and shows how in the recent times, mainly because of the unending streams of rural migrants, the city has been turned into a “megacity” without having

the capacity to deal with such growth. Similar studies of Dhaka City have been done before but this is a much more comprehensive presentation of poverty there, with the added advantage of a very exhaustive survey of the literature which will definitely aid other researchers in their work.

There is an ambivalent attitude toward the use of the internet and how it might change the lives of the people. Manouchehr Mohseni, Behzad Dowran and Mohammad Hadi Sohrabi Haghghat take up the issue in terms of the social relationships in the city of Tehran. They work with the hypotheses that the internet use will decrease social isolation and that social use of Internet will reduce social isolation. Working with a sample of 204 cybercafé users in Tehran they find that both internet use and social use of internet is be slightly associated with reduced level of social isolation.

In the last essay Philip O.Sijuwade seeks to determine the relationships between sex roles and fear of success. Using the Bem Sex Role Inventory Short Form (BSRISF)(Bem,1981) and Fear of Success Scale (FOSS) on a sample of 110 working urban women in the city of Lagos, Nigeria, Sijuwade tried to see whether there is a significant relationship between masculine and feminine characteristics in terms of fears of success. The findings show androgynous trends in urban working women. However, Fear of Success was negatively correlated with both masculine and feminine scores. More importantly the study suggests that "it is psychological femininity or undifferentiated sex roles rather than actual femininity that predisposes people to fear of success".

Thus, by focusing on issues like food crisis, urban poverty, internet use and social isolation, the psychology of fear among working women and above all the use and misuse of power, the current issue helps to illuminate much of the problems in the day to day life of the third world. It is hoped that these topics will generate awareness among the general readers and lead to further debates among the academia. We look forward to a future world free from such problems.