

## Note from the Editor

The current issue focuses on the colonial legacy, in terms of the inherited ethnic conflicts, futile attempts at democratization and the continuation of the cultural heritage. N.K. Das looks at the ethnic conflicts raging on in the North Eastern states of India focusing on their roots in the colonial times. Martin Ikechukwu Ifeanacho grapples with the repeated failures of inherited democracy to take roots in Nigeria and suggests a move away from the military rule with power transferred to the civil society. Shams Bin Quader looks at the remaining cultural contacts with the colonies in terms of the diaspora and its influence on the music in the West.

As a matter of policy, Bangladesh e-Journal of Sociology continues to encourage young writers and articles on new and challenging areas. This issue is no exception. Young lecturer Shams Bin Quader takes up the study of the diasporic music in all its verity, with a focus on the Bengali musicians in London. Although an exploratory study, Quader takes immense pains to locate the foundation and the prospects of diasporic music among the Bengali audience in the UK.

N.K Das, with his immense experience of the studies of the “tribal” populations of India looks to the North-Eastern conflict zone of India. After an exhaustive study of the historical roots of the growth of various conflicts in the area, he concludes that in spite of the multifarious sources of conflict in the region, “Their concern for variously perceived threats to their distinct ethnic identities and their anxiety for preservation of culture and language and their demand of autonomy can not be seen as dysfunctional for a healthy civil society”. The author, in the process describes all facets of the conflict in the region, including those of language, immigration problems, religious revivalist movements, self rule and militancy in general.

Democracy has been a far cry for many African nations, even though the professed policies of most countries have been that of “democratization”. “Paradoxically, the history of democratization in Africa, Nigeria in particular has remained the history of national disintegration.” Martin Ikechukwu Ifeanacho examines this paradox within the colonial hegemonic legacies. He concludes that for the true democratization to emerge, power has to transit from the ruling class to the civil society.

Another challenging area, men’s sexuality, almost a taboo topic in Bangladeshi culture, is examined by Shyamal Kumar Das, Ashraf Esmail, and Lisa Eargle. Although they work with a US sample, the scope of the study goes far beyond that and is relevant for all cultures. They test a few hypotheses including that of the “rape myth”, which almost rationalizes men’s sexual aggressiveness. Although sexuality or the studies of the gay and the homosexuals is a commonplace in the sociological literature in the West, they are yet to find a place in the Bangladeshi curricula. To the best of our knowledge, such a topic is being reported for the first time in a Bangladeshi sociology journal. Future contribution in the area is welcomed.

The study of poverty has been a major focus of the BEJS in the past and a collection of the essays published in the previous issues of the BEJS in a single volume is in the press now. A particular area, that of the subjective definition of poverty, has been the central theme among the Bangladeshi sociologists. A.I. Mahbub Uddin Ahmed made seminal contribution to such a study in Bangladesh through an article published in an earlier issue of the BEJS. In this issue with the assistance of a junior colleague Ahmed takes up a further clarification of the subjective definition of poverty through the concept of “Normative Deprivation”. It is also interesting to note that the study is done in a rather well to do residential area of Dhaka city and the perceptions of poverty among the “not so poor” presents some very interesting, albeit surprising, findings.

Migration has almost always been studied with the migrants in mind. Very rarely, if at all, studies have focused on the ones who “did not” migrate. I have found this to be a fascinating area and have commented on this before\* and currently a student of mine is working this out in her Master’s thesis.

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\* Nazrul Islam. 1992. “Migration, Migrants and the U.S.A.” in *Migration, Migrants and the United States*. Edited by Niaz Zaman and Kamaluddin Ahmed. Dhaka: Bangladesh Association for American Studies.

Olayiwola O. Fasoranti has a similar concern and decided to look at the non-migrants in the rural area. He seeks to know to what extent the perception of migration is influenced by the socioeconomic factors of the non-migrants. It is interesting to note that in his study of the non-migrants in the selected rural communities of the Ondo state of Nigeria the socioeconomic factors do not influence such perception. However, he finds that, "the perception of non-migrants on benefits and problems from rural-urban migration is influenced mainly by the martial circumstances and length of residence of the rural non-migrant".

As with the past ten issues, we hope that the BEJS will generate further research in the areas covered here and encourage young and older scholars alike to venture into new and challenging areas. We shall always remain open to such publications.

