

Note from the Editor

Because of some technical difficulties, the publication of this issue was delayed beyond our expectations. We apologize for that to our readers and well-wishers. We hope to remedy the problem and be more regular in the future.

This issue brings together a number of very important articles written on the subjects of the neglected and the forgotten ones. The issue opens with the age-old question of whether it is “ok to beat” the wife. The question might sound strange and even be tabooed in some societies but is a vivid reality in almost all societies, including the Western societies. Ms. Syeda Tonima Hadi, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, Independent University, Bangladesh looks at the subject with a sample study from a demographic and health survey of Bangladesh. Among her findings she notes that the rural husbands in Bangladesh were more likely to justify wife beating and that with increased education (both of wives and husbands) the odds of husband justifying wife beating decreased.

Two papers focus on the plight of children in the labour force. The first “Street Children and the Challenges of National Security: Evidence from Nigeria by Ngboawaji Daniel Nte, Paul Eke and S. T. Igbani search the streets of Nigeria and show that besides being “characterized by loneliness on the street, shelterless, loss of parental contacts, loss of parental protection” and devoid of “love and care”, the street children are treated as “nuisance” on the streets. But more importantly, the authors argue that the “exponential rise” in the number of street children in Africa, particularly in Nigeria, could spell a security disaster, as these kids become foot soldiers and terror elements during ethno- religious conflagrations. They note similar concerns for other African countries as well. The other paper by Bilal Bhat looks at the exploitation of the children in the handicraft industry in Ladhak. He shows how small children instead of being in schools enter the labour force for very little and often no pay at all. He also points to other forms of exploitation and looks at the health, education and other social costs these children have to endure.

The next two papers focus on the HIV/AIDS scenario in Africa. Most readers today are familiar with the horrific situation in the whole of that continent but the reality is even more painful than is reported in the media. Mary Aduke Ajila, Chris O. Ajila, D.O. Adeyemo, and A.A. Owojori do an exhaustive study of the situation there and looks at the awareness of HIV/AIDS among the school students. It is heartening to find that nearly every school student is aware of the problem and a large portion of them are also knowledgeable about the causes and consequences of AIDS. The study suggests ways to make the role of the counsellors in schools more effective. The other study by T.O. Agweda and V.A. Dibua deal with the stigmatization that is invariably accompanied with the AIDS cases. They report that “stigmatization can affect the acceptance and care for people living with HIV/AIDS in the society and that enlightenment programmes can change people’s attitude towards people living with HIV/AIDS in the society and reduce the level of stigmatization associated with the disease. The Study is conducted on the Civil servants in Auchi, (Edo state) Nigeria.

In the sixth paper on “Political Influence on Bureaucratic Growth and Social Responsiveness: A Case of Ondo State, Nigeria” Adeyemo Oluropo David and Osunyanmi Olakunle Pius look at how “political exertion” enlarged the size of the public service. They compare this with “the spoils systems in 18th century United States”. The study looks at the time period between 1999 and 2003, when there was a phenomenal increase in the number of civil servants. They go on to calculate the toll such large recruitments take on the society, including in monetary terms. They find “the complacency of the top echelon of the public service as regards the abandonment of the merit system in recruitment” to be a responsible factor.

As with other issues, this issue of the e-Journal also continues to encourage new and upcoming researchers.