Note from the Editor

The growth of technology has inevitably been accompanied by its darker side in every field of application. The misuse of internet is only a logical expectation in that regard. Yet we do not much appreciate or care about the misuses unless or until we ourselves become the victims. BEJS over the past few months had to suffer the brunt of such misuses as the site was attacked repeatedly by some difficult to eradicate viruses. In the end we not only had to close down the site for a while but had to find an alternative server to upload the e-Journal again. Who or why would anyone target a purely academic site for their pranks is beyond our understanding. But it did happen to us and we felt violated!

It has also meant a loss of readership and submissions from authors. Fortunately, we are back on line in a more secure server and hope to offer uninterrupted service in the future. Our authors and researchers everywhere are, therefore, requested to resume their submissions to this now well-known international e-Journal of sociology, the only one of its kind from the developing world. Your patronization of the BEJS, in spite of our failings, is applauded!

This issue opens with our concerns with violence towards the women and sexism. Adedeji J. Ogunleye and Sulaiman O. Adebayo focus their attention on the important dimension of sexuality, or sexual discrimination. Ogunleye and Adebayo administered the “Ambivalent Sexism Inventory” (ASI) developed by Glick and Fiske on a sample of 779 Nigerians to estimate the level of sexism, or sex discrimination, prevalent in the Nigerian society. The researchers find significant influence of age, marital status and living environment on sexism.

Syeda Tonima Hadi continues her quest to understand the nature and extent of violence in intimate relationships. This time she focuses on Bangladesh and draws on the available researches to identify patterns in such behaviours. She notes that studies in Bangladesh have dealt with intimate partner violence only within the marital relationship and have neglected the probably greater incidences of violence occurring among the non-marital intimate relationships

The Niger Delta Region of Nigeria has been a trouble spot for long now. Insurgency and terrorism seems to be endemic to the region. Ngofoawaj Daniel Nte, Paul Eke and Kinikanwo Anele in their “Rural Intelligence Gathering and the Challenges of Counter Insurgency: Views from the Niger Delta” evaluate the “nature, scope and dynamics of intelligence gathering emphasizing the need to liberalize the intelligence gathering business in rural Niger Delta to ensure pragmatism and effectiveness”. While on the other hand Otu A. Ekpenyong, Aniefiok Sunday Ukommi and Emmanuel Obiahu Agha try to identify the root causes of the troubles in the Niger Delta while exploring the extent of poverty and its impact on the society, economy and the polity of the region.

Continuing on the exploration of poverty in Nigeria, Olatomide Waheed Olowa looks into the impact of pilferage of livestock on the lives of the poor through developing a theoretical as well as using the real life situation in rural Nigeria in his “The Effect of Livestock Pilferage on Household Poverty in Developing Countries: Theoretical Evidence from Nigeria”.

M.E. Palamuleni, in the last article, analyses the “Recent Marriage patterns in South Africa 1996-2007” through the use of the 1996 and 2001 population censuses and the 2007 Community Survey. He finds that the “mean age at marriage for men and women in South Africa is high and increasing and more men and women are staying single or not marrying at all”. Also, the “percent of the population in the childbearing age groups that has never married has declined from 55% in 1996 to 54% in 2001. However, and most interestingly, “the percentage of married women has decreased from 35% to 30% whereas the percentage living together has increased from 6% to 9% over the same period”.

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