

Editor's Note

It is not an easy task to maintain and uphold academic publishing on a regular basis especially at a time such as this. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a tremendous amount of panic, anxiety, and uncertainty which has affected the timely publishing of the current issue of SUST Journal of Social Sciences. Deadlines have been missed and there has been an unintentional delay in publication. But as the saying goes, "What doesn't kill you, makes you stronger." We are happy to say that this situation has indeed made us stronger. The current issue of SUST Journal of Social Sciences, from now on, will appear in both print and electronic formats. With the publication of the online issue, I can confidently say SUST Journal of Social Sciences initiates a new journey towards being an epitome of high quality research that strongly represents the motto of this university. Regular publication of this journal will be part of the vast scale drive towards quality assurance that is a mission of both print and online initiatives. May the journey ahead be with a vision of continuous improvement.

This journal, published under the auspices of Shahjalal University of Science & Technology (SUST), Sylhet, Bangladesh, is a major outlet for scholarly articles, review essays, research reports and notes, conference reports, and book reviews in the field of social sciences. We also welcome business and humanities-oriented articles that address relevant social, economic, literary, and cultural issues. With the aim of being a platform for thought provoking articles which enhance communication amongst scholars, and provide an academic atmosphere of positive inquiry, this journal is published in June and December every year. Our mission is to create a vibrant academic space to explore and publish genuinely interdisciplinary scholarship across the social sciences and humanities. All articles in this journal underwent rigorous peer review based on initial editor screening and anonymous refereeing. In this issue, the readers will find three articles, which we believe you will read with interest.

It is usually argued that widowhood is strongly associated with a wide range of deprivations across developing and less-developing countries. A woman often loses her status, living or property rights when her husband passes away. Widowed women encounter persistent abuse, discrimination, disinheritance and destitution in our society. In their article on "Sighs behind the Veils," Professor Md Mizanur Rahman et al. have explored the problems encountered by the widowed women in rural Bangladesh. It is revealed that the majority of rural elderly widowed women are deprived of the necessities of survival. This study finds that the majority of the studied elderly widowed women could not involve in decision-making process in their everyday lives.

Md. Fakhrul Alam's work on "Living with Risks of Abuse, Harassment, and Vulnerabilities" presents an ethnography of female sex workers in Sylhet, Bangladesh. The author has found some interesting information about a handful of female sex workers of Bangladesh. The writer argues that female sex workers are subjected to different forms of abuse and exploitation in the sex trade, and their human rights are also violated in this profession. It would be really interesting to see how the author explains with sufficient information how female sex workers resist, manage, and accommodate themselves in different situations.

Corruption has been recognized as a global phenomenon since the mid-1990s, yet the obstreperous effect of corruption on economic growth and development is not straightforward. Mr. Gias Uddin Khan in his paper titled "Corruption and Economic Growth: A Random Effect Approach" focuses on the relationship between corruption and economic growth worldwide using the panel data for 147 countries for the period of 2002 to 2017. The author argues that corruption has significant negative impact on the economic growth of a country.

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 their efforts 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. 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

Professor Dr. Mohammad Jasim Uddin

Department of Sociology