

EDITORIAL

The present publication is a long over-due project. When I took the charge of editing this prestigious journal after the sudden demise of Dr. R.M. Sarkar, then the centenary year of the journal was knocking at the door. Dr. Sarkar might have thought something to celebrate this memorable event. But his passing away was so unanticipated that neither the publisher nor I had any clue of his plan. However, I am convinced that RMS sir would have brought a special volume if he could get the opportunity.

The preparations for the present volume started long back. But the project was halted for some time due to pandemic situation. I invited a large number of scholars to contribute to this volume and requested my colleagues to contact potential contributors on my behalf to write for this issue. I sent invitation letters to many of them, in which I wrote the following: ‘Anthropology has a great contribution to the study and understanding of society and culture in India. *Man In India* published many epoch making papers which are still regarded as substantial contribution to the body of knowledge. These publications have been instrumental in shaping and reflecting the trends of anthropological studies in the country. Now, when the discipline is facing the new milieu in 21st Century, the demand of the hour is to create and recreate new forms of knowledge, to invent new cognitive categories that the society would acknowledge as true contributions. Therefore, it is a high time to employ our anthropological knowledge which will connect the legacy with the transforming realities of the present time.

In this perspective, our idea is to invite you to write a paper on your own domain of expertise, as you deem best, keeping in mind mainly two things: the novelty of the topic/problem and its anthropological significance in the contemporary period.’

I am fortunate to receive a good number of papers from which 15 articles have been kept in this volume. I have received assurance from some of the senior scholars that they would contribute. In the present volume it has not always been the case that my idea is completely materialized. Still the contributors have co-operated us with article which they thought would reflect their best or chosen academic expertise. I am also happy to share with you that almost all the articles have either shown the current concerns of anthropology by means of novelty of approach or information. Abhijit Guha’s article highlighted an emerging area of research of public anthropology with which the author is associated with a missionary zeal. Mithun Das’ paper is one of a very few examples of longitudinal study on a small tribe named the Toto. Amitabha Sarkar has attempted to address the current debate of engaging with digital ethnography and has put a pertinent question how far the digital

method can replace the conventional on-site fieldwork. Samira Dasgupta possesses area-expertise on Chhatisgarh. Her article in the volume presents a clear exposition of her engagement social-cultural life of the area. There are three papers on the Andaman and Ang people by the scholars who have long association with the area and people therein. In fact, these articles show a possibility of exploring a domain of Islands Anthropology if the emerging studies on the island communities in the recent years are collected together. Frank Heidimann's paper in this volume may be pertinent to this domain of anthropological studies of Island communities. The issues of health have been undertaken by the anthropologists to understand the bio-social resilience of human. Nilanjan Khatua took up different dimensions of disease, health and culture in three tribal communities of central India. On the other hand, Subhra Bhattacharya's paper gives a chronological overview of the spread of communicable diseases in Andaman and Nicobar Islands drawing a particular attention to the 'menace of civilization' that affected the isolated tribes of the islands. Amitava Dinda took up the issue of ecotourism in the concept of an environmental hotspot of Sundarhan. The pastoral nomadic Rebari community about whom we have little information has been studied by Raj Kishore Mahato. Debasish Debnath is studying Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's contribution to the socio-cultural dynamics of the country in general and anthropology in particular. His paper that has been incorporated in the present issue deals with the study of Babasaheb Ambedkar's philosophy of equitable education with special reference to tribal education in Madhya Pradesh. The study of material culture is one important area of anthropological investigations. Arifur Zaman's paper on mask is related to the material culture study with relevance for folk art and anthropology of art. Nabakumar Duary has been working for quite some time on the history of anthropology. His paper provides us with new information on the actual place where the Anthropological Survey of India was set up.

We are planning to publish another volume with the contributions from some of the senior anthropologists who have given their consent to send papers for the volume. With the hope that their contributions will enrich us, may I take this opportunity once again to convey my sincere regards to the contributors and readers of this journal. Diaspora has received much attention in the contemporary social science discourses. Kumar and Kumar have dealt with the significance of Indian Chinese diaspora in bilateral relationship. The journal acknowledges the authors for the maps, photographs etc. provided by them in their articles.

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