Editorial

The current issue of *Loyola Journal* reaches you at a time when the world is slowly recuperating from the pandemic of Covid 19. Though, we are in a stage of partial recovery, the apprehensions and uncertainty still surround us in many forms. It has been a challenge for the editorial team of LJSS too to bring out this issue amidst these constraints. In fact, Loyola goes a step further and proudly announce the news that Loyola Journal is now available online also, as the whole world is going virtual.

Five papers are included in the current issue representing pertinent social issues. The major themes under focus are **Self-Esteem, Family Structure and Cyber Intimate Image Diffusion among Deaf Adolescents; Shifting Gender Priorities in Transboundary Communities of India and Nepal in the Context of Disasters; Challenges of Online Learning in a South African University; Happiness and Personality Traits of Care Professionals in Kerala and Illegal Migration and Cross Border Crimes in South Africa.**

Employing communication privacy management theory, the paper by **Adigun** examines the role of **gender, age, self-esteem and family structures of deaf adolescents on intimate image diffusion behaviour**. It is a quantitative research, conducted among deaf in-school children. The study results show that deaf adolescents perceive intimate images diffusion as fun though they are aware that it is a dangerous romantic activity. This study contents that self-esteem is a strong determinant of cyber-intimate image diffusion among deaf adolescents. Hence, the author suggests strong interventions to boost the self-esteem of deaf adolescents to mitigate the overwhelmingly negative practice of diffusion of intimate images.

The disasters in the river Kosi form the context of discussions in the paper **Shifting Gender Priorities in Transboundary Communities of India and Nepal** by **Gade**. The research was conducted in the Indo-Nepal border taking two districts namely Saptari of Nepal and Supaul in India which are the two districts most vulnerable to floods. Applying risk governance framework and hydro-hegemony theory, the author used focus group discussions with transboundary communities to collect qualitative data. The study concludes that the disaster infrastructure over the transboundary river gets impacted through disasters, crippling the life of the community creating serious implications on gender roles. Highlighting the improper disaster warning

systems, the author suggests the need for capacity building of institutions to implement gender friendly disaster management programmes.

The third paper entitled **Corona virus pandemic and change to online learning in one South African private higher education institution,** by **Lebelo, Moloi and Jaffer** discusses the emerging issue of challenges in online education in the context of the Covid 19 pandemic. A combination of Community of Inquiry (CoI) framework and interpretive action research were employed to explain the issue. It was found that the poorest students are the most affected, negatively, due to poor internet access and online learning resources. The author proposes a private-public university partnership and implementation of a hybrid teaching-learning process as solutions to the challenges of online learning in South Africa.

In his paper, **Prakash** delineates the level of **happiness of nurses in Kerala.** The paper also explores the personality dispositions of nurses on work and happiness. Using a cross-sectional design, the author covered 474 nurses working in different hospitals belonging to diverse sectors and generations in Kerala. The study established a positive correlation between happiness and personality traits of nurses. It was found that the private sector nurses are less happy than their public sector counter parts. Also, nurses belonging to millennial generation are not found to be as happy as those in the generation X. The paper recommends serious intervention by state government to address the issues of nurses.

The last paper in this issue is a qualitative study on **Illegal migration and cross border crimes in South Africa** by **Mlambo and Adetiba.** This study reveals that South Africa's borders were suffering from policy misalignment and years of under investments. The authors criticise the South African government who downplayed the need for regional cooperation in addressing the cross-border issues by following a unilateral approach. The study warns that the failure to address illegal migration and cross border crime risks would threaten national security. Regional cooperation, eliminating internal policy gaps and improving the working conditions of border officials were suggested to be key actions to reduce illegal migration and cross border crime this country.

I gratefully remember the unstinting support of the Loyola College Management, Dr Saji P. Jacob, the Chief Editor, Dr.Nevin Stephen, the language editor and all the reviewers for their valuable contributions in bringing out this volume amidst the days of Covid lockdown.

Prakash Pillai R. Ph.D.