

Editorial

Prakash Pillai R

*PG and Research Department of Personnel
Management, Loyola College of Social Sciences
Thiruvananthapuram, India.*

The world is still under the threat of the pandemic, and the people are anxious about the hit of another wave. Several academic discourses are still centred around the theme of the novel coronavirus. In the first article, **Mavengano, Marevesa and Nkamta**, discuss such a topic on the political struggles involved in the management of the global pandemic. Applying a critical discourse analysis perspective, this paper examined the semiotics of power and diplomatic tensions that have characterised the global public health crisis in the COVID-19 pandemic, as managed by the World Health Organisation (WHO). It concluded that politics have profoundly complicated COVID-19 discourses. The author attempted to highlight the implications of such discourses by proposing to re-consider them as sites of power struggles in the current context of global public health.

The second article, by **Sujin Mathew**, covers the dynamics of the formation of collective self among political groups in the context of violence, specifically between BJP-RSS and CPI(M) in the Malabar region in the state of Kerala, India. It is prepared based on ethnographic and anthropological reflections of the author who argues that there are interconnections between political violence and collective-self creation among the political groups. The paper reveals that political tensions lead to collective self-consciousness where 'we-ness,' role-playing, confinement to identity, and strength get the upper hand while guilt or failure is counted as weakness.

Christopher Dick-Sagoe and Nyamadi Christo in their paper focus on the Community Participation in District Development Facility funded Projects in the Adentan Municipality of Ghana. The study followed a descriptive research design covering a sample of 174 community members, 6 assembly members, and 3 key district assembly staff. The study provides evidence of low community participation in project planning, implementation, and project site (location) determination. It also found that the community members have limited knowl-

edge of development projects within their community, and there is a wide gap between the community's priorities and development projects, evidence of waste, and misdirected use of public resources. The author has provided pragmatic recommendations to increase effective community participation and accountability.

In the fourth article on Cruelty as a Discourse, **Sumat Balachandran** carried out a Socio-cultural Analysis of Theatres from the East and West. The author proposes that every culture and society have a common trait rooted deep, and their expression can be studied through literature and art media. This paper traced the common link that indirectly bonds every community as we look into the unconscious efforts of that society collectively. Here in this study, a comparison between the Western theatre of Cruelty and the Eastern performance of *Mudiyettu* is considered. By applying the theoretical perspective proposed by Jung for the analysis, it was found that the influence of similar archetypal imageries by these varying cultures is used for bringing out the proper purgation of emotions through art and performance.

The last article in this issue is a theoretical exposition on the Implications of New Public Governance (NPG) on Public Expenditure Management (PEM) written by **Gwiza and Jarbandhan**. Taking the frame of Social Network Theory, the authors interrogate its value in exploring the nature and context of emerging PEM issues. The analysis revealed that while NPG has been widely applied in exploring the current and growing complex PEM issues, it is not the solution to fully comprehend the emerging complex government expenditure management issues. The paper proposes that a hybrid theoretical construct, anchored on, citizen participation, innovation, inter-organizational linkages, and mutual trust can be more effective in providing a solid theoretical base for exploring the extant global complex PEM challenges.