

SOCIAL SCIENCE GAZETTEER

JOURNAL OF THE INDIAN SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

Volume 13 Number 1&2 January-December 2018

CONTENTS

Editorial		3
Sociology of Sanitation	Bindeshwar Pathak	5
Contract Pregnancy and Contract Mothers: Partners in Development or Gendered Development	Bula Bhadra	21
Gender Ageing: Concepts and Approaches	Vineeta Srivastava	53
Roadside Dwellers: A Corollary of Urbanisation and Globalization	Divya Gupta	73
Becoming Dangaria: A Psycho-cultural Study of Female Traditional Healers of Kumoun	Meena K. Kharkwal	83
Does Expanding Frontiers of Civil Society Extend Women Development?	K. Gulam Dasthagir and Shilpita Gine	93

EDITORIAL

This issue of the journal contains five articles on diverse topics. Bindeshwar Pathak in his paper discusses the Sociology of Sanitation. Historically, the journey of sanitation is from no problem (no latrines or specific places for defecation) to problem (of open defecation). Inadequate sanitation is now a social malady and a major cause of disease. It calls for action on the part of the sociologists. Pathak provides both theoretical and practical perspectives within which to study and operate sanitation scientifically. Sulabh International in this regard is a classic example of a model-building exercise in designing and developing sanitation systems for different nations and organizations. Pathak feels that it has not only restored human rights and dignity but also promoted environmental concerns and rural development. Sulabh's outreach also finds mention in the emancipation of 25,000 scavengers, and the widows of Vrindavan, helping them financially and also by encouraging remarriage.

“Contract Pregnancy and Contract Mothers: Partners in Development or Gendered Development” is the paper by Bula Bhadra. It interrogates the globalization of reproductive inequalities and rights of Indian women for self determination over their own bodies. He brings in technologies as well as social identities on the same plane to discuss the gender divide. Poor women sell eggs or rent their uteruses to affluent women today. The author questions if this is the new variety of division of labour and concomitant inequality. The paper also discusses the intersectionality in reproductive technologies which cannot be separated from the study of a matrix of power relations. There is a clear exploitation of women in the medicalization of women's bodies. This is a crisis that needs to be addressed. All these things are happening under the umbrella of medical tourism. While this may be a genuine choice, choice itself is a real complicated and most contentious word in case of contract pregnancy and commercial surrogacy. Ironically the surrogate mothers add to the informal economy of the country.