

## Editorial

The term “North East India” is a political and administrative construct. The North East is official referred to as the North East Region (NER). Today, the NER comprises of eight states – the contiguous the Seven Sister States viz., Arunachal, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura, and Sikkim. The NER is officially recognised by the North Eastern Council (NEC). For political and administrative reasons, the NER continues to evolve - the addition of the state of Sikkim with the region in 2002 affirms the fact that the NER is an administrative construct and seem to be not fixed yet. The Seven Sister States formerly used for the NER has undergone a modification with the inclusion of the Sikkim – the second smallest and least populous state in India.

Diversity and respect for the ‘different others’ is at the root of the NER. The reference of the different North Eastern States as NER/North East India seem a simple and easy description of the region. However, the simple and easy portrayal of the region may sound or strike the code of uniformity, which is not the spirit of the region. The NER is known for its ‘differences’ and the NER is because of its ‘differences’, its ‘differences’ must be appreciated and acknowledged. The narrative of homogeneity and uniformity possess a grave danger to the NER, which is a composite of ‘different others.’ The North East is a harmony of many differences and a region which harnesses and cultivate a ‘unity of differences.’ The discourse of the region’s harmony and unity is, harmony and unity is not in spite of differences but because of differences. It is dialogue that realises, differences are beautiful and the differences are those which cement the unity/harmony. Anchoring on the narration of beauty and reality of differences of the region, this edition of the journal is opened to the various themes and topics for discussion, which ranges from cultural practices to theatrical performance.

*The Influence of Social Referents on Alcohol Use Behaviour of College Students* focuses on a cultural community of Arunachal Pradesh. Alcohol continues to be a choice for many youth, leading to serious physical, psychological and social consequences. There is a level of association between drinking behaviour and the attitude of social referents to drinking on the drinking behaviour of the adolescents and their attitude to drinking. This finding is based on interaction with college going graduate students of West Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh.

*The Angami Naga Society: Continuity and Change*, deals with the dynamic nature of human society, particularly the Angami society. Observation and interview are employed as methodological tools to understand the Angami Naga Society, particularly their social organisations and their women. The traditional practices and culture of the Angami society are examined to comprehend changes in the traditional practices. Social change in the Angami society is linear, and there is an interface between the tradition and modernity.

*From Presence to Decision-making: Understanding 'Participation'*, affirms that community 'participation' or 'consultation' or 'discourse' are terms, which always mark their presence in the policy documents prepared under present welfare programmes. It brings to light the difference between the ideas of participation as understood in democratic governance and the way it is practised and implemented. The concept of participation as understood by Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs), funding organizations and the government are dealt with.

*An Evaluation of the Pulmonary Function Tests and their Association with Age and Body Mass Index (BMI) in the Southern Angami Population*, evaluates the differences in Pulmonary Function Tests (PFTs) between the males and female, and the various age groups of the Southern Angamis. Further, an evaluation between the age and the body mass index (BMI) using PFTs was made to find out the significant relationships if any. Males have significantly higher values of PFTs as compared to the females. The values of the PFTs were also found to decrease with the increase in age in both males and females. Age correlates negatively with PFTs. BMI, which is an important measure of

the overall body mass, is also found to be negatively correlated with the PFTs.

*Territorially Based Concepts of Culture and their Effects on the Making and Reception of Theatrical Performances*, critically analyses and reflects upon the territorially based concepts of culture and their effects on the making and reception of theatrical performances. Theatrical performances such as, Tim Supple's adaptation of *The Midsummer Night's Dream*, Peter Brook's *Mahabharata* and the writer's own performance *Milestones* are analysed and deliberated upon. A challenge of culture, which is territorially based is postured.

*Understanding Delinquency as a Sequel of Father-son Relationship*, emphatically asserts that fathers are indispensable in the lives of children. The father plays a major role in the nurturing and grooming of children, and has a role in the transition of children to adulthood. It attempts to understand the relationship between the father and the child, and the impact on children whose fathers are offenders themselves. A sharing of children whose father left a void in their lives were documented.

The academic discourses and intellectual engagements of the North East initiates a re-imaging and a better understanding of the region and its peoples with perspectives other than stereotyping. The diversity in the region is such that there is no single path to apprehend the region, but be open to the many differences and varied perspective in perceiving the North East.

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