

## Editors' Note

Migration has always been a complex process as it involves various aspects of human life and can take different forms and have different outcomes. Migration can be forced or voluntary, at the mass level or the individual level and it can affect people differently as the conditions and the state responses are different for each case. Starting from the forced mass migrations under slavery to (slavery-like) Indenture system to the economic migrations in the globalised world, the migrants experience different consequences as they relocate themselves to new locations temporarily or permanently. In the process, they continue to practice their socio-cultural norms while at the same time imbibing the new customs and conditions. The new sub-cultures that evolved as a result of intermixing of two or more cultures find expression in different ways and literature is one of them. The diasporic writings are a mixed expression of nostalgia and amnesia.

The first paper in this issue “Migrants’ Memories: Migrant Labourers in Abhimanyu Anant’s Novel *Lal Pasina* or *Red Sweat* (1977)” written Anand Mahanand is based on diasporic memories. *Lal Pasina* can be translated in English as *Red Sweat* or *Blood Sweat*. The novel tells the story of ‘migrants from India who travelled through the sea route to Mauritius in the nineteenth centuries to earn their living by working in sugarcane fields’. It is an account of exploitation, human suffering, and struggle but at the same time is also a reservoir of cultural narratives. The novel highlights the relationship between memory and history to show that people’s collective memory that comes through their experiences, culture, writings, songs, etc. including fiction contribute to the formation of history.

One of the difficult and marginalized aspects of migration has been gender

*Editors' Note*

and women related issues. Although women constitute almost half of the total number of migrants, their representation in the migration discourse has been marginal. Studies show that migration can 'provide new opportunities to women and help them to challenge various oppressive patriarchal structures of society' but at the same time increase their vulnerabilities in many cases. In the present times with the increasing number of women as independent migrants and the rise of women-specific employment opportunities, there has been a rise of gendered perspective in migration studies. Two papers in this volume delve into the various aspect of women and migration. The next paper "Gender and South Asian Migration: Challenges and Way Forward" written by Anisur Rahman and Niharika Tiwari discusses international migration, especially the migration of women from South Asia. It examines how the 'feminist objective of gender equality affects international migration and gets influenced by it'. The rationale behind this research paper is to 'identify the areas where feminist and migrant discourses interact with each other'.

The other paper on gender is titled as "Gender perspective in mental health and the Ulysses Syndrome Studies: A Literature Review" written by Itzel Eguiluz. It brings out another very important aspect of the present times which is mental health. This article presents a phased systematic review of literature on migration, the Ulysses syndrome including 91 results. Mental health and Ulysses syndrome research do not consider a gender perspective. Migrant women have structural inequalities due to their gender, which distinguish them from men. Also, they face different risks and vulnerabilities due to structural violence. The objective of this article is to 'review whether research on the mental health of migrant populations includes a gender per-

spective, especially when working with the Ulysses syndrome'.

The discourse on the Diaspora cannot be complete without a discussion on the Indian Diaspora which is one of the largest Diasporas in the world. Studies on the Indian diaspora has attempted to systematically examine its diverse aspects. The history of the Indian diaspora in Canada is a fascinating example of the journey from a rejected group to the ruling class elite in contemporary Canadian society. There are two papers in this issue that deals with different aspects of the Indian Diaspora. The paper titled "The Sikh Community in Canada" by Rajender Bugga and Nagaraju Gundemedamaps out 'the making of the Indian Diaspora in Canada with special reference to the Punjabi Sikh community. It examines the formation of identities in general and Sikhs in particular and how the Sikh Diaspora plays a key role in shaping the political dynamics of Canada and the political dialectics of India and Punjab. The study argues that the making of the Sikh Diaspora in Canada is an outcome of the historical demands of home and host nations.

The other paper on the Indian Diaspora is titled "Marginality and Embodies Practices: Exploring Chicago's Little India" written by Kiranmayi Bhushi. It is a well-known fact that the Indian diaspora in the US is considered one of the most successful communities. But along with this successful Diaspora there exist, migrants who are unaccounted for and work as cab drivers, helps in shops, domestic servants etc. They 'often live in ethnic enclaves and spaces that are on the margins, spaces that somehow defy the logic of what 'America' is about'. This essay seeks to understand 'the dwellings and subjectivities of the marginal working-class diaspora' through 'their spatial arrangements, bodily practices and the culinary otherness as a way of claiming the urban

*Editors' Note*  
space'.

The issue has five critical reviews of books covering different aspects of migration and diaspora- their aspiration, mobility, vulnerabilities etc.

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