

Vivekananda College
 (NAAC "A" Grade)
 University of Delhi
Golden Jubilee Year (1970-2020)

3 Day International Conference
 Perspectives on Peace and Sustainable Development in a World of Conflict
 13-15 February 2020

Final Slots

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THEME 1: Analyzing Conflict and Understanding Peace

1. Conflict and its Causes -1

Madhu Mahaur, Assistant Professor, B.Ed Department, T.R.K.Mahavidyalay, Aligarh
madhumahor189@gmail.com

Conflict is a state of discord caused by the actual or perceived opposition of needs, values and interest. A conflict can be internal or external. Conflict explains many aspects of social life such as social disagreement, conflict of interests and fight between individuals, groups or organization.

In political terms, 'conflict' can refer to wars, revolutions or other struggles, which may involve use of force. Without proper social arrangement or resolution, conflict in a social setting can result in stress or tension among stakeholders. Conflict arises when two or more parties, with perceived incompatible goals, seek to undermine each other's goal-seeking capability. Conflict arises in situations of competition and co-operation. In competitive situations, two or more individuals or parties have mutually inconsistent goal, and undermine the attempts of the other to reach theirs. Therefore, competitive situations will, by their nature, cause conflict.

Conflicts arise: (1) when two or more individuals or groups think differently. (2) by different perceptions that different individuals hold about the same object or goal. (3) because of scarcity of resources. When people compete for scarce resources, they hold different views about how best they can utilize those resources to achieve the organizational goals. (4) Personality clashes, unrealistic needs and expectations, unresolved workplace issues, excessive competition, differences in goals, interdependence of tasks etc.

A clash of interests, values, actions or directions often results in conflict. Conflict refers to an existence of that clash. Psychologically, conflict exists when reduction of one motivation stimulus involves an increase in another so that new adjustment is demanded. Even when we say there is a potential conflict, we are implying that there is already a conflict of direction even though a clash may yet have not occurred.

Keywords: Conflict, causes of conflict, competition

2. Conflict and its Causes-2

Md Abu Tarique, Research Scholar, Department of Geography, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi,
tarique2k7@gmail.com

Conflict is a social affair in which two communities or groups are antagonistic towards each other with respect to the goal they want to achieve while living in the same geographical/territorial area. It is often caused due to resource utilization and power sharing. Conflicts are very much embedded in the social hierarchy. According to Max Weber "the conflict cannot be excluded from social life" and every society experiences conflict at some point in time. The present paper will assess the causes of conflict in the social hierarchy system of India. In India, conflicts are very common whether they relate to religion, ethnicity or caste. The present paper will focus on violence in *Sukki Village* under *Patepur Block* of *Vaishali district* in North Bihar. The Block has a long history of conflict based on land disputes. It expresses this in the form violence and killing of people. The present conflict is basically a resource-based struggle in the same territory and is the result of

struggle for power. This paper will also try to relate conflict in terms of population-resource base and struggle for resources. The paper will further try to look into the origin of conflicts rooted in feelings of being ignored and not having reaped the fruits of development.

Keywords: Incompatibility, Sukki, population-resource, violence, conflict, causes

3. Understanding Peace & Conflict-A Qualitative Inquiry across Four Nations

Ammaarah Nilafdeen, Undergraduate Scholar, Department of Psychology, Gargi College, University of Delhi, Delhi, ammaarah.29@gmail.com

Sabeen H. Rizvi, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Gargi College, University of Delhi, Delhi, sabeen.h.rizvi@gargi.du.ac.in

The South Asian region has a history of long-running conflicts both within and between nations. The present study attempts to decipher the understanding of the constructs of “Peace” and “Conflict” from the perspective of University students of four South Asian nations – Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The purpose of this study is to gain a cross-cultural understanding of how the current generation perceives the concepts of peace and conflict - its maintenance and contributing factors within the region. 70 participants in the age range of 18-29 years (Mean = 22.55 SD = 2.77) recruited through a convenience sampling method, answered a survey containing questions pertaining to Peace and Conflict. The data was obtained between the months of August and September 2019. Thematic Analysis was used to identify overarching themes in the responses obtained. The study is significant in giving an insight into the semantics of peace and factors contributing to ensuring peace and triggering conflict in the region. The underlying implications may help in designing interventions for promoting peaceful co-existence in the South Asian region. Similar constructs have been explored by Sacipa, Ballesteros, Cardozo, Navoa, & Tovar (2006) in a sample of Columbian adults who reported gender and generational differences in the understanding of the construct of peace and related factors.

Keywords: Peace, conflict, South Asia, youth, thematic analysis

4. Conflicts – The Lighthouse for Development

Anam, Postgraduate scholar, MA (English), Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, anam.suninfinite@gmail.com

The universe was born from a state of absolute peace. By scientific conflicts a tiny light that contained all of the space emerged and become its foster parent. In the span of 13.8 billion years, trends have shown that conflicts irrespective of form and scale prove to be the zygotes that lead to the magnification/development of their respective or blue shift or both phylons. Where as peace played the role of amniotic fluid in every round of parturition. But anomalously, the concept of conflict is escalating in a worrisome form in the contemporary world. It is trying to replace its elements by the elements of the concept 'peace'. The purpose of this academic paper is to express my belief that the duty of all life forms irrespective of taxonomic domain, especially of rational social animals as they are the finest invention of cosmos in our knowledge, is to protect and protract the expanding macrocosm from re-establishing absolute peace. By literary research on physical-

cosmological, anatomical, sociological and economical branches, the main argument is peace is not something to crave for; hoping for and treating conflicts with relative peace is the natural scientific aim of all sagacious living organisms.

Keywords: Conflict, Peace, duty of life forms, cosmos

5. Tribal Understanding of Peace, Sustainability and Development: A Way Beyond Assimilation and Preservation from the Lances of the Step Children of Mother India

Muskaan, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi, muskaaneversmiling@gmail.com

No one can think of making world peaceful if he or she does not feel peace within, such is the story of many of tribal communities of Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujrat and others. Natural Resources named 'JAL-JANGAL-ZAMEEN' are the backbone of tribal community's existence strategies. Minor forest products, (gum, medicinal plants, fodder, wood, vegetables) are not only essential for their daily use but tribal community also use them to earn their livelihood. Especially tribal women are completely dependent upon these natural and common property resources (CPRs). Development induced Displacement segregates them from these resources and further pushes them in vulnerability.

Unfortunately, even after seven decades of independence, Indian Governments have been failed to do the needful for these people. Scholars like Amartya Sen, Satyajit Singh, MichealCernia, Walter Fernandes, Vasudha Dhagamvar, S. Parsuraman claim that actually these communities are 'Victims of Development'. Mega Industrial Projects like Vedanta Project in Niyamgiri district of Odisha, POSCO project in Jagatsinghpur districts, Land Acquisition for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are examples to understand the state's definition of development at the cost of the citizens. This paper aims to discuss the dichotomy present between Economic Development and Human Development. Also, this paper focuses on issues like development, displacement, disparity in India, resettlement and rehabilitation from the lances of tribal and women.

Key Words: Tribal, Women, displacement, development, disparity, peace, sustainability

THEME 2: Sustainable Development Goals: Transformational Agenda for India and the World

6. Sustainable Development in India: Challenges and Efforts made to achieve Goals of Sustainable Development by 2030

Anita Srivastava, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Dr. BR Ambedkar College, University of Delhi, Delhi, anita.srivastavabrac@gmail.com

Today, in the era of globalization where all the countries are trying to get ahead of each other on the path of development and for this all possible measures are being taken from industrialization to exploitation of natural resources. India is booming and sustainable development becomes increasingly more important. Sustainable development is commitment towards social progress accelerated economic growth and increased environmental conservation. The resolution of 'Transforming Our World': The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was accepted by 193 countries including India in September 2015. By adopting this agenda, the countries are moving forward for achieving a world free from poverty, gender inequality and economic inequality and thereby ensuring a healthy planet for future generations. India has been progressing rapidly towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Many programs have already been implemented to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, such as Clean India campaign, Digital India etc. However, government is facing many challenges in the path of sustainability such as poor state of infrastructures, social and regional imbalances, large share of global population & water and energy shortages. This paper is descriptive in nature based on secondary data and focuses on the various challenges associated with sustainability & efforts made for sustainable development in India.

Keywords: Sustainable Development, India, challenges, 'Transforming Our World'

7. Achieving SDGs Amidst Conflicts in South Asia: A Study with Special Reference to India

Anjana Kumari, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi, aanjanakum63@gmail.com

South Asia covers around 3.5 percent of the world's land surface and hosts a fourth of world's population. This region therefore has significant importance in the international development. The region faces myriad economic and environmental challenges as more than 30 percent of the world's poor people reside in this region. Thus, sustainable development goals (SDGs) become much significant for South Asian countries like India. After experiencing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the UN General Assembly pondered upon the 17-point new goals known as SDG, to complete the remaining task of development. It has often been identified that sustainable development can be pursued only in peaceful and stabilize conditions and vice-versa. Therefore, SDGs envisage a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet both for the present and future generations. Through the implementation of SDGs conflicts should be resolved both at national and international levels. For the achievement of SDGs, peace based on social justice and inclusive societies is the need of the hour. The specific SDGs like ending poverty (SDG-1), ensuring food security (SDG-2) and water resources (SDG-6), will face conflicting interests of the affluent and powerful sections of our society. India has to be a resilient society to deflect the threat of conflict by investing in good governance, reducing inequality and

improving living conditions. In case of developing country like India, the implementation of SDGs requires international and regional cooperation. In the light of above conditions, the present paper intends to underline the conflicts and its resolution in achieving a few selected SDGs (like end of poverty, food security and sustaining environment, etc.) in South Asia in general and India in particular.

Key Words: Conflicts, Resolution of conflicts, Sustainable development goals (SDGs), South Asia, India, Poverty, Food Security, Water, India

8. Unpacking the Business Case of Sustainability: Challenges and Possibilities

Garima Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Mata Sundri College, University of Delhi, Delhi, garimak@hotmail.com

Two facets of marketing practices and consumption patterns in the urban uptowns and amongst the rural poor are highlighted. The relevance of the concepts of Business Case of Sustainability and Customer Relationship Management (CRM) in the rural marketing space, within the context of an FMCG organization is contemplated upon. The win –win assumption of Corporate Social Responsibility is questioned at the Bottom of the Pyramid by highlighting the limits within which corporate organizations can strive to ‘do good’ for the communities they serve. The rural consumers feel marginalized and excluded, while aspiring to be like their urban counterparts who seem to be moving towards a phase of hyper-consumerism, as they fail to make sense of market mechanisms that aim to offer products of little value to them. This is further exacerbated by the meagre disposable income and limited cognitive capacities due to illiteracy. The possible ways in which the poor can benefit from socially responsible forms of market mechanisms and policies of the Government are deliberated. Interventions at the socio-psychological level and a bottom up approach to policy formulation can go a long way in accomplishing the twin goals of “profit maximization and poverty alleviation.” The study draws on empirical evidence from qualitative interpretive research, based on semi-structured interviews document analyses, and participant observation and case examples of other organizations who have adopted a BCS approach. Data was analyzed using grounded theory method and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA).

Key words: Sustainability, Business Case of Sustainability, Customer Relationship Management (CRM), rural marketing space, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), rural consumers

9. Sustainable Development Goals: With Special Reference to India

*Geeta Kichlu, Associate Professor, Gargi College, University of Delhi, Delhi, geetakichlu@gmail.com
Sangeeta Jerath, Associate Professor, Gargi College, University of Delhi, Delhi, sangeetajerath@gmail.com*

2030 Agenda for sustainable development through its package of seventeen indivisible Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) covers social, economic and environmental dimensions of development. It is designed to enable countries to respond to these developmental challenges ranging from climate crisis, to rising inequalities and protracted conflict which cannot be dealt with in isolation. The way countries work and the solutions they develop must be integrated. There

is an urgent need to disrupt traditional approaches to development and adapt our thinking to a rapidly changing landscape if we are to meet the SDG. It is the fact that sustainable development cannot be achieved without peace, stability, human rights and effective governance yet the world is increasingly divided. Some regions enjoy peace, security and prosperity, while others fall into seemingly endless cycles of conflict and violence. This divide is not inevitable and must be addressed. All states are hence, equally responsible in finding shared solutions to the world's challenges.

All 17 Goals are interconnected; therefore success in one affects the success of others. Dealing with the threat of climate change impacts, how we manage our fragile natural resources, achieving gender equality or better health helps eradicate poverty and fostering peace and inclusive societies will reduce inequalities and help economies to prosper. In short, this is the greatest chance we have to improve life for future generations. Thus, the study would discuss to what extent India has adopted the SDGs and the role of various stakeholders in achieving the goals defined in SDGs. By achieving sustainable development, the planet would be safer, prosperous and peaceful for all humanity.

Keywords: SDG, India, peace, human rights, humanity, governance

10. In Pursuit of Sustainable Development Goals: A Study of the Contributions of Current Indian English Eco-fiction

Jindagi Kumari, Assistant Professor (English), Department of Applied Sciences, MSIT (GGSIPU), New Delhi, jindagiismu@gmail.com

The year of Climate Action Summit, and Greta Thunberg's thundering speech, reminds that climate crisis is every one's responsibility and litterateurs are no exceptions. Amitav Ghosh's *The Great Derangement*, critiques modern politics, history, and literature for an "Imaginative failure" to predict or plan for climate crisis; the issue of "our collective survival".(Ghosh 170) Development of the modern fiction in Europe, for example, relegated the representation of improbable environmental phenomenon towards the background and made novels "human-centric." Modern Indian poets and novelists aped the Western models of creative expressions and lost their connection to traditional Indian thoughts and literature of which Nature was an integral part. Ghosh's latest fiction, *Gun Island*, mainstreams climatic issues and proves that nature-centric narratives can be moving. A host of new writers such as Rajat Chaudhury and Indra Sinha, too, demonstrate a newfound awareness of creative responsibility to environment and Nature in their fictional tales. The work of these writers is often classified as Eco-Fiction.

The paper aims to examine the selected Indian English Eco-Fiction to map and evaluate its role, direction, and contributions in "galvanise (ing) broad-based societal concern and instigate change." As for method, the study would use Eco-critical insight for textual analysis.

Keywords: SDG, Indian English Eco-Fiction, Gun Island, The Great Derangement, Amitav Ghosh, Eco-critical insight, Rajat Chaudhury, Indra Sinha

THEME 3a: Zones of Conflict and Violence: Gender and Caste Relations

11. Caste, Gender and Conflicts: Reading Dalit Women's Writings

Anchala Paliwal, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi, anchala86@gmail.com

Caste and gender are two prominent markers along which multiple conflicts in India have emerged in recent times. As part of long overdue struggles, such conflicts are perhaps inevitable in the pursuit of an egalitarian society. In this paper, there will be an attempt to analyse the diverse ways in which caste hierarchies and gender roles have been challenged, and ensuing conflicts have been confronted in Dalit Women's Writings. Caste and gender as two discreet identity markers are often treated as additives, however, on further theoretical probing it is revealed that they may or may not impinge on each other and the codes of gender could differ on the basis of both caste and class. It results in certain overlapping domains and many peculiar workings of norms of gender, caste and class. Situating conflicts in such an enmeshed framework is indicative of complexities inherent in society. In Dalit women's writings, there are strong assertive women who tirelessly break gender norms and in turn, unshackle caste rigidities. The resistance and responses of Dalit women towards various conflicts and their active participation in some, are also analysed in this paper.

Keywords: Caste, Gender, Dalit women, Dalit literature

12. A History of Dalit Women, by Dalit Women

Shibangi Dash, M.Phil. Research Scholar, Department of English, University of Delhi, Delhi, shibangidash@gmail.com

Recording the rebellion of the oppressed becomes a crucial step in historicizing them. It becomes more important for the triply marginalized *dalit* women who have been de-historicized for years. Mahatma Jotiba Phule and Savitribai Phule lit the torchlight for women in the anti-caste intellectual tradition. This cause was furthered by Pandita Ramabai, E. V. Ramasamy 'Periyar' and later Babasaheb Ambedkar. Despite the efforts by all these stalwarts, dalit women and dalit women activists at large had remained nameless and de-historicized. Dalit women with their marginalized narratives were given their due visibility only in the late 1980s by the untiring efforts of Meenakshi Moon and Urmila Pawar. This paper seeks to explore the role played by Pawar and Moon for dalit women in the 'anti caste intellectual history'. This paper will explore few key questions. Firstly, despite the efforts of Phule, Periyar and Ambedkar, why these triply marginalized women were obliterated from the history books till recently. Secondly, further problematizing the debate of dalit experientiality, this paper will also question the erasure of upper caste women during Ambedkar movement in the documentation by Pawar and Moon. Thirdly, this paper interrogates the process of asserting identity. Is it the identity of the individual or that of the community that is being ascertained in the process of seeking dalit identity?

Keywords: Dalit women, identity, marginalized women, Ambedkar movement, Urmila Pawar, Meenakshi Moon

13. Demystifying the Caste Conflict: An Analysis

Anita Bhatt, Postgraduate scholar, M.A (English), USHSS, GGSIPU, Dwarka, New Delhi, anitab167@gmail.com

India boasts of myriad class, caste, religion, tribes and languages. These differentiations have existed since the beginning of civilizations all over the world. These dimensions overlap each other but this overlapping becomes problematic as soon as they are used for systematic ranking and in turn unequal distribution of basic rights. India's past is blotched with the caste oppression. One of the most inhumane and unjust conflict that haunts us till now. With current socio-political surroundings caste conflicts are all time high. This paper aims to examine the caste conflict through two different postcolonial texts. On one hand *Samskara* [U.R Ananath Murthy, A.K Ramanujan, 2000] where author presents the hypocritical nature of caste system and on the other hand *Jevha Mi Jaat Chorli Hoti* [*When I hid my caste* - short stories by Baburao Bagul, Jerry Pinto, 2018] a revolutionary text presenting radical realism of Dalit life. These two different narratives with the same aim of exposing the absurd and implacable nature of caste system encourage us to consider the political and social aspect of fiction. These works have been analysed not just through a literary view, but as windows to the social and political state of casteism in India. This paper concludes with exploring possibility how modern ideas can bring peace to the long standing conflict and violence associated with the caste system.

Keywords: Caste, Dalit narratives, Conflict, postcolonial texts, Samskara, Jevha Mi Jaat Chorli Hoti, U.R Ananath Murthy, A.K Ramanujan, Baburao Bagul, Jerry Pinto

14. Identifying Conflict in Sophie Mackintosh's *The Water Cure*

Chaandreyi Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi, chaandreyi.m@gmail.com

Sophie Mackintosh's *The Water Cure* is a story of three sisters living on an isolated island. Conflict and its interrogation provide the premise of the novel which in turn is structured in a post apocalyptic manner with a clear binary between the world of the island (pure, sacred, different) and the outside world (disease ridden, contagious, harmful). Women as narrators, perpetrators, victims and observers claim the island as their home and transform the novel into a particularly female space. Shattering the myth of wholesome sisterhood and powerful female space is the mention of their father, interestingly called the King. What becomes clear is that the creation of the female space is actually the brainchild of the King. Desire- its articulation and repression becomes an important subtext in the novel. This paper would analyze the subtle messages about social conditioning in the novel and the conflicts of gender. This paper would also look into the so called story of Womanhood - its construction, dismantling and assimilation. What would ascertain a dialogue of peace in such a scenario? The resolution of conflict in this case is simultaneously associated with its problematization.

Keywords: Conflicts of gender, Sophie Mackintosh, 'The Water Cure', womanhood, gender, resolution of conflict

15. In Search of Her Land: Studying the Gender Conflict through Feminist Utopia

Ruchita Machal, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Motilal Nehru College, University of Delhi, Delhi, rini.machal@gmail.com

Science fiction (SF) addresses the dilemmas of contemporary world as it foregrounds an infrastructure based on the socio-historic pattern of the present situation. SF creates an argument for the future built on the paradigm of the present-day ethos with imagined humans battling a crisis similar to our present world. Visions of these hypothetical and fantastical world are coded in elemental if not primordial patterns of the socio-historic pursuit of the contemporary. The typology of a literary utopia offers a political commentary on the social order and explores the possibilities of alternate ways of living and being. The cognitive underpinning of a utopia is essentially dualistic – it works as a comparison between the present state and the ideal/alternate state of reality. Feminist revisions in utopian genre question the hierarchical notion of gendered milieu and challenge the conflicting and fractured identities in the post-war setup. Feminist utopias are consistent with the approximations of a peaceful resolve to the present crisis. The objective of this paper will be to offer a reading on the conflicting ideals of a gendered society in feminist utopian writings which project a congenial alternative to the male supremacist ideology.

Keywords: Science fiction, utopia, feminist utopia, conflicting identities, gender conflict

THEME 3b: Zones of Conflict and Violence: Gender and Caste Relations

16. Disabling Women: A Study of “Lohi ni Sagai” by Ishwar Petlikar and “Shruti ane Smruti” by Chandrakant Bakshi

Dr. Divya Shah, Assistant Professor of English, Centre of Education, Indian Institute of Teacher Education, Gandhinagar

Dr. Zarana Maheshwary, Assistant Professor, CL&TS, SLL&CS, Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, zaranamaheshwary@gmail.com

Scholarly inquiries into the disciplines of gender and disability often draw parallel between them, as both are perceived as socially constructed categories. However, it is significant to note that the mainstream feminist strand during the seventies which celebrates difference among women incorporates most of the categories such as class, marital status, sexuality and so on but overlooks women with disability as it perceives them as reinforcing “traditional stereotype of women being dependent, passive and needy” (Fine and Asch, 1988).

The disability scholars have realized the need “to reconceptualise disability beyond medical impairment or bodily materiality to a more socially and culturally constructed definition of disability identity” (Cheu, 2013). The social and cultural practices through stylized repetition discursively construct the disabled body and establishes the discourse of normalization. This process of normalization makes it difficult for the disabled women to fit into the paradigm of citizenship.

Taking into consideration the insights provided above, the present paper attempts to study two Gujarati Short stories “Lohi ni Sagai” by Ishwar Petlikar (1916-1983) and “Shruti ane Smruti” by Chandrakant Bakshi (1932-2006). Mangu in the story “Lohi ni Sagai” is portrayed as having mental illness whereas Shruti in “Shruti ane Smruti” is depicted as a girl with hearing impairment. The paper attempts to analyse how both the stories through their women characters, Mangu and her mother Amratkaki in “Lohi ni Sagai” and Shruti in “Shruti ane Smruti”, unfold the social and cultural construction of disability. By analysing various narrative techniques such as quoted and narrated monologue, psycho narration and third person omniscient point of view devised in the stories, the paper brings to the fore how the discursive construction of disability further leads to the denial of citizenship to the disabled.

Key Words: disability, gender, discursive construction, social and cultural construction, citizenship, Gujarati Short stories, Lohi ni Sagai”, Ishwar Petlikar, “Shruti ane Smruti”, Chandrakant Bakshi

17. The Epistemology of Positive Conflict

Tarika Prabhakar, Assistant Professor, Satyawati (Eve) College, University of Delhi, Delhi, route2utopia@gmail.com

Contemporary Indian femininity is predicated on the contradictory impulses of a western ideal of modernization and the internalized paradigms of Indian cultural identity. In the historic context, this variance was among the biggest challenges for the pre-independence Indian feminists. In the turbulent upheaval of cultural and political ideals and aspirations, public platforms like the journal,

aiming at nationalist integration through a linguistic and pan-Indian cultural assimilation became very important.

Women were encouraged to share public space for the first time. They had to navigate the conflicting impulses of elevated Gandhian femininity as ‘motherhood’ (which was extended to apply to the discursive definition of the nation as mother) and the extreme other path of seeming liberation and equality (western femininity). Writers like Mahadevi Verma were articulating what the new and liberated Indian femininity for the new country should be like. The equality-of-the-sexes principle was followed by feminists influenced by 19th century Indian and British reformers, who aimed at gender parity through legislation. Gandhian feminists worked through paradigms of moderation and ‘complimentarity’ of the sexes. But this still required a constant dialogue with western femininity. These contradictions, conflicts and dialogues will form the major portion of the paper which will try to create an overview of contemporary femininity.

Keywords: Indian femininity, women, contemporary femininity, Gandhian feminists

18. Challenges in Achieving Gender Equality at Workplace

Suruchi Bhatia, Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Psychology, Shyama Prasad Mukherji College, University of Delhi, Delhi, suruchibb@gmail.com

Anjani Sharma, Undergraduate Scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Shyama Prasad Mukherji College, University of Delhi, Delhi

Himadri Chawla, Undergraduate Scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Shyama Prasad Mukherji College, University of Delhi, Delhi

The term ‘equality’ nowadays is interpreted in different ways by different people, some feel it is equal treatment meted out towards girls and boys, whereas for some it means being able to do things that the other gender is allowed to do without any restriction. The scenario is no different at workplaces. For a long time now, women have been struggling for recognition, praise, and equality that they deserve for their work and existence. Women face many challenges at their workplace, as compared to men, these challenges may originate at the home front, work front or at an organizational level like organizational culture. This research is a qualitative study to understand the several reasons for the obstacles faced by women to attain equality at their workplace. In order to provide a male perspective to it, we took the research sample size as 10, (5 females and 5 males) which was chosen through purposive random sampling. The method of structured interview was used to collect data. The major theme that emerged through this research are family restrictions and responsibilities, along with other societal elements, and the glass ceiling effect in the organizational sector, also focusing on the existence of any gender stereotypes.

Keywords: Gender Equality, workplace, female perspective, male perspective, challenges to equality.

19. Women and Sustainable Development Goals: Challenges and Way Forward in India

Ashwini Kirti, Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Social Work, University of Delhi, Delhi, India, akirti1602@gmail.com

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015. It is a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. These are the sets of 17 goals comprising 169 targets. These SDGs epitomize the roadmap for the progress of sustainable development with the motto of 'leaving no one behind'. Women constitute nearly half the population around the world. Their roles and contributions are elemental in a nation's productivity and prosperity. Women's participation is the key to all social development programs. Women's equality and empowerment are one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The SDG 5 talks about achieving gender equality and empowering of all girls and women. This goal is integral and interconnected with other SDGs, indispensable to all dimensions of inclusive and sustainable development. India is a signatory of SDGs. The Indian Society is severely rooted in gender-based inequality. There are various forms of discrimination which curtail women's rights in public and private spheres. This paper tries to highlight the challenges in accomplishing the SDGs in the context of women and its way forward. The secondary sources such as reports, articles will be taken into account for the study.

Keywords: SDGs, women, gender inequality, discrimination

20. Women and Violence: A Critical Analysis of the Role of Women during Conflict

Priyanka Garodia, M. Phil scholar, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, West Bengal, priyankagarodia25@gmail.com

History has shown that women have participated in wars and conflicts in various capacities including violence. However, their presence remains unnoticed and unacknowledged by international relations and conflict studies. The study aimed to understand the multifaceted roles that women have in conflict which are denied - especially their capacity to participate in violence. The methodology in operation is the use of the Feminist Critique of International Relations to understand the dynamic relationship between gender and violence. In analyzing the gendered nature of violence a qualitative analysis of textual sources mostly secondary in nature was adopted. The association of women with victimhood and peace results in the non-recognition and marginalisation of women using violence, promoting an essentialist discourse about the expected norms of masculinity and femininity. The paper analyzes the security implications of the non-recognition of women as violent actors especially in their use of proscribed violence while also studying the consequences of the non-recognition of female violence in post-conflict situations - especially in the inclusion of women as only peacemakers and mediators in negotiations and the implications in rehabilitation of women who use violence in society.

Keywords: Women, violence, qualitative analysis, feminist critique.

Theme 4: Transforming our World: In Pursuit of Sustainable Development Goals

21. In the pursuit of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16 in the Indian context: Exploring the lives of North East Migrants into the City of Delhi

Anandita Pathak, Undergraduate Scholar Mata Sundri College for Women, University of Delhi, Delhi, pathak17anandita@gmail.com

“Sustainable Development is the pathway to the future we want for all. It offers a framework to generate economic growth, achieve social justice, exercise environmental stewardship and strengthen governance”- Ban Ki-Moon. In 2014, UN Member States proposed a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which was adopted in 2015 and succeeded the initially existing Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These, commonly referred to as Global Goals comprise of 17 goals intended to stimulate action in areas of critical importance and humanity. The 17 integrated SDGs were a universal call for actions to end poverty, protect the planet from different emerging problems and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. This paper seeks to examine the 16th SDG- Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions in the context of the nation and initiate manifold discussions to achieve the goal within the approximate time frame of another decade. In the ongoing process, the paper shall combine elements of regional accessibility, constraint of resources and available technological expertise. The creation and materialization of this model shall include the concepts- one step at a time, flexibility of thought via talk and sensitizing judicial inadequacy.

Keywords: 16th SDG, sustainable development, peace, nation

22. Beyond Sustainable Development

Preeti, Undergraduate scholar, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, Delhi, ps.sharma1108@gmail.com

Jyoti, Undergraduate scholar, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, Delhi, jyotipal17598@gmail.com

Shahin, Undergraduate scholar, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, Delhi, Shahinsaifi@789gmail

Sustainable development is an alternative to correct the mistakes have been done on the environment. It establishes the discourse for addressing the environmental problems caused during the pursuit of economic growth. The Brundtland Commission Report 1987 categorically highlighted the problems of the future, if care is not taken immediately. But in contemporary era there are even challenges to the idea of sustainable development. The objective of this paper is to critically analyse and elaborate the alternative ideas to the concept of sustainable development through the lens of Marxist, Feminist and Subaltern ideology. Marxist ideology criticizes sustainable development through the argument of capitalist mode of production leading to overuse and exploitation of natural resources. This very form of implementing the policies of sustainable development rather than creating the condition for sustainability of ecology, it creates economic and social condition to sustain capitalism. Feminist critique of sustainable development is based on the argument that the whole concept of sustainable development is a constructed phenomenon, which is being dominated by men with minimal participation of women, thus leading to exclusion of women participation in policy, program and implementation of sustainable development

agenda. Subaltern critique of sustainable development highlights the notion of monopolising the knowledge domain. Subaltern scholars argue that the Western world is trying to universalise their knowledge, culture and values thus disregarding the multiplicity of knowledge and forwarding the whole new agenda of neo colonialism. This Research paper while following exclusively literature review as research methodology would deconstruct the existing reality on sustainable development and would try to move beyond and initiate a new debate on the sustainability of sustainable development.

Keywords: Environment, Marxist, feminist, subaltern, sustainability, sustainable development

23. Slum Swaraj Foundation: An Initiative to the Attainment of Sustainable Development Goals in Education, Gender Inequality and Health

*Adheesh Tripathi, Student and Member of Slum Swaraj Foundation (NGO),
adheeshtripathi4@gmail.com*

This research paper has been proposed for the work done towards the Sustainable Development Goals of Slum Swaraj Foundation, which is an NGO. This organization, with 1500 youth from various educational institutions, aims at making more than 1200 poor children self-reliant and for their all-round development under the Sustainable Development Goal-4 "Ensuring Quality Education and Promoting Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All". The NGO successfully conducts camps at various places and at the same time, it is also playing an important role in the idea of a literate nation by getting about 35 meritorious students enrolled in good schools. Under Goal-3 and Goal-6, they conduct drives distributing sanitary pads to girls for women empowerment, organize events with various cultural aspects of the country like Independence Day, Republic Day, Eid, Diwali, Dussehra, Holi, Christmas, and awareness programs for spreading awareness about cleanliness and water conservation around them. By motivating children to plant trees on the occasion of their birthday and distributing warm clothes in the winter season towards poverty alleviation, SSF is working towards the goal of sustainable development by playing the role of the sensitive side of society.

Keywords: NGO, Slum Swaraj Foundation, Sustainable Development Goal-4, "Ensuring Quality Education and Promoting Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All", poverty alleviation

24. Conflict and Hunger

Leema Tyagi, Undergraduate scholar, B.A(H) Political Science, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi, Tyagileema589@gmail.com

Sabiha Malik, Undergraduate scholar, B.A(H) Political Science, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi

Food is central to human being and to hunger. Hunger and conflict are complimentary to one another. In the historic vote of 24th May 2018, UN Security Council declared that violence is closely linked to food insecurity. According to Food Security Information Network, around 820 million people are suffering from chronic hunger. In fact, conflict was the primary reason behind food insecurity in 2017. Conflict forces millions of people to abandon their homes, jobs, lands which results into the rising risk of hunger. Armed conflict in countries like Iraq, Yemen, and

South Sudan also resulted into hunger. Conflict causes economic recession, inflation, unemployment- all of which negatively affect availability and access to food. Around 77% of the conflicts originate from food insecurity. According to World Food Program Report, the highest outward migration of refugees is due to food insecurity. For example, since 2015 in Yemen, around 3-6 million people have been displaced. World Food Program is committed to zero hunger by year 2030 which is also the part of Sustainable Development Goal. Unfortunately, there are impediments to this goal; the greatest of that is man-made conflict. Thus, conflict threatens the realisation of sustainable development Goal-2-Zero hunger by 2030. In this context the paper suggests that we must transform food and agriculture system to nourish people, nurture the planet and build resilient livelihoods for all. The paper also suggests that we must commit to rural transformation and should stop the wastage of food. And above all the SDG of Zero hunger by 2030 can only be achieved if we promote peace and end violent conflict.

Keywords: Hunger, Conflict, Violence, Food, SDG, food and agriculture system, resilient livelihoods

25. A Study of Conflict and Hunger

Ashika Jain, Undergraduate scholar, B.A(H) Political Science, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi, aashika677@gmail.com

Anushka Sharma, Undergraduate scholar, B.A(H) Political Science, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi

Diksha Awana, Undergraduate scholar, B.A(H) Political Science, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi

Muskan Rawat, Undergraduate scholar, B.A(H) Political Science, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi

Simply, conflict is clash of interest. Though the basis of conflict may vary like personal, racial, political, international yet the fact is it is a part of society. Conflict is rarely seen as constructive and beneficial process. Hunger is an extreme and radical manifestation of poverty. Hunger is a condition in which a person is unable to eat sufficient food to meet basic nutritional needs for a long period. Usually hunger is associated with lack of affordability and lack of access to healthy food. In this background it is necessary to think about whether we can resolve the problem of hunger in a world full of conflict. The problem of world hunger can be resolved only if we end conflict. Conflict is the key driver of hunger because 60 percent of the world's hungry populations are residents of conflict-affected areas. Hunger and conflict destabilise countries, destroy economies and force people to migrate. Globally, hunger based forced migration have displaced around 68.5 million people. The UN estimates that 80 percent of its humanitarian funding needs are due to conflict. By promoting peace and ending violent conflict world, we can address the issue of hunger. There are many forms of conflict which we cannot avoid like earthquake, droughts etc. but we can avoid man made conflicts so that the problem of hunger and homelessness can be resolved.

Key Words: Conflict, poverty, hunger, forced migration, homeless

Theme 5: Improving Relationships: Negotiating and Coping with Conflict

26. Resolution of Conflict: Studying Instances of OCB and POB through Analysis in three different Organisational Settings

Gitika Singh, BA (Hon.) Department of Applied Psychology, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi, gitikasingh99@gmail.com

Bhavya Sharma, BA (Hon.) Department of Applied Psychology, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi, bhasha0705@gmail.com

Conflicts are an inevitable part of an organisation. These are times of stress, but the process of resolution of those conflicts, as positive psychology teaches us, are often ones leading to growth, development and discovery of its potential, for the organisation. Resolution of conflicts, in organisations these days, is a carefully planned and strategically executed process. Our study aims to analyse situations of conflict in 3 different structures of Organisation- A Hierarchical structure, a Matrix structure and a Horizontal structure/Flat structure. All organisations were based in Delhi NCR. Major conflicts of these organisations were analyzed, both qualitatively and quantitatively as per the need, to find instances of Organisational Citizenship Behaviour (OCB) and Positive Organisational Behaviour (POB) in the resolution of the particular conflicts and relevance or importance of the Organisational Structure in the same. The findings of the study will help us understand the difference between the technicalities of the processes of OCB and POB better, provide us with the importance of the two in resolution of a conflict and whether the organizational setting and structure have a role to play. The analysis could be helpful for future studies in devising strategies that are inclusive of the elements that these organisations had in resolution of their conflicts.

Keywords: Conflict analysis, conflict resolution, Positive Organisational Behaviour, Organisational Citizenship Behaviour, Organisation setting, Organisation structure

28. A Comparative Study on Conflict Resolution

Arun Kumar Yadav, Undergraduate Scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, University of Delhi, Delhi

Shreya Singh, Undergraduate Scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, University of Delhi, Delhi, shreyasingh.singh24@gmail.com

In a rapidly technologizing world, where differences among people are highlighted, conflicts have been on the rise. As the gap between people widens, it becomes increasingly important to understand the conflict resolution skills different people bring with them. The present study examined the relationship of conflict resolution with age and employment status. Data was collected using the Conflict Resolution Questionnaire (CRQ) from young adults, adults and early old-ages, using purposive sampling technique (n=100; 50 males and 50 females). It was hypothesized that 1) adults will have better conflict resolution than young adults and early old ages 2) salaried, employed and students will have better conflict resolution than unemployed and homemakers. The results were analyzed using Univariate ANOVA. It was concluded that age and employment status had no significant difference on conflict resolution. Also, no relationship was

found between age or employment status and conflict resolution. The present study provides useful insights for further research.

Keywords: Conflict resolution, age, employment status

29. Conflict Management Style and Emotional Intelligence

Ishti Gupta, Undergraduate Scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi, ishtigupta16@gmail.com

Preeti Mehra, Undergraduate Scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi

Emotional intelligence (EI) has been found to be associated with cooperative solutions leading to effective conflict management (Jordan & Troth, 2002; Sharma & Sehwat, 2014). The purpose of this research was to examine the relationship between emotional intelligence and conflict resolution styles. The sample consisted of 100 students from Delhi University, ranging from 17 to 20 years old. The sample was selected using the convenience sampling and snowball sampling method. The Trait Emotional Intelligence Questionnaire-Short Form was used to measure their emotional intelligence, and the Thomas Kilmann Conflict Mode Instrument was used to measure their conflict resolution styles. Pearson Product-Moment Correlation was used to find relation between global trait EI score of individual and their corresponding conflict resolution styles. The findings can be used to introduce interventions to improve EI and hence use healthy conflict resolution in order to live a peaceful life.

Keywords: emotional intelligence, conflict resolution, conflict resolution styles, peace

30. Influence of Personality on Conflict Management Styles

Sajal, Undergraduate scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi, sajalchaudhary15@gmail.com

A conflict is a clash of interest. It is simply differing ideas or actions, often related to the selfish pursuit of needs (known and unknown) that end in a state of unrest. Personality refers to our characteristic ways of responding to individuals and situations. Therefore, personality of an individual may determine, to a large extent, as to how the individual will resolve the conflict. The study is aimed at examining the relationship between personality and conflict management styles among college students. The study involved using two scales, Keirsey Temperament Sorter for personality assessment and Thomas-Kilmann Conflict Mode Questionnaire for assessing conflict management styles. A sample of 100 undergraduate students (both male and female) was taken. The result and findings will be discussed in the paper in detail.

Keywords: Personality, conflict management styles, undergraduate students.

Theme 6: The Spirit of Cultivating Inner Peace and Managing Conflicts

31. The Role of Spirituality in Conflict Management

Surbhi Sharma, Undergraduate scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi, surbhi112@gmail.com

Muskaan Agarwal, Undergraduate scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi

Conflict is a part of our everyday life and we need to find ways to tackle it in a constructive manner. One of the constrictive ways of managing conflict that has been suggested is through spirituality. The focus of spirituality is upon transcendent concerns rather than temporal concerns such as self and others. The manner in which spiritual beliefs can influence behaviour can be understood through Fishbein and Ajzen's (1975) model. They argued that beliefs influence attitudes, and attitudes influence behavioral intent. Therefore, spirituality, which entails the beliefs of the individual, may influence the behavioral intent of how individuals manage interpersonal conflicts. The purpose of this study was to compare the conflict management styles with spiritual intelligence and to assess whether higher spiritual intelligence correlates with better conflict management. Two scales ('The Spiritual Intelligence Self-Report Inventory' and 'Thomas Kilmann Conflict Mode Questionnaire') were administered on a total of 100 undergraduate students (both male and female). Correlation was used for the analysis of the data. The results and findings will be discussed in the paper in detail.

Keywords: Conflict management, spirituality, undergraduate students

32. Understanding the Relationship between Spirituality with Coping Styles of Young Adults

Simran Ganjoo, Undergraduate Scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Vivekananda College, Delhi University, Delhi, ganjoosimran9@gmail.com

Spirituality has been believed to help buffer the negative effects of stress in individuals. The present study investigated the reasons underlying the same. It aims to establish and analyse the relationship between spirituality and coping and how spirituality determines an individual's appraisal of stressful events and their coping resources with respect to dimensions specified in the COPE Inventory. Purposive sampling technique has been used to collect data from 120 participants; 60 females and 60 males from urban cities. The mean age of the sample was 20 years. Self-report measures have been used which included two scales- Spiritual Perspective Scale (SPS) which measured the extent of spiritual beliefs and engagement in related activities and COPE Inventory to determine the coping strategy adopted by the individual. The results have been discussed in the light of empirical evidence.

Keywords: Spirituality, coping behavior, young adults

33. Actor's Dilemma and Its Relationship with Inner Peace

Ashna Bakshi, Undergraduate Scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi, ashna.bakshi99@gmail.com

Pranjal Billa, Undergraduate Scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi, pranjalbilla14@gmail.com

The aim of this study was to explore the relationship between the acting styles and the inner peace of actors. Actors are in charge of creating a character from the script, for which they have to figure out what the character wants- the goals and objectives. They are required to create the illusion of spontaneity, genuineness and a "real life" appearance of emotional expressions. In this process, they face a dilemma- of how far they can go with 'acting from the heart' without losing their heads, that is, to what degree actors should keep a distance between themselves and the character as opposed to becoming involved in or identifying with the character. On one side are the emotionalists, who believe that the actors themselves must experience the emotions they express in their role (involvement style). On the other side are the anti-emotionalists, who believe that the actor must not allow himself/herself to be overwhelmed with his/her character's emotions (detachment style). We aim to study the effect of regulating emotions using these acting styles (involvement and detachment) on inner peace which refers to a state of calm, serenity and tranquility of mind (that arises due to having no sufferings or mental disturbances such as worry, anxiety, greed, desire, hatred, ill-will, delusion and/or other defilements). A sample of 6 experienced stage and street actors was chosen. The method of semi-structured interview was used by the authors. The interviews were analysed through thematic analysis and their implications discussed.

Keywords: Actor's dilemma, inner peace, acting styles, thematic analysis

34. Peace: A Product of Effective Conflict Management?

Udisha Merwal, Undergraduate Scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Vivekananda college, University of Delhi, Delhi, udishamerwal@gmail.com

Anupama Sengupta, Undergraduate Scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Vivekananda college, University of Delhi, Delhi

Conflict prevention, management, and resolution have been the need of the hour since humans discovered the art of war, and maybe even before that. We can find numerous records of peaceful settlements throughout history, be those for fending off nuclear wars, Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty or any other life-threatening disruptions. So, why can't this conflict resolution be applied in individual's day to day life? The purpose of our research is to explore if a certain conflict resolving strategy contributes to a peaceful lifestyle or a combination of all is what's needed. We have directed the study towards the understanding of conflict resolving strategies and how they vary amongst world leaders and the general population across different types of conflicts. The sources of data are autobiographies/biographies and self-report inventories. Data is analysed using content analysis and various quantitative measures.

Keywords: Conflict management, peace, autobiographies/biographies

35. Analysis of Hikikomori in Indian Scenario

Bhavya Sharma, Undergraduate Scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi, bhasha0705@gmail.com

Gitika Singh, Undergraduate Scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi

‘Hikikomori’ is the Japanese term for describing the young people in the current Japanese society who have socially withdrawn for 6 months or more. The problem has developed in the last 30 years and the estimated case numbers are said to be from several hundred thousand to 1.2 million. Although hikikomori is known as a unique Japanese social phenomenon, there have been cases reported outside Japan, including India; yet there is a dearth of research for the same. Some consider that hikikomori is a result of conflicting demands and the reduced autonomy of the individual which is triggered by stressful events, combined with a predisposed introverted personality and the collectivistic culture of the country. India being a collectivistic society itself, shares significant similarities with Japan. The purpose of this paper is to tap such similarities in the two countries that suggest and explain the occurrence of Hikikomori in India, referring to the existing research. The data obtained from these papers have been used to have a better understanding of the causes and factors facilitating Hikikomori. The mental conflict experienced by the Hikikomori can surge to extents such as aggression, violence, suicide or as extreme as mass killings. Considering that youth forms the largest proportion of the Indian population, it is only relevant to study and understand this phenomenon. This understanding can help create opportunities pertaining to early detection of cases, adoption of assessment tools, and improved intervention services.

Keywords: Hikikomori, Mental Conflict, Collectivistic Culture, Aggression, and Violence

Theme7: Intersection of Contexts: Political, Psychological, and Sociocultural Conflicts

36. Study of Resilience and Perceived Parenting Styles in Adolescents

Muskan Datta, Undergraduate Scholar, Aryabhata College, University of Delhi, dattamuskan11@gmail.com

Thangbiakching, Undergraduate Scholar, Aryabhata College, University of Delhi

Resilience is the ability of individuals to come out of adverse situations. It is an important quality because it enables the development of mechanisms for protection against overwhelming or traumatic experiences. Adolescence is marked by physical, emotional and psychological changes and transitions from one developmental stage to another. The parent- child relationship can play a major role in how easily this transition is made. The type of parenting style that parents employ lays a foundation for how adolescents deal with difficult situations and how resilient they are. The present study was conducted to examine if parenting style influences the resilience level of senior secondary school students in a metropolitan city like New Delhi. A sample of senior secondary school students of the age group 15-18 years from different study centres in South Delhi was chosen for the study. Instruments used for the study included Scale of Parenting Style by Gafoor & Kurukkan and The Resilience Scale by Wagnild and Young. Perceived parenting style was identified as authoritative, negligent, indulgent and authoritarian, based on parental responsiveness and parental control scores. ANOVA was used to understand if the resilience level of adolescents differed based on parenting styles. A preliminary analysis revealed that the authoritative parenting style was the most common in the sample and a higher level of resilience is associated with the authoritative parenting style while a lower level of resilience is associated with negligent parenting style.

Keywords: Resilience, parenting styles, adolescents.

37. Beliefs and Boundaries: Evolution in Attitude towards Homosexuals in India

Urja Rohilla, Undergraduate Scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Vivekananda college, University of Delhi, Delhi, urja2492@gmail.com

Pallavi Dobhal, Undergraduate Scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Vivekananda college, University of Delhi, Delhi

The purpose of our study is to analyse the evolution of attitudes towards LGBTQ+ community by comparing the attitudes towards homosexuality in different generations. With the abolishment of section 377 from the Indian constitution, it is now become important to understand how the attitudes (both explicit and implicit) towards LGBTQ have changed towards the years. From the references of homosexuality in Ancient Religious texts to Sufi Homosexual Poets to Criminalization of same gender sexual activity in British India to the abolishment of section 377 in 2018, India has seen great changes in acceptance of LGBTQ+ community. This paper will study how the attitudes towards homosexuals have changed over the years.

Two scales will be administered on a total of 50 individuals, 25 of ages between 18 – 20 years and 25 of ages between 40 - 50 years (both male and female). “Implicit association test (IAT) *sexuality (gay-straight IAT)*” and “Homonegativity as discomfort scale” will be used to assess implicit and explicit attitudes respectively. The results and findings from this empirical study will be used to analyse the changing attitudes towards LGBTQ+ in the present generation.

Keywords: LGBTQ+ community, evolving attitudes, different generations

38. Emigration and Family Conflicts

Prachi, Undergraduate Scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Vivekananda College, Delhi University, Delhi, prachi9963@gmail.com

The purpose of the research was to study the relationship between emigration and family conflicts. Emigration poses several problems and challenges to people. It has been revealed that over 60 percent of non-resident parents spend no time or less than three months with their child in a span of 12 months. (Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2011). Also, there has been an increase in the share of families who have experienced separation, divorce and uncoupling. In order to study these challenges a study was conducted. The sample comprised of 50 individuals residing in Canada and America in the age group of 20- 35 years. The sample was selected using quota sampling and snowball sampling method. A questionnaire with a set of open-ended questions was prepared to investigate possibility of family conflicts in emigrants. To capture the relationship between emigration and family conflicts, descriptive statistics was used. The research found family unification and abrupted sense of belongingness in an individual after emigrating to another country which can be revealed by better understanding of relationship between emigration and family conflicts.

Keywords: Emigration, family conflicts, family unification, sense of belongingness, Canada, America

39. Openness to Diversity in Urban and Rural subculture

Ashna Bakshi, Undergraduate Scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi, ashna.bakshi99@gmail.com

Gitika Singh, Undergraduate Scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi, gitikasingh99@gmail.com

Devangi Pant, Undergraduate Scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi, pantdevangi19@gmail.com

The aim of this study was to compare openness to diversity in rural and urban areas and assess whether the difference obtained upon comparison has relations to factors such as education and altruistic personality factors. Openness to diversity is the acceptance of similarities and dissimilarities between the individuals or a group one belongs to. India being a diverse country, it is important to study the factors that affect the acceptance of this diversity among the citizens of

the country and hence promote national integration and peace. The study was conducted in two settings - urban and rural. The sample for both the settings was collected from Delhi NCR and some neighbouring areas. The questionnaire “Openness to Diversity Scale” (Singh and Shah, 2018) was used. The factors were assessed through both qualitative and quantitative means. The Indian version of the “The Altruistic Personality and the Self-report Altruism Scale” was administered to determine altruistic personality traits. The scale was administered on 100 people (50 urban and 50 rural) falling under the age bracket of 25- 50 years. The findings reveal that, “openness to diversity” was found to be more in the urban area than in the rural area. It was also observed that the correlation between openness to diversity and altruism for urban area was positively moderate, whereas for rural areas, the correlation between the two factors was moderately negative. The correlation between openness to diversity and educational qualification was very weak for both settings. Qualitative analysis brought out factors such as fulfilment of one’s basic needs, safety needs and also individual experience.

Keywords: Openness to diversity, education, altruistic personality factors, correlation

40. To Kill Migrant Birds: Reading NRC, Mapping Predicaments through a Chronoscope

Amartya Sen, Undergraduate scholar, B.A. (H) English, Shyam Lal College (M), University of Delhi, Delhi, sen.amartya.lit@gmail.com

National Register of Citizens (NRC) is a register maintained by the GOI containing names and some other relevant information of all “genuine” Indian citizens. The criteria being, in case of Assam, the individual must prove with documents that she/he had entered into the territorial limits of present day state of Assam before the midnight of 24th March 1971 from the neighbouring Bangladesh or Myanmar. Whereas, for the residents of other states—the criterion is different—they/their ancestors must have their names enrolled in the 1951 Census of India. Without entering into the debate of it being an ethical or unethical exercise within the changing dynamics of the 21st century, the paper attempts at delving into the discourse of politics, violence and fear that inform these issues. The purpose is to give a glimpse of what is going on in Assam in the name of NRC and how the poor people including the Tribal community are being made the victim of this political battle cry. The paper seeks to highlight the deep-seated politics in allowing, prevention, detention, and deportation of “illegal” migrants. The attempt is to trace the fear, violence, interrogation, and suspicion through the poetics of anxiety of the “legal” migrants.

Keywords: NRC, Assam, migrants, National Register of Citizens (NRC)

Theme 8: Dimensions of Religious and Racial Conflicts

41. Clashing Identities in the Nation Space: Mahesh Dattani's *Final Solutions*

Tanvir Sachdev, Associate Prof. and Head, Department of English, SCD Govt College, Ludhiana, tanvirsachdev@gmail.com

In the globalised contemporary scene a militant backlash is creating a re-affirmation of ethnic or religious identities, and calling to question secularism itself. Conflicts between religious communities are an inextricable part of the post-colonial Indian nation space. The causes of the creation of conflict, can be traced to birth and construction of the nation itself—in its inclusions and exclusions, the difference between legality enshrined in the constitution and its practice in the political, social, cultural space of the nation. This paper takes up Mahesh Dattani's play, *Final Solutions* and examines the causes, and possible solutions to post-independence violence and conflict between religious communities. The polyphonic voices of the nation—the fundamentalist conservatism in both religions perpetuated through cultural prejudices, result in the continuation of conflict (the historic legacy of violence) and the exclusion of communities from the nation space. The differing ideologies of conservatism and secularism that create fissures not only in the nation but in the private space of the family itself are also traced. Furthermore, the psychological causes that lead to alienation of individuals and hardening of communal identities are also discussed.

Keywords: Identity, nation, secularism, nation space, Mahesh Dattani, Final Solutions

42. Steps and Implications against Religious Violence: A Case Study of Ramu Violence in Bangladesh

MD. Arman Sorif Jibon, Silver jubilee Scholar, South Asian University, New Delhi, Armanshorif666@gmail.com

In 2012, a series of attacks made on Buddhist house, shrines, monasteries at Ramu Upazila in Cox's Bazar of Bangladesh. It was a sign of brutal religious violence in Bangladesh against the Buddhist people. The study found that the government had taken immediate steps to reconstruct the damaged household and temples. Although people got support from the government to rebuild their community, it could not ensure communal harmony, justice, and peace. Six years passed since the attacked, but no progress has been made for justice. However, law, education, tolerance, and dialogue have been taken from the government for solving religious violence, but it could not ensure security for the minority community in Bangladesh. The purpose of this study is to show the real scenario of implementation of laws for halting religious violence in Bangladesh, by using the qualitative method. The findings will push the policymakers to rethink and help the proper authority to make strategies for ensuring security for the minority community.

Keywords: Violence, Religious, Ramu Violence, Peace, Bangladesh

43. Is Pain a Path to Peace?": Exploring Self-Harm Behaviour in Religious and Non-Religious Contexts

Sanyukta Golaya, Undergraduate Scholar, B.A. (H), Department of Psychology, Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi, Delhi, sanyukta.golaya@gmail.com

Dhriti Jain, Undergraduate Scholar, B.A. (H), Department of Psychology, Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi, Delhi

Ms. Surbhi Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi, Delhi

Self-harm behaviour prevalent among various cultural and religious groups is considered to be normative and is viewed as an attempt to attain inner peace, contentment, and relief. On the other hand, similar behaviour among individuals engaging in it for 'non-religious' purposes are mostly looked down upon and viewed as psychopathological. The present study sought to compare and contrast religiously sanctioned self-harm practices with pathologized behaviour that manifests itself in the same manner, but is carried out for other purposes. Self-harm behaviour in Islamic, Buddhist, and Hindu religious texts was examined. Further, in depth qualitative interviews were carried out with four young adults (19 to 22 years) who had previously engaged in self-harm behaviour. Data obtained from the texts and interviews was thematically analysed and understood with respect to its emotional, physiological, and situational antecedents and consequences. It was observed that both practices are similar with respect to their goals and perceived affective outcomes. By providing the person with a cathartic experience, both aim to restore inner peace and seek psychological repentance. The study seeks to open up a dialogue about the coping value of self-harm behavior, both in religious and non-religious contexts, subsequently reduce associated taboo, and facilitate psychoeducation for alternatives for achieving psychological relief.

Keywords: Self-harm, religion, inner peace, culture.

44. Socio- Religious Conflicts and Resolutions During the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries in Mughal India: A Case Study of Prannathi Tradition

Sandhya Sharma, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi, drsandhyasharma@gmail.com

This paper attempts to address some aspects of social and religious tensions which had prevailed during the 17th and 18th centuries in Mughal India. The period witnessed sharp conflicts between regional and imperial politics on one hand and socio- religious tensions on the other. It emerges that the conflicts were largely about assertion of identity, either individual or collective. The identity issues were resolved through various processes of contestations and adjustments among the social and political groups. The language and literature of these groups and communities provide a window to these issues.

The Prannathi Tradition, known as Nijanand Sampradaya, was founded during the reign of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb (1659-1707 C. E.) in Kutch. It soon assumed pan-Indic movement under the guruship of Prannath, the blessed disciple of founder Guru Dev Chandra. Prannath's own reading of the sacred texts of dominant religions of the world and a radical interpretation of

these diversified texts first highlighted the socio- religious and political conflicts and then offered a path which could bring the entire humanity under the banner of his faith.

I have depended on Prannathi literature to show how Prannath succeeded in eliminating class and gender differences by seeking political patronage of Maharaja Chhatrasal of Panna (Madhya Pradesh) after incessant attempts to bring to his fold some regional rulers and also the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb. The conflicts were finally resolved, at least, between Chhatrasal and Aurangzeb and peace was established according to the Tradition.

Keywords: Socio- Religious conflicts, resolutions, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in Mughal India, Case Study, Prannathi Tradition, Chhatrasal, Aurangzeb, peace, Nijanand Sampradaya, Prannath

45. Mass Incarceration and Contemporary Racial Conflict in the United States: A Study of Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow*

Swasti Sharma, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Satyawati College, University of Delhi, Delhi, swasti95@gmail.com

The victory of Barack Obama on November 4, 2008, was a landmark in the history of the United States. Euphoric followers and admirers of Obama claimed that the election symbolized America's passage into the era of racial colorblindness. In sharp contrast with the lofty expectations of change, racial profiling continues to be a critical issue in contemporary American society. The academic paper will attempt to examine the process of disproportionate incrimination and marginalization of colored women in America through close textual analysis of Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* (2016). While a substantial research has been undertaken to study the racial prejudice through empirical data, very few scholars have placed premium on first-hand prison memoirs. The research paper will encompass the lived experiences of black women in correctional facilities, the intersection of race and gender and the validity of Critical Race Theory (CRT) in the twenty-first century. The shifting landscape of African American scholarship and the misrepresentation of women of color in pop culture are some of the ancillary concerns that would contour the discourse. This academic paper will eventually refute the claims regarding the emergence of a post-racial American state.

Keywords: Race, gender, Critical Race Theory (CRT), mass incarceration, contemporary racial conflict, United States, Michelle Alexander, 'The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness', post-racial American state

THEME 9: Postmodern Conflict and Dystopic Narratives

46. Moving Beyond ‘to be or not to be’

*Chetna Tiwari, Assistant Professor, University School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Dwarka, Delhi, tiwari.chetna@gmail.com*

Conflict, defined as ‘a serious disagreement or argument’ is as natural a human feeling as is happiness or sorrow. Hardly anyone can escape this highly disturbing and gnawing state of mind. No phase or field of life is out of its approach. Though undesirable yet unavoidable; moreover with numerous types and shades, it continues bothering us. Any effort to run away or avoid leads to further complexities or illusions. In such a state of affairs the only and very well placed query is ‘how to deal with a conflict?’ and the answer lies in the regular and if possible early training of our mind, the abode of this trouble creator through a guide that is always available for us, provided the sense of realization is strong enough. The paper attempts to shed light on the time tested and thus established and trusted way for such a training and share the resulting wonderful experiences of many well-known and successful people in the past and the present.

Key words: Conflict, training, successful people

47. Conflict and its Consequences: Outcomes and Resolution of Conflict in Married Couples

*Soumya Tiwari, Counsellor/ Social Worker, Special Police Unit for Women and Children
SPUWAC, Delhi, soumyatiwari1988@gmail.com*

The paper discusses the case of Survivor A who has been subjected to violence by her husband since 15 years and is suspicious by nature. Counsellor used basic counselling skills – paraphrasing, attentive listening, leaning towards the client, maintaining personal distance, empathy etc. Individual Meetings and Joint Meetings were taken up with survivor and respondent. Both were guided to take their own decision and introspect. In joint meetings, survivors and respondent issues were discussed by the Counsellor/ Social Worker to know the foundations of violence and how it can be lessened as per the needs of the survivor.

Keywords: Women survivor, violence, counselling skills, married couples

48. Coping, Internet Addiction and Mental Health among Adolescents

*Sunita Devi, PhD Scholar, SOSS, IGNOU, New Delhi, sunitapourush@gmail.com
Swati Patra, Professor of Psychology, SOSS, IGNOU, New Delhi*

Over the last decade, an excessive use of internet among adolescents has become the major concern and challenge not only in India but across the nations. As a result of indiscriminate use of internet, Internet Addiction Disorder (IAD) has been included in the recent medical and psychological literature. Recent researches have been showing that internet addiction affects the mental health and leads to maladaptive coping among the adolescents which affects their

academic, personal and social life. Thus, the aim of the present study was to see the extent and intensity of internet addiction and its relation with the mental health and ways of coping among the adolescent students. The sample of the study consisted of 400 students from 9th-12th grade from private schools of Delhi NCR. The tools include Young's Internet Addiction Test (IAT), Depression Anxiety Stress Scales (DASS) and Ways of Coping Questionnaire (WAYS). The data collection is in progress. The data will be analysed by using correlation and ANOVA. The findings will have implications for designing interventions to improve the mental health and adaptive ways of coping among adolescent students.

Keywords: Internet addiction, mental health, coping, depression, anxiety, stress

49. Self and Relational Dynamics of Non-violence among Youth: A Psychological Inquiry

Anavila Lochan, Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Psychology, University of Delhi, Delhi, anavilalochan@gmail.com

Surbhi Kumar, Assistant professor, Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi, Delhi

The objective of the present study was to understand the self and relational dynamics of non-violence in young adults living in a society driven by the philosophy of “survival of the fittest”. In particular, it investigated the personality factors influencing non-violent tendencies in young adults and how it influences their everyday life experiences. For the purpose of measurement, non-violence has been conceptualized as physical non-violence, psychological non-violence, active value orientation, helping/empathy, *satyagraha* and *tapasya* (Mayton, 1999). 120 participants (60 Males and 60 Females) belonging to the age group of 17 to 22 years were administered the Teenage Non-Violence Test (Mayton, 1999), Self-Construct Scale (Singelis, 1994), Big Five Personality Inventory (John & Srivastava, 1999), Heartland Forgiveness Scale (2003), and Flourishing scale (Diener, 2009). Relevant statistical analyses were carried out. Through the study, we examined how non-violence mediates forgiveness of self, others, and situations and flourishes well-being. As the youth today are juxtaposed between the narratives of “seize the moment” and spiritual awakening through peace and nonviolence, the research allows us to explore how an individual through non-violence can achieve peace and happiness and contribute meaningfully to society.

Keywords: Non-violence, self-construct, personality, forgiveness, well-being, youth

50. Dystopia as a Social Catalyst: Technology and Humanity

Kanisha Shah, Undergraduate scholar, Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi, Delhi, shah_kanisha@hotmail.com

Shreya Ghosh, Undergraduate scholar, Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi, Delhi

Rhea Gupta, Undergraduate scholar, Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi, Delhi

Kshitija Wason, Assistant Professor, Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi, Delhi

Industry 4.0 and augmented realities are fast creating cultures of technotopia—Ideal islands and domains of operation where administrative, financial, medical, educational, retail or even culinary choices have been made ‘faster’ and easier due to an exponential and highly accelerated growth in technology. These newly evolving technological edifices are also creating parallel social and

cognitive structures. The study looks at instances of dystopic narratives in popular media, particularly the TV series *Black Mirror*. Their impact and depth of dissemination in the contemporary youth is studied through a self-constructed questionnaire designed to evaluate their attitude-behaviour consistency (n=150). Further, where and how have these effectively impacted social mobilizations globally has been examined. Triangulating these three, the research culls out behavioral dynamics where the role of dystopia as parallel prophetic agents (PPA's) evoking and projecting our deepest fears and fantasies is explored. A model is posited wherein the role of triggering power structures and context in which these arise is developed. This model is applied on recent socio-political occurrences to gauge its effectiveness. Technological singularity is imminent and it is important as social psychologists to understand how technology can change the essence of human existence, and its repercussions on adaptive human behavior.

Keywords: Technotopia, dystopia, catalyst, technological singularity, attitude-behaviour consistency, social mobilization

THEME 10: Looking Within: Spirituality, Well Being and Peace

51. A Study of Spiritual Well-Being among Youth of Arunachal Pradesh

Leeyir Ete, Guest Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh

Dharmeshwari Lourembam, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh dimi.taurus@gmail.com

Spirituality gives an individual reason for existence and increases their ability to accept limitations. This in turn increases resilience and an ability to enjoy life. Spiritual well-being is a state of being which reflect positive feelings and behaviours. It provides the individual a sense of identity, satisfaction, contentment, positive attitudes, inner peace and purpose in life. In today's materialistic and highly competitive society, youth are too engaged with unhealthy competition and have a self-centered attitude. The present paper tries to explore how spiritual well-being is related to resilience, positive emotions, negative emotions and satisfaction with life. For this, The Spiritual Well-being Scale, The Brief Resilience Scale, Positive Affect Negative Affect Schedule and The Satisfaction with Life Scale were administered to 100 university students with an age ranging from 22-28 years. Descriptive and correlation analysis were calculated which revealed that spiritual well-being was positively related to resilience and hedonia, that is, higher positive affect and satisfaction with life with lower negative affect. Further, the need for development of implementation programmes have also been discussed.

Key words: Spiritual well-being, youth, resilience, positive affect, negative affect, satisfaction with life, hedonia, Arunachal Pradesh

52. Understanding the Role of Spirituality in Higher Education

Preeti Pant, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Gargi College, University of Delhi, Delhi, preetipant65@gmail.com

Higher education system is currently challenged to focus more purposely on students' holistic development, including nurturing the spiritual identities of students. Ignoring spirituality, particularly in how it relates to teaching for personal and social transformation, is to ignore an important aspect of human experience and avenue of learning and meaning-making. As a result students experience a disconnect between their academic studies and personal exploration of meaning in life. In order to understand the role of spirituality in higher education, the present study aimed to make a comparative study of 60 undergraduate students each from Dev Sanskriti Vishwa Vidyalaya (DSVV), Hardwar, a University that claims to seamlessly integrate secular inputs with spiritual values of ancient Gurukul system and the conventional Delhi University colleges. A Spiritual Health Scale along with a semi structured questionnaire, focusing on academic and non-academic experiences of students, perceived changes and self-growth, involvement in charitable endeavours etc were used as measures of data collection. Both quantitative as well as qualitative analysis of data was done. Results indicated highly significant difference between the two groups of students on all the dimensions of the Spiritual Health Scale, namely Self Evolution, Self

Actualization and Transcendence. The two groups also differed on the different dimensions of semi structured questionnaire. A potential consequence of this research is that it will strengthen institutional initiatives to support students' spiritual development and will encourage educators to consider the importance of students' spiritual development when they develop academic and co-curricular programme.

Keywords: Spirituality, spiritual development, higher educational system, Gurukul system, Delhi University colleges, institutional initiatives

53. Promoting Inner Peace and Spirituality at Adolescence Stage

Neeru Yadav, Assistant Professor, T.R.K.M., Aligarh R.B.S. College, Agra, neeruyadav939@gmail.com

Vinod Kumar, Associate Professor, T.R.K.M., Aligarh R.B.S. College, Agra

This paper briefly emphasizes on promoting inner peace and spirituality among adolescents. Inner peace and spirituality have been an integral part of the Indian way of living. It firmly believes that inculcation of certain values among younger generation would help them to exist in the dynamic socio-cultural growth with peace, harmony, and prosperity. Our cultural society is continuously facing distortion of spiritual and moral crisis in human relationships. The result of the distortion of these values is that the whole educational system has been deeply influenced. These cultural and spiritual crises can be understood only through inner peace. In this paper, an attempt has been made to present the theoretical aspect of inner peace and spirituality. The paper describes the policy initiatives related to inner peace and spiritual values in education in terms of curriculum and co-curricular activities. The necessity of a hopeful and future oriented peace programme should be stressed. Acceptance of spirituality can help in the creation of a peaceful world and non-violent society by adolescents.

Keywords: inner peace, spirituality, non-violence, adolescence

54. Self - Esteem and Body Image: A Correlational Study towards the Journey of Inner Peace

Anamika Rai, Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Psychology, Shyama Prasad Mukherji College, University of Delhi, Delhi

Aarti Bhardwaj, Undergraduate Scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Shyama Prasad Mukherji College, University of Delhi, Delhi, aartibhardwaj835@gmail.com

Tamanna Nohwal, Undergraduate Scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Shyama Prasad Mukherji College, University of Delhi, Delhi

Self-esteem is an important aspect of everyone's life and synonymous to self-worth, self-respect, self-regard and self-acceptance. It certainly involves self-evaluation. This study tries to understand the relationship between self-esteem and body image. It hypothesizes that high self-esteem will lead to positive body image, which will hence lead to a peaceful journey in one's life. For exploring the same, a sample of 80 college going students were selected with the help of purposive sampling method. Rosenberg's self-esteem scale and The Body Image Questionnaire by Bruchon-

Schweitzer (BIQ) were used to collect the data. Results lead to a discussion of the relationship between high self-esteem with positive evaluation of body image. Future implications of this research have also been highlighted.

Keywords: Self-esteem, body-image, inner peace

55. Relationship among Life Satisfaction, Self-Esteem and Happiness in Muslim Women with and without Hijab

Ashita Gupta, Department of Psychology, Post Graduate Government College for girls, Panjab University, ashitagupta68@gmail.com

The present study was conducted to compare Muslim women with and without Hijab on measures of life satisfaction, happiness and self-esteem. The study was conducted on 103 North-Indian Muslim females in the age range of 17-50 years. Through purposive and snowball sampling, data was collected on measures of Happiness (Oxford Happiness Questionnaire, Argyle & Hills, 2002), Self-Esteem (Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale, Rosenberg, 1965) and Satisfaction with Life (Satisfaction with Life Scale, Diener, Emmons, Larsen & Griffin, 1985). t-test was carried out to understand group comparisons and Pearson product moment correlation and simple linear regression analyses were conducted to understand the correlates and predictors of the variables under study. Results revealed no significant difference between Muslim females with and without hijab on the three variables. There was a positive and significant relationship among the three variables. All the variables were found to significantly predict each other among the total sample of women without hijab. However, for the hijab group, life satisfaction was not found to be a significant predictor of happiness and self-esteem. The study has larger implications for the well-being of Muslim women.

Keywords: Religion, well-being, Muslim, hijab, life satisfaction, self-esteem, happiness, correlation, regression.

Theme 11: Beyond Intractability: Understanding Socio-political Conflict in India

56. Non-Kashmiri Millennials' Perspective on the Kashmir Clampdown of 2019

Samra Khan, Ph.D. Scholar, Delhi University, samrakan22@gmail.com

The Indian Government abrogated Article 370 from the Indian Constitution in the Parliament on 5th August 2019 in an attempt to integrate the state of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the country. This move came with suspension of civil liberties and a complete clampdown in the former state, leaving all its citizens in chaotic disarray. It has garnered both appreciation and criticism from fellow Indians. This paper intends to understand the perspective of the non-Kashmiri millennials of India on this subject. It further intends to examine their stand and how sensitive they are towards this conflict. This study would consist of a sample of five professional non-Kashmiri millennials. Semi structured interviews would be used to collect data. This qualitative study would provide insight on the political motivations of the Indian millennials, their idea of nationalism and the nature of their empathy towards the fellow citizens.

Keywords: Non-Kashmiri Millennials, Kashmir clampdown of 2019, Article 370, citizen, nationalism, empathy, conflict

57. Politics of Migration, Citizenship and Gendered Identification: A Study of National Register of Citizens (Nrc) 2015 in Assam

Rimpi Borah, Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, rimpiborah90@gmail.com

The multi-ethnic and multi-cultural setting of India and India's struggle to define its nationhood since the nationalist movement provided a fertile soil for the development of different forms of identity-quest, especially in Assam. The histories of immigration and migration of outsiders to Assam is not a recent phenomenon. A line of demarcation was drawn between the 'indigenous' and 'outsiders' and a cry for the protection of 'Assamese identity' began to germinate. Identity formation among the Assamese community did not take place as a result of mere self-discovery, but was propelled by a fear of being overwhelmed by demographic change. When they were threatened on economic and cultural front, the Assamese evoked their identity of language and culture, to feel distinct. This led to the updating of national registry of citizens only in the state of Assam since 1951. This has a special implication for women. In Assam, many women have not received any formal education, never went to school, they do not have a certificate and since many of them were married before they attained the age of eighteen, their names are not there in the voters list of their paternal family. These can be termed as classificatory practices that divide women into insiders and outsiders. In this context, it becomes important to understand the various ways in which the 'body' of the suspect 'illegal' migrant regulated. The meaning of home and belonging changes for women who were declared illegal by the NRC. The changing documentary practices of the state, which now move into introducing Aadhar and DNA, must be juxtaposed with everyday narratives of women, whose identity traced through fathers or husbands, become congenial in a web of legality and illegality. This paper tries to espouse on how identity and other cultural differences

act as forms of control over women that infringe upon their rights as enfranchised citizens and how are children classified, identified and recognised as rightful citizens or cast in the pale of illegality.

Keywords: Women, Assam, migration, identity, citizenship, rights, cultural differences, national registry of citizens

57. Cherishing the Dream to be Independent: Exile, Migration and the Pain of Survival in Conflict Zones as seen in Literary Texts.

Sadiya Nair S, Assistant Professor, NMKRV Degree College for Women, Bangalore, diya_amie@yahoo.com

Life and conditions in conflict areas were excruciatingly painful and were filled with the tales of loss and distress. The paper explores on the conditions of the civilians in post-independent India—namely Kashmir and Nagaland by concentrating on the life in the conflict areas and how the desire to be independent remained as a far-fetched dream in the case of the Kashmiri Pandits and the Nagas. The migrants who wished for a territorial identity were marginalized and deprived of their basic amenities. Living in shelter camps and in a state of constant fear, all they could do was to dream for a better future and fantasize about the bygone days of bliss and past glory. They liberated themselves from the pain and chaos of their miserable existence through their dreams, hardly realizing the fact that these moments were only ephemeral and that they were stranded in a space which could accommodate neither their identity nor their culture. The paper also focuses on the concept of dream and the dream in the case of the migrants who were left as survivors in their own spaces. The study would bring in illustrations from a few literary texts from Kashmir and Nagaland to illustrate the same.

Keywords: Migrants, civilians, territorial identity, Kashmir, Nagaland

59. The Role of Socio-political Conflict in shaping Artistic Identity: Narratives of Kashmiri Artists

Asma Nisar, PhD Scholar, Tata institute of social sciences, Mumbai, asma47nb@gmail.com

The conceptualization of what constitutes art and who should be considered an artist has been a topic of debate for centuries together. Some of the most agreed upon dimensions include the degree to which an individual identifies with the artist's role. Indisputably, all researches and writings indicate the importance of the immediate environment and the wider social context in determining the way artists define themselves and their work. Artists as members of a society make observations of events and represent what they perceive on a public platform. This study attempts to understand the experiences of Kashmiri artists and bring forth the implications that the existing scenario in Kashmir has on people's perception; the way it shapes artists' identity and their work which in turn affects the social situation. It is a qualitative study based on the narratives of the artists (Narrative Enquiry) and follows a social constructionist approach. The study has been carried out through in-depth interviews with the help of a carefully constructed interview guide on a sample of 8 Kashmiri visual artists (painters, photographers). The main objective is to understand

how the social context of Kashmir has shaped the development of the artistic identity of the participants. An analysis of the narratives has indicated the impact of the context on the way they create art as well as on the way they identify themselves as artists. The artists cited numerous challenges they face being Kashmiri artists and spoke about the importance of diversifying and challenging experiences in strengthening their creativity and how the situation has constantly been a source of inspiration to them in their artistic journey.

Keywords: Artist, artistic identity, Kashmir, qualitative study, conflict, social conditions, narrative enquiry, Kashmiri visual artists, social constructionist approach

60. Contesting Claims and Women's Resistance in Assam: Literary Expression as a Tool for Carving New Identity for Women

Bhanuprabha Brahma, PhD scholar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, bhanu.du1@gmail.com

There has always been a strong upsurge of women's activism in North East India. Women have been raising their voices against injustice and trying to redefine gender stereotypes through their interventions. They always believed that military regulations are not solutions to peace. The strong resistance or the challenges they face have been highlighted after Assam movement. One needs to rethink women's resistance as an attempt to create their own space. This paper explores various dimensions of the feminist movement in Assam through women's writings. These writings exhibit various forms of resistance which provided them the channels for their voices. Weaving together both fictional and non-fictional writings of the women of Assam, I intend to trace women's distinct identity, subjective consciousness and see how social inequalities marginalize women in different ways. This study is highly relevant as it explores the multiple dimensions of women's existence and provides accounts of negotiations for the survival of women in those times.

Key words: women's activism, resistance, gender stereotypes, conflict, women's writing, women's identity, survival, fictional and non-fictional writing, Assam

Theme 12: In Search of a Home: Understanding Displacement

61. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): Responsibility of State or International Organizations

Bhawna Sharma, Assistant Professor, Amity University, Delhi, bsharma4@amity.edu

There is no consensus on the definition of internally displaced persons (IDPs). The definition of IDP depends on the criteria that have been identified for displacement. The narrow definition of IDP restricts displacement upto conflict. The broader definition includes people who are displaced as a result of natural disasters and development programmes. IDPs are disadvantaged as compared to refugees. These people (IDP) remain within the territory of state and do not cross the national borders. Thus, they do not come under the protection provided to refugees by International Organisations (IO). Though protection of IDPs is considered as a matter of state responsibility yet in practice states are silent about it. In fact, states are responsible for acts of violence that are committed on IDPs. It is in this context, the role of IO is important because these organisations have been playing an active role in assisting and protecting IDPs. However, there are instances where states have discouraged and prohibited the entry of IOs in the region of conflict. Thus, there is a conflict between the principle of sovereignty and fundamental human rights of the displaced population. The principle of sovereignty and territorial integrity are as important as the protection and guarantee the fundamental human rights of displaced population. This paper aims to analyse the role of IOs in alleviating the suffering of IDPs, by taking the cases of Georgia, Sri Lanka and Sudan. In all these three countries, state violence is considered to be the most important factor leading to the vulnerable condition of IDPs.

Keywords: Internally displaced persons (IDP), Sri Lanka, Sudan, Georgia, International Organisations (IO), Responsibility of State, conflicts, sovereignty and fundamental human rights, state violence

62. 'Imagined Homeland' and Realistic Outland: A Reading of Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* under Geocriticism

Payal Dahiya, Postgraduate scholar, M.A. (English), Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Dwarka, Delhi, pdahiya97@gmail.com

There has been a long-standing and mutually rewarding relationship between literary criticism, political ideologies and human geography. Any geographical area confined by boundaries possesses two identities, as a space and as a place. Identities are abstract but the whole world works upon such abstract ideas. There is also the struggle over real and imagined geographies alongside the purposes of ally-nations who function almost as enemies. The imagined derives its point of departure from reality, just begins from reality, then continues its construction within the domain of the imaginaire. This paper attempts to extrapolate how two different nations that are completely antithetical, clash in Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*. How the reimagination of spatial boundaries deconstructs identities as a migrant transcends the geographical, cultural and political boundaries of a Nation.

Keywords: Identity, The Reluctant Fundamentalist, migrants, Mohsin Hamid, Geocriticism

63. War-Less Conflict: A Case Study of Involuntary Resettlement

Gargi Sengupta, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi, gargi.sengupta14@gmail.com

Involuntary resettlement is an implicit characteristic of conflict. Conflict is generally associated with war and violence. But conflict has a veiled side as well, which is both war-less and violence-less. A significant consequence of rapidly increasing urbanisation is internal displacement- that is movements of people from rural areas to cities. Readily availability of employment opportunities in different sectors mainly unorganised, in the cities and absence of same in their native place compounded by diminish rural income become a point of attraction for the rural people to come in the cities, without being aware of the adverse effects of it. The displaced people typically have to reside in the peripheral and sub-standard areas (odd/vacant Government land) of the cities, which often results into involuntary displacement and involuntary resettlement because of any development project of the Government on those odd/vacant lands. The major issues under involuntary displacement and involuntary resettlement are it creates a hierarchy of citizenship (between slum dwellers and non-slum dwellers) and also raises the concerns about who would bear the cost of development? City development should be an organic one. Thus, development should not result into clash of interests or conflict between the original inhabitants and migrant settlers. In this background, the paper aims to look into the war-less conflict that exists between the two groups of citizens/residents of the same city.

Keywords: Involuntary Resettlement, war-less conflict, displacement, urbanisation, slum-dwellers, development

64. Gender Based violence among Refugee Women in India (Case Study of Rohingya Refugees in Delhi)

Mushavvari Hasan, Research Scholar, Department of Political Science, University Of Delhi, Delhi, MUSHAVVARIHASAN@GMAIL.COM

भारत में शरणार्थी महिलाओं के मध्य लिंग आधारित हिंसा: दिल्ली में रोहिंग्या शरणार्थियों के मामले का अध्ययन

One of the important global problems is the increasing number of refugees. Since it is a global problem therefore it needs to be resolved globally. Globally around 70.8 million people are recognised as refugees and 50 percent of this is women. The Myanmar Crises resulted into denial of Rohingya community as national indigenous race; in fact the Myanmar Government rejected their citizenship, thus this community becomes refugees and taken shelter in Bangladesh and also in India, specifically in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Telengana, Jammu and Kashmir.

The purpose of this study is to look into the condition of women refugees in the Camps. Women as refugees are facing dual problems- one as a refugee and second as a woman. Even in the camps women are facing various forms of violence and exploitation. In fact, in the camps, women are

victims of patriarchal systems. Qualitative methodology based on secondary sources (data analyses and content analyses) would be adopted for conducting the study. For understanding the dual forms of women exploitation, the study would follow narrative and exploratory research methods. Thus, the aim of the paper is to look into how without international laws for refugees' membership, we can protect the refugee women and also how we can ensure empowerment and participation of refugee women in the decision making process.

Key Words: Gender based violence, Myanmar, Rohingya, Refugees, Women, Camp, Exploitation

65. Humanity Vs. National Interest: Explaining India's Response to Rohingya Crisis

Renu Keer, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Atma Ram Samatan Dharma College, University of Delhi, Delhi, renu.keer8@gmail.com

Foreign Policy of a state is an important instrument to serve its national interest first and foremost. It is undoubtedly, a crucial aspect of state politics to shape its image in international community. Over the years, the world politics has been predominantly determined by 'realism'. Realists generally argue that state pursue national interest and are unlikely to take efforts to help others unless it is in their own national interest. Nevertheless, under the purview of international organizations such United Nations, the idea of human rights has given birth to humanitarian actions and the 'responsibility to protect' (R2P). Accordingly, more privilege is given to human rights and dignity in the contemporary world politics. Since the independence, India has followed an idealist policy towards the refugees from neighbouring states and provide them both shelter and food, which led to the criticism of Indian government from different parts of Indian community that the government is expected to serve and save its own citizens first rather than any immigrant or infiltrated people. Recently, the assassination of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar has again fuelled the debate over national interest and humanitarian concern and put a challenge before the Indian stakeholders. India's position on the Rohingya Crisis has received huge flak from right bodies, including Amnesty International and United Nations of its handling of Rohingya Muslims. It raises question as to who should protect and provide shelter to over 400,000 Rohingya Refugees in an urgent need of accommodation. Also, the prime question here is that can the lives of own citizens be put in danger in order to save 'others'? Against this backdrop, this paper aims to study the policy of Indian state on Rohingya refugees and also examines the factors, which pushes Indian stakeholders to deport Rohingya immigrants. The paper concludes by the argument that national interest is a primary motivating factor behind any state's foreign policy and same is for India also.

Keywords: Rohingya, Crisis, International Community, India's Foreign Policy

66. Conflicts in attaining Sustainable Development Goals: A Study of Migrant Labourers in Ludhiana

Monika Paliwal, Assistant professor (Environmental Sciences), Maitreye College, University of Delhi, Delhi, monikapaliwal90@gmail.com

In this era of Anthropocene, we are striving to achieve sustainable development goals by 2030. These SGDs are built on the principle of "leaving no one behind", whereas we currently face multiple disparities at various scales in our society, which often lead to conflicts within societies.

This paper will focus on GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, as cities all over the world are under burden of heavy population, and especially in India, cities are facing heavy load of migrant population. Migrant population is seldom accepted in the mainstream and specifically with regard to migrant labourers, conflicts emerge at various levels such as identity issues, job sector, accommodation and access to resources.

This paper will analyse the conflicts that are faced by migrant labourers in Ludhiana in the wake of SDGs. The survey included in this paper was conducted in migrant residential area and industrial area in Ludhiana, Punjab. Within this location, conflicts faced by the migrant labourers are often unexamined, on the premise that migrant labourers are mostly not the main occupants of cities and as labourers they only engage in industrial work. However, on observing the migrant colonies and its occupants, this seems to be a superficial understanding. These issues would be exemplified through narratives of migrant labourers working in Ludhiana's industrial cluster firms.

Keywords: GOAL 11, sustainable cities and communities, migrant labourers, Ludhiana, sustainable development goals, SDGs, conflict

Theme 13: Through the Lens of Diversity: Bridging Differences

67. Psychological Experiences of LGBTQ in Conflict with Society

Shuchi Chhokra, Undergraduate Scholar, Shyama Prasad Mukherji College, University of Delhi, Delhi, shuchichhokra99@gmail.com

Rubal Poonia, Undergraduate Scholar, Shyama Prasad Mukherji College, University of Delhi, Delhi

Virendra Pratap Yadav, Assistant Professor, Shyama Prasad Mukherji College, University of Delhi

LGBTQ community in India is fighting for equal rights and acceptance in society. Individuals belonging to this community face a lot of challenges in their daily life. Although the youth has shown considerable acceptance towards them, however, acceptance within the boundaries of their families and work still marks a constant struggle for them. The present research attempted to explore the Psychological Experiences of LGBTQ community in terms of their personal feelings, interaction with others, societal and family pressures and institutional challenges. The sample was collected using purposive sampling, the total sample being 10 individuals belonging to LGBTQ community. The narratives of the participants were collected by contacting them in person. Findings of the research suggests that these individuals face a lot of difficulties in their personal life, are bullied by others, feel marginalised and disconnected with significant others. In addition, they experience significant discrimination in academics and jobs. The present research has many significant implications, especially in sensitising the people about LGBTQ community, and considering them as an important part of the society.

Keywords: LGBTQ, conflict, sexual orientation, psychological experiences

68. Diversity and Higher Education: Impact on Social Outcomes

Tanya Kalra, Undergraduate Scholar, Department of Psychology, Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi

Mansi Thakur, Undergraduate Scholar, Department of Psychology, Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi

Dr. Suparna Jain, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi, suparnajain@dr.du.ac.in

Diversity is ever pervasive. Children begin experiencing diversity at any early age in school. However, only during late adolescence they may begin to understand the ill effects of social constructs such as discrimination, stereotypes and prejudices. It is during the years of higher education that they understand the social segregation processes prevailing in the society. During these identity seeking years they tend to form their own attitudes towards diversity.

With ever increasing diversity through affirmative action, Indian students are getting ample opportunities for studying in a diverse scenario. Migration from various parts of the country for

education has become common place. The present study aims to assess the benefits of studying in higher educational institutes that provide a diverse classroom in terms of gender, region, caste, religion and so on. The benefits are assessed in the resulting level of intolerant beliefs such as sexism, racism, sexual prejudice, ageism, classism, and religious intolerance.

To fulfil the aim, 100 students pursuing graduation or post graduation from various public and private institutes of Delhi were approached to fill two questionnaires. The tool used to measure diversity experience in higher education institutes was ‘Experiences with Diversity index’ by Gonyea et. al. 2003 and the tool used for assessing the resulting intolerant beliefs was ‘The Intolerant Schema Measure’ by Allison C. Aosved, Patricia J. Long, Emily K. Voller, 2009. Cronbach alpha was calculated for both the tools so as to confirm their applicability on Indian sample.

Further, correlation and regression analysis was employed to reach statistical results. It was found that studying in a diverse environment is beneficial for the students of the age group 18-25. Thus the study strengthens the importance of affirmative action and diversity efforts by colleges and universities, not only as a means of increasing access to higher education for greater numbers of students, but also as a means of fostering students’ academic and social growth.

Keywords: Diversity, intolerant beliefs, higher education, affirmative action

69. Tourism as a Tool to Foster Peace and Tolerance: A Perception Study among Millennial Tourists Visiting Kerala

Prasanth Udayakumar, Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Tourism & Travel Management, Bhubaneswar, prasanthudayakumar@gmail.com

Brij Mohan Singh, Senior Operations Executive, Travel Triangle, Gurugram, Haryana

As a social and cultural activity, tourism is a potential source of change. Travel provides a learning experience like no other activity. It inspires people to seek out new places, keeping their pool of knowledge constantly topped up. It’s a great way to not only learn new things and immerse oneself in a new culture – it also provides a constant urge to continue learning. Promoting tourism is like promoting the larger goal of peace and harmony around the world. Over the years, there experienced an evident shift in the perception of travel among people. Present generation tourists rather prefer to experience than simply travelling to a new place. Such accumulated experiences would be able to contribute to a change that the world around is looking for. Generational cohorts give researchers a tool to analyse changes in views over time. While younger and older adults may differ in their views at a given moment, generational cohorts allow researchers to examine how today’s older adults felt about a given issue when they themselves were young, as well as to describe how the trajectory of views might differ across generations. As they become the dominant adults in society, millennial tourists are viewing tourism from a different angle than their predecessors were doing. The present study was an attempt to examine how tourism and travel among millennials acts as an engine to foster peace and tolerance across the globe. Stratified sampling method has been used to choose 100 millennial tourists from various countries who visited Kerala to spend their vacations. The perceptions of millennial tourists were studied deeply

to analyse its correlation with the changing trends in tourism which has a positive impact on societal change, especially world peace, harmony and tolerance.

Keywords: Harmony, millennial, perception, change management, tourism, travel, Kerala

70. From Polarization to Positive Confluence in Cross-Racial Friendships: Narratives from Northeast Students in Delhi

Mayanglambam Omega Chanu, PhD Research Scholar, Department of Psychology, University of Delhi, Delhi, omechanu@gmail.com

Shivantika Sharad, Assistant Professor, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi

A large number of students from Northeast (NE) come to Delhi for pursuing higher studies and better job opportunities (NESCH, 2011). It is a movement from one cultural world to another, and in the process of acculturation, many things come into play (Berry, 2005) particularly friendships. Studies on cross-racial friendships indicates increased intellectual self-confidence, higher degree of aspiration, and reduced intergroup bias (Antonio, 2004), thereby bridging the social distance between races. As new NE students acculturate in Delhi and explore the possibilities of friendships, their adjustment at times is marred by experiences of prejudice, misperceptions, name calling, and discrimination. The present study aims to understand the nature of friendship of NE students, its pattern and quality, level of contact, intimacy, relational conflicts, and its resolution by NE students with “others” through narratives from NE students. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 30 NE students in Delhi, for varying years. Thematic analysis of the narratives suggests different shades and boundaries of friendship between NE students and others (North Indians etc.). This relationship is not just characterized by self-segregation, negative perceptions, judgements, and conflicts, but also openness, acceptance, positive, supportive, and reassuring friendships. Focus has been on identifying the core elements of positive cross-racial friendships. The study opens up for further exploration in the process of integrating NE students with “others” and is a significant step in the area of inter-group relationships.

Keywords: Cross-racial friendships, north-east, culture, intergroup bias

Theme 14: From Violence to Non-Violence: War, Partition, Gandhi and Gita

71. Reconstituting the Dialectics of Self/Society in the Context of Partition

Shivangi Bhatia - Postgraduate Scholar, MA(English), Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi, Delhi, shivicommbhatia04@gmail.com

Tanya Thakur - Postgraduate Scholar, MA(English), Zakir Hussain College, University of Delhi, Delhi

The early years of the twentieth century Indian political scene witnessed cataclysmic upheaval as the state of Bengal was politically and geographical partitioned into West Bengal and East Pakistan – a fragmentation that reflected itself beyond its territorial coordinates, into the individual consciousness. In a world of escalating nationalist struggles and the simultaneous emergence of an English-educated, elite Indian populace, the ‘self’ was rendered as a product of the constant dialectics of internal/psychological conflict and the external/socio-political fragmentation and was constantly caught between the irresolvable paradox of tradition/modernity and that of the self/society. It is in this context that Amitav Ghosh’s novel *The Shadow Lines* and Rabindranath Tagore’s narrative *The Home and The World* translate the ideological conflict that pits the individual against the society and against the nation, at large in a world encompassed by conflict. While Tagore’s project is an immediate encounter with the Swadeshi movement and the underlying operations of patriarchy, Ghosh’s narrative reflects how the effects of Partition persisted even two generations after its actual occurrence. In this backdrop, this paper aims at the study of formation and externalization of an individuated self in a world of conflicting forces in the aforementioned narratives; the paper will also establish conjoined perspectives on how, in such a worldview, the ensuing trauma and a sense of un-belongingness situates the individual in an untraceable third space, the accounts of which are absent from the ‘grand’ narratives surrounding a particular historical moment of conflict – the Bengal Partition in this case.

Keywords: Partition, self, Bengal Partition, fragmentation, Amitav Ghosh, ‘The Shadow Lines’, Rabindranath Tagore, ‘The Home and The World’, Swadeshi movement, patriarchy

72. The Breakdown of Moral Economy in Rural Bengal during World War II: A Study of *AgunPakhi* and *Keyapatar Nouko*

Madhurima Sen, Junior Research Fellow, M.Phil. (English), Department of English, University of Delhi, Delhi, emailmadhurimasen@gmail.com

India was not a major battle ground till late in the Second World War but it served as the source of supplies and manpower from the very beginning. War came to India from the eastern border, and one of the worst famines in the history of the subcontinent affected Bengal in the wake of the war. However, overshadowed by 1947 Partition and the riots that happened in its aftermath, the effect of the war on the society and economy of Bengal has not received adequate attention. The aim of this paper will be to draw attention to the often-neglected social impact of the war on rural Bengal, which statistical records of the death toll cannot do justice to.

The two primary literary texts that will be studied in this paper are *Agunpakhi* (*Fire-bird*) by Bangladeshi author Hasan Azizul Haque and *Keyapatar Nouko* (*Boat Made of Screwpine Leaves*)

by Indian Bengali author Prafulla Roy. The paper will analyze the irreversible transformations the war brought about in the countryside, which never went back to being what it was before the war. It will elucidate how the interaction with European army at close quarters, the 1943 famine and the influx of throngs of people from the city contributed towards the breakdown of moral economy in rural Bengal.

Keywords: Second World War, Rural Bengal, Agunpakhi, Keyapatar Nouko, Hasan Azizul Haque, Prafulla Roy

73. The Bhagavad Gita Way of Life for Attaining Peace and Prosperity for All

Neeraj Saxena, Assistant Professor, Department of Spanish, Delhi College of Arts and Commerce, University of Delhi, New Delhi, neeraj.2862@gmail.com

Bhagavad Gita is an “Instruction Manual” for life. It gives us the right understanding and the right vision to attain both peace and prosperity. In Chapter 15, which summarizes the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita, the world is depicted in the form of a single tree, as ONE unit, and just as each part of the tree is interconnected so is each and everything in this world. This tree is shown as inverted with the branches below and the root above. The root is the source of nourishment for the entire tree and gives power to all its parts. Thus, our attention is taken to the Source of the world – the One Undivided, All Pervading Homogenous Substratum which gives existence to all manifestations.

With this understanding and vision of oneness when we live and perform action, doing away with a selfish, egocentric vision but instead doing our duties following dharma and working with an attitude of “Yagña”, which means dedicating our actions to the One Supreme Reality, of which we are all a part and by which we all stand to gain, there ensues deep peace and great prosperity.

Keywords: Bhagavad Gita, peace, prosperity, “Yagña”

74. Arne Naess and Gandhi: Heading towards Solving the World of Conflict through Reliance on Environmentalism

Mousumi Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, West Bengal, mousumi.philosophy@gmail.com

Arne Naess, the father of ‘deep ecology’ himself admitted that his work on the philosophy of ecology developed from his work on Spinoza and Gandhi. Naess explains that Gandhi made manifest the internal relation between self-realization and non-violence which was sometimes called biospherical egalitarianism. Biospherical egalitarianism promotes species equality and goes against the arrogant, ontological claims of human superiority. We could find that Gandhi’s principle of ahimsa is the best way to explain his concern for the oneness of life. Gandhi was influenced by the principles of Advaita, which speaks of the essential unity of man and Bhagavad Gita’s concept of the self, which speaks of the union between individual self with the Universal Self. Following Gandhi, Naess believed that deep ecology is not fundamentally about the value of

nature but it is more about realizing that what we are in the larger scheme of things. The principle of deep ecology that Ness is advocating following Gandhi can be applied to solve the world conflict. Deep ecology ensures the respect of every sentient beings and its dependence on nature. This principle could be applied to solve the growing anger between man and the dearth of spiritual situatedness, which is present among men. Gandhi though an anti-colonial leader of India always had given importance to the spiritual liberation with political liberation. For this he relied on non-violence, simplicity, and nature. This paper is an endeavour to show how the principles of Naess and Gandhi on environmentalism could be applied to solve the world conflict of the present day.

Keywords: Deep ecology, Gandhi, world conflict, Arne Naess, environmentalism

75. Gandhian Notion of International Peace and World Order

Shalini Prasad, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, TRKM Girls Degree College Aligarh, shalinipra42@gmail.com

The main concerns of international relations are security and conflict and how peace could be achieved. To meet out this challenge Western scholars proposed a number of theories which have failed to achieve the desired end. In most of these approaches, one may decipher a state centric view of the world and security tends to mean security of the state in particular. In my opinion, peace in the world cannot be achieved without reaching the concept and techniques of Gandhi. Gandhi's idea of non-violence and Satyagraha is more relevant in today's turbulent world. Therefore, it is important to understand his techniques and try to replace the existing ones which advocate violence as a solution for peace in the world. Gandhi fervently hoped for "a world federation of free and independent states". His concept of World Government transcended the traditional thinking. Gandhi's ideals are the necessity as various conventional International organisations could not bring genuine peace. The purpose of the paper is to understand international conflict, existing world order and how Gandhian model is one of the constructive methods to bring international peace and security. The paper deals effectively with the Gandhian philosophy to sustain peace in the international system.

Keywords: Peace, Security, Non-Violence, Satyagraha, International Conflict

Theme 15: In Search of an Identity: The Different Hues of Conflict and Violence

76. Fractured Realities and Fragmented Identities: Vision of the Nation in Partition Fiction

Gauri Mishra, Associate Professor, College of Vocational Studies, University of Delhi, Delhi, gaurika1965@gmail.com

How was Partition different for women and men? Hindu and Muslim, male and female writers wrote differently and from their own perspective. Whereas writers like Mumtaz Shah Nawaz (Pakistani Novelist, 1912-1948, wrote in Urdu) Attia Hosain (Indian Muslim woman writer, 1913-1998, wrote in English) and Ismat Chughtai (Indian Muslim woman writer, 1915-1991, wrote in Urdu) talked about women in conservative Muslim backgrounds who break new grounds, Bhisham Sahni (Indian Novelist of the Partition era, 1915-2003, wrote in both Hindi and English) Chaman Nahal (Indian novelist wrote primarily in English) and Yashpal (Indian novelist, 1903-1976, wrote in Hindi) give stereotyped portrayals of women characters in their novels, binding them to patriarchal ideologies and conservative trends; even as they struggle with the notions of a new nationalistic ethos.

Abdullah Husain (Pakistani writer, born 1931, wrote primarily in Urdu) and Khadija Mastur (Pakistani woman writer, 1927-1982, wrote in Urdu) deal with the Muslim ethos of nostalgia for a lost world, as 'nation' for them has meant more than just a piece of land called Pakistan. Their visions of belonging to 'Pakistan' and their own identity emerge fractured because of their own memories of pre-partition days. Amitav Ghosh's (Contemporary Indian English writer) novel 'The Shadow' Lines also questions the idea of drawing 'boundaries' and creating new 'nations'.

Keywords: Partition fiction, Mumtaz Shah Nawaz, Abdullah Husain, Khadija Mastur, Amitav Ghosh, 'The Shadow Lines'

77. Hindutva: Is it becoming a New National Identity?

Anamika Rai, Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Psychology, Shyama Prasad Mukherji College, University of Delhi, Delhi

Bhavya Jain, Undergraduate scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Shyama Prasad Mukherji College, University of Delhi, Delhi, bhavya.jain.1299@gmail.com

The idea of Hindutva was established years ago yet; it is being re-established on various occasions by the political influences in our country to create hegemony of the majority. The revolutionizing of India into a 'Hindu rashtra' (country which is being dictated on the principles of Hinduism) through implementation of laws revolving around the Hindu beliefs, beef ban for instance. (Dutta, 2016). This attempt of defining an individual's national identity in terms of Hindutva can be seen as the underlying cause of conflict. Those who do not conform to such strict beliefs are seen as opponents of India as a nation. Therefore, this academic paper attempts to trace the major political and cultural factors that have been sponsoring the idea of Hinduism and utilising it as a source of ultimate dominance. The attempts to construct this manufactured social identity also treat non-conformists as anti-nationalists. These factors and their impact are being traced with the help of review of past literature. The paper may contribute to a better understanding of the factors involved

in the formation of new national identity on the grounds of Hindutva and the communal conflicts created in India due to this formulation of Nationalism.

Keywords: Hindutva, national identity, nationalism, communal conflicts, social identity, hindu rashtra, anti-nationalists

78. Conflict of Hindutva: Who is Not a Hindu?

Sonal Nain, Postgraduate Scholar, M.A(English), University School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi, tishanain4@gmail.com

Hindutva, the melting pot for different faiths and believes, the ideas and ideals, and the system and societies is pertinent to the historical and the contemporary thought process. The paper focuses on the ways Hindutva had been perceived from the times of Savarkar who familiarized people with the term to the present times of Modi government in which it is more ubiquitous than ever. It also discusses about events that have occurred in the past and are still happening which create not only suspicion but also conflicts in the minds of people. U.R. Ananthamurthy's *Hindutva or Hind Swaraj* not only explores the ideologies of Savarkar and Gandhi but his manifesto is a critique of Modi that makes us question the idea of the Nation and what constitutes its people.

Keywords: Hindutva, nation, Savarkar, Modi government, U.R. Ananthamurthy, Hind Swaraj, Gandhi

79. Identity and Violence: Searching for Harmony in the Troubled Word

Mukesh Kumar Bairva, Assistant Professor, Department of English, PGDAV College, University of Delhi, Delhi, bairvamukesh@gmail.com

The phenomenon of globalization has intensified the battle of identities. The whole world is gripped by xenophobia and other forms of hatred. We embraced the capitalist model to organize our economy with an aim to achieve an egalitarian world but it has produced appalling inequalities, deprivation and misery. In India, sadly, the culture of violence has found space in the collective consciousness. After 1990s, the conflicts stemming from religious and caste identities has unleashed unpardonable violence. The equating of many-sided persons with one identity entails miniaturization of human beings. The pursuit of imaginary singularities has contributed to the barbarity and turmoil we are witnessing today. To kill people for no other reason than the fact that they belong to other communities is the most lethal threat to human civilization. It is pertinent to mention Mahatma Gandhi's broad idea of Hinduism here. He wrote: "If I were asked to define the Hindu creed I should simply say: search after truth through non-violent means". Indeed, Gandhian philosophy has become more relevant today. The paper seeks to explore Mahatma Gandhi's ideas in dealing with the new world of conflict, tension and violence.

Key words: Identity, globalization, violence, Gandhi, culture and conflict

80. Exploring the Interplay between Globalization and Identity

Bhumika Kapoor, Assistant Professor, Jesus and Mary College, Department of Psychology, University of Delhi, Delhi, bhumi.kapoor24@yahoo.com

Vanita Sondhi, Associate Professor, Vivekananda College, Department of Psychology, University of Delhi

The discipline of psychology is increasingly recognizing the pervasive impact of the ever-changing socio-cultural contexts in which people are embedded. This dynamic nature of the various systems governing people's lives is largely a product of globalization. As a phenomenon of psychological interest, globalization exerts a variety of changes across different life-domains and appears to continuously shape the contours of people's experiences. Keeping this in mind, this research focused on the experiences of young people from the metropolitan context of Delhi-NCR. A major developmental task in the lives of young people revolves around the emergence of a distinct identity. Thus, the major focus of this research was on exploring the interplay between globalization and identity. To this end, semi-structured interviews were conducted with 25 participants (M=11, F=14) between the ages of 18 to 28 years. Data were subjected to Braun and Clarke's (2006) reflexive thematic analysis using inductive coding. Ten participants' interviews were also selected for drawing additional analytical insights. Emergent themes include Notions about Globalization; Continuities in Identities; Identities in Flux; Consequences of Globalization; and Disillusionment with Local Culture. The implications of the same will be discussed.

Keywords: globalization; identity; culture

Theme 16—Peace Education and Environmental Conflict

81. A Case for Prudent Use of Earth's Natural Resources

Naila Anjum, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Bharati College, University of Delhi, Delhi, panacea24@gmail.com

This paper proposes to examine the relationship between environmental degradation due to unsustainable economic activity, colonial depredation, over exploitative mining of diamond, gold and uranium (besides other minerals), use of inappropriate technology and conflict within a country's borders and wars between countries. The paper is drawn largely from books, magazines, newspapers and internet, besides interaction with activists and experts.

Water is a source of conflict between individuals, villages, states and countries as a sizable part of the world has become either water-stressed or water-scarce. Humans having 70% of water in their corporal constitution are going to face serious conflict situation in years ahead over it. India has been one of the few countries where the idea of sustainable use of water resources has percolated to the masses and there is a gigantic people's initiative to conserve, store and promote cautious and frugal use of water. Water issues are outstanding between India and China (which diverts Brahmaputra waters away from India) and Pakistan, which has similar complaints against India regarding Indus water.

We see relative peace and gradual development of goodwill between once warring countries in the years following resolution of such conflicts. This paper carries a gendered perspective as women, being preservers of life and environment, have been at the forefront of peace and sustainability movement. It should help a better grasp of the matrix of issues and promote restorative action.

Keywords: Water, water related conflicts, gendered perspective, women, environmental degradation, unsustainable economic activity

82. The Age of Toxicity and Environmental Degradation in Developing Countries: The Case of India

Ritambhara Malaviya, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi, Delhi, ritambharam@gmail.com

Ulrich Beck described the present day world as the 'age of risk'. Taking the clue from Beck, it might be averred that the present age is not only the age of risk; it is the age of toxicity. Toxics have permeated the entire ecosystem – from land to water to atmosphere. However, the problem of pollution is not evenly distributed across the countries as the affluent developed countries have mitigated some of these problems. Toxicity has a disproportionate impact on the economically weaker and marginalised sections within the developing and least developed countries as they remain at the receiving end of all things. Even in the developing countries the poor have to bear the brunt of such problems as they are forced by economic circumstances to live in areas which are environmentally degraded and polluted. On the basis of extant research in the prevalence of

toxicity induced by environmental degradation in India, the paper proposes a model to understand this problem. This paper proposes to find solutions by proposing to diagnose the problem at different levels – the functioning of the modern day world has been distorted by three syndromes of the present age– the imperialism syndrome, the underdevelopment syndrome and the corporate corruption syndrome. The paper suggests that governance at the national and international level will have to address these three syndromes for a healthier future.

Keywords: Risk, toxicity, imperialism, underdevelopment, corporate corruption, India

83. Fragmentation, Alienation, Broken Images in the Poetry of T. S. Eliot

Neenu Kumar, Assistant Professor, Aditi Mahavidyalaya, University of Delhi, Delhi, kumar.neenu@gmail.com

A growing sense of aloofness, alienation and rootlessness pervades in the works of modernist writer Eliot resulting in the loss of identity making life futile and empty, thanks to the brunt of horrors of the two world wars that modernism had to bear. This paper critically examines the fractured existence of humanity, of man’s alienation in a hostile universe and the inevitability of death in a world incapacitated by the devastations of war. The narratives depict motifs of alienation, isolation and desolation portraying the futility of human existence. Deeply affected by the ambient disorderliness of the industrial city, its smokes, smells, scenes of low life and decay, the “insignia of disorganization and entropy,” of modern life on the verge of war, Thomas Stearns Eliot, famously known as the major proponent of 20th century poetry posed questions on the “received ideas and accepted appearances,” of everyday existence rather than providing answers for it. (Sharpe: 34) Delving into the depths of despair, Eliot established the utter hollowness and disenchantment of a war engulfed modern life, something that he explored in the poems written early in his writing career. The paper presents insights as to how Eliot critiques the superficiality and pretensions of the urban squalor reducing individuals to nothing more than objects, depicting a life full of monotony and misery. In particular, the paper would take a close look at the anxiety and alienation of the human condition, the individual lack of identity that the squalor of modern life has to offer as depicted in Eliot’s works.

Keywords: Alienation, fragmentation, broken images, loss of self, misery, monotony, hostile, T. S. Eliot, poetry

84. Peace-education in ShriBhagvadGita

Dr. Surendra Mahto, Assistant Professor, Education Department, L.B.S. Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi, s.mahto73@gmail.com

“After gaining knowledge, one attains ultimate peace” According to this sentence of Bhagvad-Gita, knowledge is the means to find peace, which is a universal truth. Every nation, society, community and individual of world, even every creature wants peace. No one wants turmoil or war. Feared by the terror of war, humanity embraces religion and peace, which contains the feeling

of compassion, non-violence and mercy for every creature. Hiroshima –Nagasaki, Israel – Palestine, Venezuela, middle-east nations can be cited in this context.

Foundation of UNO after Hiroshima-Nagasaki is an example of humanity's seeking peace. Emperor Ashoka's embracing Buddhism after Kalinga war is also an example, which is ample to prove that each human –being's final wish is to attain peace through right knowledge or wisdom. Everyone needs to make an effort collectively in this direction, because peace is sought by everyone. It is rightly said, "Peace for all, all for peace." From the time immemorial, Indian wisdom talks about peace-

Let all be happy! Let all be healthy!

Let all see well! Let no one suffer!

Keywords: Ultimate Peace, universal truth, education, ShriBhagvadGita, Indian wisdom

Theme 17: From Terror to Tolerance: Trying to Understand a Conflict-Ridden World

85. Mass Rationalization and Terrorism

Mananpreet Kaur, Undergraduate scholar, BA (H), Keshav Mahavidyalaya, University of Delhi, Delhi, mananpreet101099@gmail.com

Harpreet Bhatia, Assistant Professor, Keshav Mahavidyalaya, University of Delhi, Delhi

Man is probably the only animal that kills and annihilates its own species. Today, terrorism is a menace all over the world. All nations are facing it and are trying to deal with it in their own ways, unfortunately with little success. This paper is an attempt to understand the mindset of those human beings who are able to kill and maim other human beings, due to mass rationalization. Rationalization is a defense mechanism that involves explaining unacceptable thoughts or behaviors in rational or logical manners to avoid feelings of anxiety and cognitive dissonance. This is often done at an individual level but at a group level, it usually occurs before or after an act of aggression, exalting the in-group and demonizing others. Mass rationalization occurs when a group of people collectively engage in making illogical ideas seem logical, and act on it. In case of terrorism, terrorists have a shared sense of hatred and fear towards the targeted group. They want to show their violence but also feel the need to justify their inhuman act. They engage in brainstormed rationalizations which get intensified over time, resulting in mass rationalization. The present paper explores this process as well as its causes.

Keywords: terrorism, rationalization, cognitive dissonance, in-group, aggression

86. Fractured Realities and Fragmented Lives of Afghanistan: A Study of The Kite Runner Through the Conflict Emerging from Violence

Shraddha Singh, Postgraduate Scholar, M.A. English, University school of Humanities and Social Sciences, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi, shraddha.singh62@gmail.com

At present when violence parades the whole world, finding peace is just like finding drop of water in the Sahara Desert which at one point of time in history was a lush green forest. Faustian greed for power and control has turned the whole world into a Frankensteinian monster. The idea of conflict and violence goes hand in hand. Former can't be resolved without resolving the latter. Human psyche gets deprived of peace because of internal and external conflicts. The constant struggle to deal with agents of both physical and mental violence still continues. This academic paper focuses on these conflicts and violence which has become the mundane reality of Afghanistan in light of the novel *The Kite Runner* by Khalid Hosseini. The paper will inquire into the dynamics of war, terrorism, internal and external conflicts of characters and nation, scope of peace and sustainable development and role which enemy countries under the disguise of ally nations played in it.

Keywords: Violence, conflict, Afghanistan, The Kite Runner, Khalid Hosseini

87. Contribution of Sanskrit Literature to the Eradication of Terrorism

Kamini Taneja, Assistant professor, Sanskrit Department, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi, Delhi, kaminitaneja80@gmail.com

Terrorism is an illegal act, which aims to create fear among ordinary people. Terrorism is not just a word but is the most important threat to humanity. The paper discusses how conflict-based terrorism can be dealt with through the perspectives provided by our rich Sanskrit literature written by learned saints through ancient times. Since Vedic times, Vedic texts have described details about such acts. Apart from these, Puranas, Valmiki Ramayana, Shishuvalpada Mahakavya also have provided many descriptions as well as explanations for terrorist incidents that occurred during ancient period. The question then arises whether our Sanskrit literature can help eradicate terrorism to some extent?

Over a period, many countries including USA, UK and Israel have launched armed missions on terrorism. But according to Sanskrit literature this is not a way to end terrorism. The answer to the eradication of terrorism lies in understanding the very basic causes of terrorism. Most of the terrorist are poor, uneducated, or are disillusioned by the current socio-political systems. In such a scenario, killing terrorists won't end terrorism but in fact will only help ignite it even more, As the saying goes, "You can kill a person, but it will take ages to kill an ideology". Terrorism is like a tree. You keep cutting its branches, but it will continually grow. So, if you want to eradicate it completely, you have to cut the roots of the tree.

Therefore, by enlightening people with good values, ideals, mantras, thoughts and value based education, we can change their mindset. Power of word is much greater than using weapons. I am not saying that these things will eradicate terrorism immediately, but it will certainly help to reduce the common factor which leads a person to choose the path of terror.

Key words: Terrorism, Sanskrit literature, mantras, Vedas, Puranas, Valmiki Ramayana, Shishuvalpada Mahakavya

88. Impact of the 1984's Anti- Sikh Riots on the Psyche of Survivors: A Psychological Analysis

Houshou Suzen, Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Psychology, Shyama Prasad Mukherji College for Women, University of Delhi, Delhi

Vanshika Sachdeva, Undergraduate Scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Shyama Prasad Mukherji College, University of Delhi, Delhi

Vanshika Sahni, Undergraduate Scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Shyama Prasad Mukherji College, University of Delhi, Delhi, vanshikasahni99@gmail.com

Conflict can be explained as the philosophical classification of clashes between two or more subordinate groups of high intensity degree due to differences in interests and perspectives. Starting from quarrel and ego self-supervision, such events end up in disastrous violence. The objective of the present study is to understand the lived experiences of the victimized survivors of Anti-Sikh riots held in 1984 after the assassination of India's then Prime Minister, Ms. Indira Gandhi and how this incident has psychologically impacted their personal lives. Delving into the participant's experience is meant for understanding the deep psychological inroads, it has made on the belief system of the survivors. For this, a qualitative method - thematic analysis was done on a sample comprising of 8 such people, residing in different areas of New Delhi region.

KEYWORDS: Conflict, Anti- Sikh Riots, Psychological Impact of Conflict