

Editorial Note

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We are delighted to announce the release of Volume 1, Issue 2 (2025) of the *Journal of Social Science and Multidisciplinary Enquiry (JSSME)*. JSSME offers a multidisciplinary platform to promote critical scholarship engaging with the pressing social, political, developmental and human challenges across diverse geographical and intellectual contexts. The Contributions in this issue illustrate the importance of multidisciplinary approach to capture the contemporary complexities and generate knowledge to support policy, practice and public debate.

A salient theme emerging from this issue is the linkage between vulnerability, governance and human well-being. The opening article looks at the performance and challenges of Social Safety Net Programs (SSNPs) to protect vulnerable children in the southwest coastal region of Bangladesh. The study contributes to the enduring discussion on poverty alleviation, child welfare, climate resilience and inclusive development by articulating the strengths and limitations of the existing social protection mechanisms. The findings highlight the importance of good governance, child sensitive policy design and climate responsive social protection frameworks for equitable development outcomes.

The second article shifts attention to the international security and its implications for fundamental freedoms. The study explores the tension between security imperatives and the protection of civil liberties against the background of the political impact of terrorism on human rights. The article discusses the legal, political and ethical challenges of counterterrorism measures, drawing on the perspectives of experts from Afghanistan, and highlights the importance of transparent legal frameworks, proportionality and compliance with international human rights standards.

The third article moves the conversation over to cultural and film studies. Through affect theory, Marxist critique, emotional labour, and Foucauldian governmentality, the article argues that *Inside Out* represents emotional regulation not merely as psychological balance but also as a way through which emotions become disciplined, productive, and commodified under neoliberal conditions. The analysis provides an important avenue for rethinking the role of popular culture in the production of contemporary emotional economies.

In one of South Asia's oldest epics, the literary/cultural dimension of the mother-child relationship, duty, sacrifice, and patriarchal expectations is explored in the fourth article. It examines the nature of maternal relationships in the Mahabharata using the cases of Kunti, Gandhari, and Madri to highlight the relevance of gender, kinship, dharma, agency and social constraint.

Taken together, the articles in this issue demonstrate the wide intellectual scope of JSSME. They move from a vulnerable child in climate-affected Bangladesh to human rights in conflict-affected Afghanistan, from emotional regulation in animated films to maternal bond in classical epic literature. Despite their thematic diversity, they share a common concern with human dignity, power, vulnerability, and the structures—social, political, cultural, and emotional—that shape human life.

As a young journal, JSSME remains committed to be a welcoming scholarly forum for researchers from diverse disciplines and regions. We are particularly encouraged by the growing international involvement reflected in this issue and by the breadth of perspectives represented in the published works. Such diversity enriches academic dialogue and strengthens the journal's mission of promoting multidisciplinary enquiry into contemporary social challenges.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the authors for their valuable contributions, the reviewers for their constructive and meticulous evaluations, and the editorial and production teams whose commitment has made this issue possible. We also thank our readers for their continued support and engagement. We hope that the articles in this issue stimulate critical reflection, inspire further research, and contribute meaningfully to scholarly and policy discussions aimed at advancing a more just, secure, and inclusive world.



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