

BOOK REVIEW

Living with Degrading
Environment: Social Life
Around a Thermal Power
Plant

Anusmita Biswas

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From the Co – Editors’ Desk

We would like to thank the Indian Social Science Association - ISSA leadership for the academic opportunity to serve as **Co - Editors** for this Special Issue of **Social Science Gazetteer - SSG**, a prestigious peer-reviewed journal. ISSA's academic and action-oriented work honours the legacy of Professor Rajeshwar Prasad, a globally renowned figure who viewed social sciences as documents of values of enlightenment. In his memory, ISSA has recently published three specialised issues of SSG on **Indian Sociological Thought: Continuity and Change**. These will soon be made available to the academic world in the form of a book.

In the month of June 2025, ISSA organised two-days Online Workshop on ‘**Challenges Before Social Sciences**’ in which Young Social Scientists from across the country participated and some presentations were awarded. These awards have been instituted by ISSA in the memory of eminent Indian Social Scientists. In this volume the articles written by award-winning young social scientists have found place. In the next issue of ‘Social Science Gazetteer’ articles by invited speakers in the Workshop will be published. It is also pertinent to mention here that Guest Editor of Special Volume of Social Science Gazetteer on the theme Challenges Before Social Sciences is Professor N. Rajaram, former faculty of Central University of Gujarat.

Professor Rajaram is an internationally acclaimed Social Scientist.

In the opinion of Co Editors of this issue, Social Sciences, Humanities and Languages are heart and soul of democratic societies because these Systems of Knowledge truly represent the values of enlightenment and spirit of dialogue. It can be stated without any dispute that Social Sciences, Humanities and Languages can never be accepted as utilitarian objects. As a result, there is always a clash between 'free market economy' and 'Social Sciences'. Social Sciences reveal documents of people's struggle thus free market economy and authoritarian regimes always make organised efforts to marginalise '*social sciences*'. In present day neo-liberal order, the over stress on '*STEM*' (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) along with one more '*M*' (Management) and avoidance of '*SSHL*' (Social Science, Humanities, Language particularly the Language of Literature) are observable realities. As a result, *critical wisdom* - the instrumental value which forms enlightened and accountable social units, i.e. people are under deep threat. In fact, the survival of human freedom cannot continue without the presence of '*Critical Social Sciences*'. The Articles presented in this volume roam around the necessity of '*Critical Social Sciences*'.

Co Editors have decided not to introduce any change or modification in the articles because they have already been reviewed. It is our opinion that encouragement should also be given to young social scientists so that they may adopt themselves the 'path of academic improvement' - a thought of Prof. Rajeshwar Prasad- which is now the 'philosophy of ISSA' also.

The present issue comprises seven articles of empirico-theoretical nature. Articles reveal social science perspectives-

based interpretations and analysis. We are thankful to the authors and wish them a bright future.

We are honoured to have had this academic opportunity and extend our gratitude to the leadership of ISSA and the Editorial Team – Chief Editor, Managing Editor, Advisors of the *Social Science Gazetteer* for entrusting us with the Co Editorship of Volume 20, Numbers 1 & 2. We believe this volume will be a valuable contribution and will be met with great academic interest by the '*World of Social Sciences*'.

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