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Editorial

Dear Researchers and Readers

The Covid crisis has not given respite to human. The Covid second wave has been causing agony more than we could have imagined. The world especially our country is gripped under disaster brought about by the contagious virus. As the vaccines have been rolled out and people are getting vaccinated, we expect to get the infection curve flattened sooner than later and precious lives are protected. In the meantime, Covid appropriate behaviour is a must and we need to adhere to SOPs in days to come. Situation has come to a point when experts and citizens have been appealing to the social, electronic and print media to avoid airing negative news which is not only causing depression but also has shaken the willpower of everyone. Educational institutions which were opened for a short period after the first wave are closed again with academics activities are back to online platforms. Research activities involving laboratory bench work and data collection have been on a standstill. When the situation continues to look grim during the pandemic, researchers are seen remaining engaged and continue to submit their manuscript to journals and I express my sincere gratefulness for their contributions to our journal. I am extremely indebted to the reviewers for their time and valuable suggestions provided on the manuscripts. I am thankful to my editorial team for being there whenever I needed their help and assistance.

The present volume blends articles of multidisciplinary nature drawn from Life Sciences, Human & Environmental Sciences, Law and Social Sciences.

This volume begins with an article on **“Strategies and Approaches for Enhancing Conservation of Community Forests in Khasi Hills of Meghalaya: Developing Community Forest Networks”** by B. K. Tiwari. The author presents the scenario of forests of Meghalaya especially the ones managed through traditional institutions. These forests popularly known as community forests are experiencing pressure due to extraction of fuel wood and timber, grazing, and expansion of agriculture and human habitations. He

discusses on the urgent need to devise strategies and approaches to conserve these forests with an aim to enhance and sustain the economic and ecological benefits from the forests to the communities dependent on forest for their livelihoods.

Ashi Lama and Anup Kumar Das in their paper “**Factors Affecting Incidence and Fatality of Covid-19 Pandemic: A Cross-Country Analysis**” examine the factors affecting the incidence and the case fatality of Covid-19 at global level by using the cross sectional data from 79 countries. They suggest the need to develop peripheral areas to decongest population and provide better access to healthcare facility to people along with strengthening of healthcare workers to mitigate the impact of the pandemic

In their article “**Biom mineralization Potential of a Ureolytic Fungus isolated From Mawsm ai Cave in Meghalaya**”, Nirmala Akoijam, Sunayana Dutta and S.R. Joshi present a geomicrobiological studies on calcifying ureolytic fungi from the Mawsm ai cave in Meghalaya, India for their calcium biom mineralization efficacy. The fungus, *Aspergillus versicolor* as an ureolytic fungi isolated from the cave indicate the isolate could play an important role in biom mineralization.

Julian L. Roy Jyrwa and Anuradha Sathiyaseelan in their paper “**Towards An Understanding of Self-Regulation in Children: Parental Perspectives among the Khasi Community**” present self-regulation as an important predictor of positive outcomes with the study attempting to gain an understanding into the perceptions of self-regulation among parents. It concludes that parents conceptualize self-regulation in children as motivated behaviour that is driven by having goal that is subservient to authority and is driven by factors such as temperament and the self-autonomous or independence that the child exerts.

In the article “**Corona virus Disease (COVID-19) and livelihood: Impact on Dairy Farmers of Kamrup, District, Assam, India**”, Pinky Barua reveals how covid19 virus had a severe impact on dairy farmers livelihood impacting their daily. The study was conducted in the Kamrup area of Assam

to find out the basic challenges encountered by the dairy farmers during first part of COVID19 lockdown days.

Arun Kumar Singh in his article “ **Myth and Reality of Secularism in India: An Analysis**” discusses on secularism and values of secular character interwoven in the constitutional fabric of India from the very beginning. He emphasizes that secularism is indeed one of the fundamental ideals of the Constitution and can never be changed. This paper attempts to understand the meaning and concept of secularism in India and its challenges.

I take this opportunity to thank the contributors for their submissions and the reviewers for their promptness in providing valuable comments. Suggestions and cooperation of the editorial members have always been a source of guidance and strength.

I make my sincere appeal to the scholars to submit/continue submitting manuscript(s) for publication in future issues of The NEHU Journal.

Stay Safe and Get Vaccinated for Covid-19

Prof. S.R. Joshi

Editor

