

From the Desk of the Chief Editor

We are happy to announce that the current issue marks an important milestone in our journey towards infinity. The present issue marks the inaugural issue of Volume 3, indicating, thereby, that we have now entered into the third year of our publication. We have been trying to maintain the time schedule without compromising on the quality. An important feature of the *Social Science Spectrum* is that, unlike many other journals, articles published in this journal are not only freely accessible and downloadable, but also there is free submission (i.e. there is no submission fee or editorial handling charge).

The present issue is a rather slim one in the sense that there are only five articles. However, the articles are quite varied and interdisciplinary in nature. The first article, for instance, falls on the borderline of Economics and Geography. The authors of the paper, Hatti and Carlson, have made a detailed literature survey examining the link between growth of cities and economic growth and also the nature or direction of causality between the two. On the basis of a cross section study conducted among 485 rural households in West Bengal, Sarkar and Shekhar in their paper have studied the extent of food insecurity and coping mechanism adopted by the households. In the third article of the issue, Kumar, Singh and Pradhan have explored, using both bivariate and multivariate analyses and spanning data across seven states of India, the nexus between chronic diseases and disability among the elderly people. While the paper by Sarkar and Shekhar helps us to clarify our understanding on the issues like food security, poverty and poverty alleviation, the study by Kumar, Singh and Pradhan marks an important contribution in health economics and gerontology. In recent years, there have been many studies on women empowerment and on nutrition; Siddhanta and Chattopadhyay have, however, made an important contribution by studying the nexus between the two – or, to be more precise, the role of women empowerment in determining or influencing the level of nutrition of a child. The data base of the study is not only Eastern India, but also Bangladesh. The final paper of the issue is related, and to some extent complementary, to the penultimate article of the issue. In this paper, Kumar, Unisa and Brajesh have examined the infant and young child feeding practices in India by comparing the status between the Empowered Action Group (EAG) and non-EAG states. This is, indeed, not just an interesting topic; but it also falls in an area of research where not much empirical work one would find, though there are many reports and articles on the importance of breast feeding.

It is hoped that the readers of the *Social Science Spectrum* will find this crisp issue of interest and relevance and the papers will serve as useful reference materials to the researchers working in the areas of social and medical sciences.

Finally, on behalf of the *Social Science Spectrum* fraternity, I would like to extend our sincerer gratitude and thanks to the authors, referees, members of the editorial board, technical staff and all the well wishers for reposing faith on us and bearing with us in spite of our shortcomings, if any. We hope to maintain and/or improve our punctuality and quality in the coming days with the active support and cooperation of all those who are directly and indirectly associated with our humble endeavour..

Santanu Ghosh
Editor