



Editorial

The articles in this issue of the Artha Journal of Social Sciences cover a wide range of concepts from the public sector, ICT, Xenophobia, and urban spaces. The first three articles speak on concerns within the South African context. Shifting from the South African terrain, the last two articles in this issue are situated and centred on socio-political issues in India.

Mlambo et al., in their article *Governance and Corruption in South Africa's Public Sector: The Road Ahead*, explore South Africa's public sector, specifically focusing on the challenges of the post-apartheid era. Employing a qualitative approach and a narrative literature review, the article traces the origin of the concept of governance. Further, the narrative review is also used to conceptualise a solid idea of good governance and examine the South African context from that vantage point. Tracing down corruption and maladministration within governance that tramples down the effective functioning of the public sector, the article proposes specific modes of good governance by studying already existing data. Suggesting corrective actions to address the existing challenges, the study promotes positive community engagement within the provision of public services.

Molobela T Terrance ventures into an empirical inquiry of adopting Information and Communication Technologies to facilitate good governance. More specifically, the focus is on adopting e-municipality as a step of digital governance and inclusive public administration. The articles perform a qualitative case study of the implementation of e-Governance and e-Municipality within the city of Tshwane, one of the municipalities in South Africa. Highlighting the faults in e-Tshwane's system, the author closes the study by recommending alternative online mechanisms to resolve and prevent the same.

Oyelana et al., in their article *Understanding Xenophobia in South Africa and Some Other African Countries from the Victims' Lens*, delves into much more relevant and culturally sensitive concerns. Performing a detailed review of literature from various databases

and sources, the study attempts to decipher xenophobic victims' perspectives towards the cause and extent of the concern. The review further bifurcates into tracing the history of Xenophobic attacks in Africa and then specifically outlines the various instances of violence within South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, and Zambia. Further, the authors trace the various cultural and economic causal factors and list out recommendations to taper the same. The article also argues that public campaigns are quite quintessential to eradicating xenophobic violence in South Africa and other African countries, and if not, it would lead to the consequence of tarnishing many international relations.

Sara Mahima George has formulated a descriptive-analytical research paper where the attempt is to garner a comprehensive picture of the historical backdrop that permeated the emergence of the state of Telangana out of the larger state of Andhra Pradesh. Further, the study endeavours to advance the demand for independent statehood. Placing the case within the context, the article also encompasses an extensive review that explores in detail the process that entails the creation of a new state. George also examines the post-statehood narrative of Telangana along with pivotal socio-economic indicators like education, administration and governance, literacy, health, agriculture, industries, and so on. The article closes with an assertive argument that the newly emerged state of Telangana serves as a potential model for future emergences of states, as the effective strategies Telangana implemented for progress and development successfully aided in tackling all challenges that came its way.

The final article by Ayushya Kaul resorts to an interdisciplinary approach to understanding urban areas as a dynamic and complex social system shaped by social, economic and political factors, thus discarding traditional perception of urban spaces as mere physical structures. Embarking upon a socio-spatial view, the study attempts to decipher the intersectionality of space and identity leading to the construction of urban spaces. The concept is enforced further via a qualitative case study of the Vasant Kunj settlement area in Delhi. Resorting to the method of fieldwork and participant observation, this case study traces the typical pattern of urban development of planned residential settlements in Delhi. Further, the study reveals

how the residents' social identity operates via their material realities and assimilates themselves into socio-economic structures of power that control how spaces are constructed and produced.

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