



Editorial

This issue of the Artha Journal of Social Sciences features five articles addressing diverse and significant research areas. The contributions examine linguistic barriers in the healthcare system, the alignment of teacher education with labour market demands, and the role of sustainable collaborative governance in the effective implementation of welfare projects. Beyond a regional perspective, the issue also examines the evolving foreign policy dynamics between India and Russia. The discussion of these contemporary topics culminates in a final study of Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy and its contemporary relevance.

Twanda Matende *et al.* examine the linguistic barriers faced by deaf women, focusing on the marginalised positionality of sign language in Zimbabwe's healthcare sector, particularly in accessing antenatal and postnatal care. The study thereby delineates that deaf women face multifaceted challenges, often relying on spoken language for communication. Furthermore, the study explores nurses' and doctors' attitudes towards sign language in the health sector. The researchers explore these domains based on data collected through questionnaires, focus group discussions, and interviews with members of the deaf community. The findings highlight that communication difficulties are a significant barrier for deaf women seeking care and show how the lack of sign language interpreters and negative attitudes of some health care professionals towards them further exacerbate these barriers. Through this, the study engages in the debate on the absence of a policy framework directing the use and awareness of sign language in hospitals and recommends prioritising sign language in public institutions to ensure inclusive health rights and a health language policy.

The second article by Andrew Keha *et al.* in the issue examines the teacher education community's involvement in the curriculum by analysing various practices and perspectives to explore educational alignment with labour-market needs and address the ongoing graduate employability crisis. For this purpose, the study employs a mixed-methods design, underpinned by the triple helix model, which explores teacher education and community involvement through the integration of local community content and students' experiential learning. The data were collected from select students, academic staff, and community participants within two regions in Tanzania using survey questionnaires and key informant interviews. The findings reveal a poor integration of key self-employability skills, particularly in financial management, the informal

market economy, and project-based business startups. The study also points towards the weak interrelationships among teacher education institutions, government labour-market administration systems, and public communities. Recognising these as a cause of the prevailing graduates' employability crisis, the research engages in a debate on transforming the teacher education community, which requires linkage policies, institutional strategies, and further research on graduates' self-employment data.

Through a thematic analysis, the third article by Neshamba, Jarbandhan and Mlambo examine the barriers to sustainable collaborative governance (SCG) in the provision of low-income housing (LIH) in the city of Windhoek (CoW), Namibia. For this purpose, the study collects data through purposive sampling from local community leaders, trade union representatives, the private sector, and representatives of civil society. The qualitative analysis, conducted using NVivo, reveals insights into the challenges faced by residents of low-income districts in Windhoek. Based on its findings, the study argues that limited resources, a lack of political will, bureaucratic red tape, rent-seeking behaviour, nepotism, discrimination, the COVID-19 pandemic, high land and input costs, and poor urban planning hinder the efficient and effective delivery of decent living. Based on these findings, the study engages in a discussion of the existing body of knowledge regarding housing delivery challenges and, through that, attempts to guide policymakers, local authorities, and the national government in developing and implementing policies to mitigate these hindrances.

Further, Saroj Meghwal and Ramesh Kumar explore the dynamic India-Russia relationship in the context of foreign policy, specifically in the current geopolitical context that has created some uncertainty about maintaining these relations. The study highlights that, despite Western efforts to isolate Russia globally, the two countries have maintained cordial relations, especially by prioritising defence and economic cooperation. Through these contextual arguments, the study explores India's foreign policy by examining how conscious both India and Russia are of their relations and the steps they are taking to fulfil their national interests. Drawing on a realist framework, the study explores various domains to discuss issues such as national interests, power balance, and security, particularly in the aftermath of the Russia-Ukraine war, and examines the obstacles and challenges to maintaining the relationship. By analysing the dynamic relationship between the two countries from a state-centric perspective, the study elaborates on India's neutrality and autonomous policy.

The fifth article by Monalisa Bhattacharjee of this issue examines Mahatma Gandhi's political philosophy of non-violence. This study explores the key philosophical and ethical principles that underpin Gandhi's concepts of ahimsa (non-violence) and Satyagraha (truth-force). It aims to understand how these ideas have influenced global theories and practices of nonviolent resistance. Moreover, the article offers a reinterpretation of nonviolence in contemporary political, economic, and social contexts. The study uses qualitative, interpretive, and historical methods to examine Mahatma Gandhi's political ideologies, further substantiating how these ideologies influenced ethical authority and resistance as a means of reconciliation. Understanding the complex ideologies of Satyagraha as a form of moral resistance in this study offers a critical perspective on Gandhian philosophy in contemporary movements worldwide.

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