

GUEST EDITORIAL

## Psychosocial Response to National Security

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National security is perhaps one of the key areas of research which receives continuous attention from the scholars of strategic studies, military science, and of course some of the disciplines of social science such as political science and international relation. One way of pursuing interest in national security is to delve the threat perception which emanates from across the border and is likely to influence socio-political sphere of the nation. On the other hand, the diversity in the socio-cultural landscape of the nation characterized by ethnicity and linguistic based sub-national identities is equally important so far as enriching one's knowledge base in the domain of internal security is concerned. Within the realm of psychology, military psychology is possibly one sub-discipline which tries to address this gap. However, psychology is yet to receive a space in the intellectual terrain of studies on national security.

It is quite axiomatic that the multi-lingual, multi-cultural, and multi-ethnic socio-cultural landscape characterized by coexistence of numerous sub-national identities of different ethnic, racial, religious and cultural origin describe the diversity of Indian society. The markers defining these sub-national identities such as shared attitude, values, beliefs, emotions, and action tendencies dominate everyday interactional space of Indians and often get reflected in their behaviour. Thus, the dominance of sub-national identities in everyday interaction calls for exploring the commonalities and uniqueness in the markers of sub-national identities with a view to integrate these identities at the superordinate level that is the nation.

Against this backdrop, this special issue on "Psychosocial response to national security" is a beginning in this direction. It is an attempt to create a space for psychology in the realm of national security. The papers of the special issues follow a sound conceptual and methodological framework in its respective areas of inquiry. A total of nine papers was selected after a thorough review by the guest editor. Thereafter, these papers were sent for peer review. Based on the decision of peer review only eight papers were selected for publication. Some of the papers are based on conceptual understanding while others are based on empirical study.

Taking insight from the conflicts arising out of protest movements against socio-political-developmental changes, the paper 'Protests, mass-movements and politicised identities: A relook at social conflicts in contemporary India' by Swati Mukherjee tries to examine conflict as a co-constructed reality. She also tries to understand the reciprocal impact of such

construction on the identities of the parties involved. Finally, the paper offers a theoretical model for deconstructing conflicts which might be helpful for conflict resolution.

Shovana Ray and J.K. Singh, through their paper 'Co-constructing national identity in the era of identity chaos', try to understand the national identity from the perspective of adolescents. Based on thematic analysis of the essay on 'Indian National Identity' written by students of senior secondary studying in schools of Delhi, they identify six themes- pride associated with nationality, regressive mindset, sociable and relationship oriented, work for national development, heritage and tradition constitute identity, and growth and development needs. They conclude that the understanding of national identity among these students were more influenced by external events such as media than self-reference.

Looking at identity as a product of contextual and historical factors the paper 'Kodava's identity and the Indian armed forces' by Hema. M. A. and J.K. Singh tries to map the contribution of Kodava community of Kodagu (Coorg) district of Karnataka to the Indian Armed Forces. The paper discusses some of the salient attributes of Kodava which make them a warrior. It also tries to examine the interest of Kodava youth of contemporary period towards military services.

'Inter-group perception and experience: Exploration in the lives of North-easterners (NE) in India' by M. Omega Chanu and S. Sharad tries to understand the perception of students of non-NE regions about the students who belong to different states of Northeast region of the country. The paper discusses superficial understanding about the students of Northeast regions by the students of non-NE regions coupled with stereotypes and negative attitude.

Leeyir Ete and Dharmeshwari Lourembam 'Spiritual well-being: A protective resource among youth of Arunachal Pradesh' try to study the impact of religious and existential aspects of spiritual well-being on satisfaction with life, positive affect, negative affect, and resilience of the students of Arunachal Pradesh. They report that spiritual well-being shares a positive relationship with life satisfaction, positive affect and resilience. The paper proposes to introduce intervention programme to enhance the spiritual well-being of the students to address a variety of problems.

Shivani Singh through her paper 'Nuclear security architecture & radiological disaster response in India: Progress and challenges examines the nuclear security architecture

in India and some inherent limitations in it. Accordingly, the paper identifies some key challenges pertaining to safe handling, transport and disposal of nuclear material, cyber-security, border security measures and functional Centre-State coordination in crisis situations. Following recommendations from the 2019 IPCS Workshop on Smuggling and Radiation Detection, on the illicit trafficking of radioactive materials, the paper offers recommendations for strengthening the nuclear security and disaster response framework in India

Based on the content analysis of the experiential knowledge of the experts in interrogation operating in hostile environment the paper 'Working model for strategic communication: Persuading the hostile target during interrogation' by Ravinder Yadav offers a working model to retrieve the required information from detainee. The model discusses psychological techniques which can be effective to persuade the detainee to reveal the desired information.

The paper 'Reflections on sustaining morale and combat motivation in soldiers' by Nidhi Maheshwari, Rachna Sharma and V. Vineeth Kumar offers a conceptual model of morale and combat motivation for the soldiers. The authors claim that this model will be useful in preserving morale and motivation in soldiers. The model discusses in detail three aspects of morale and combat motivation- why they fight, why they may not fight, and how they will continue to fight.

One of the most salient features of this special issue is that majority of the contributors are young scholars who are pursuing their interest in respective areas. These papers try to address some of the important aspects which need an extensive empirical investigation. The papers will be quite useful to the students, researchers, and academia not only from psychology but from sister disciplines also.