

# Editors' Note

Diasporas are becoming increasingly complex due to the interplay of factors such as technology, the economy, and geopolitics. The digital sphere creates virtual environments with significant influence on identity construction, which affects political and cultural dynamics. Technology now governs more activities, further blurring the boundary between real and virtual worlds. This new world order has arrived and appears here to stay. In this context, diaspora communities are taking on greater roles. Migrant lives are interconnected across both home and host countries, as are their political realities. This issue of the journal addresses the socio-economic conditions of migrants.

The first paper by Anisur Rahman and Niharika Tiwari, “Impact of Gulf Migration on Working and Living Conditions of Migrant Workers and Their Families: The North Indian Experiences,” examines the socio-cultural life of south Asian migrants in gulf in general and north Indian migrants in specific. The study examines the condition in the context of SDG 2030 and gives policy insights.

The second paper by Waseem Ahmad, Saiyad Md Shahnawaz and Mohammed Taukeer titled “Indian Diaspora in The Gulf: A Pillar of Cultural Diplomacy,” further explores the cultural diplomacy vis-à-vis economic development in a historical as well as contemporary context. The role of the Indian diaspora in shaping India’s foreign policy, with a focus on its impact on the India-UAE relationship, is significant, as per the study.

The third paper, “Dynamics of Diasporas on Digital Space: The Armenian case,” by Ani Yeremyan, discusses how the digital space is changing the dynamics of communication and making diaspora engagement more effective in the cultural and political arena.

The fourth paper, by Saba Fatima, “Issues and Challenges of Integration for Women in Syria,” investigates challenges faced by displaced Syrian women in host countries. The paper highlights resources, policy issues, and socio-cultural challenges they encounter and provides policy insights.

The last paper, “COVID-19 and Immigrants: An exploratory study of immigrant experiences” by Sanjana Ragudaran, provides insights into the plights of the migrant communities during the COVID-19 pandemic in New Jersey in the United States of America. The author finds that COVID-19 exposed many policy shortcomings that impacted the lives of the migrants and hence called for a comprehensive governance structure to address these issues.

The issue also has two book reviews covering different aspects of migrant communities.

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