

A Note from the Editor

Understanding the Social Realities of our Time

Our present condition is seen by many as a deprivation of the potential growth of research culture since this pandemic placed many aspects of our lives in a halt. This seeming stagnation of human activity poses a threat to the rational endeavor of man. But this is proven wrong by the volumes of research published in different journals in our land, and our very own Social Sciences and Development Journal (PUP-SSDR) joined this attempt to negate this fear of stunted scholarship in research by bringing into publication its 2020 Issue.

I am deeply honored to present to our readers the content of the SDDR Journal in its most recent issue. We stand true to our promise of offering timely and scholarly manuscripts and the ones included in this volume is a manifestation of hard work and dedication of our respective contributors. Allow me to present a synthesized version of their extensive research topics.

In the manuscript authored by Dr. Anna P. Gapasin, Dr. Rodrigo V. Lopiga, Dr. Nicolas T. Mallari and Professor Jose M. Abat titled, *Mental Health and Coping Strategies among Faculty Members and Administrative Employees in a State University during the COVID-19 Pandemic*, they made a noble attempt to understand the plight of faculty members and administrative employees at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines-Manila as they combat the uncertainty of their condition brought by this pandemic. Their exposition of the stress related concerns of these employees are of great help in order to address and drum out support from the institution and also develop coping strategies and fight out the anxious conditions these employees experience.

Our authors, Abigail R. Bayona and Sensei M. Adorador, presented a research titled, *Ecojustice Education Approach: Using Montes' "Turtle Season" Short Story to Teach the Intersectionality of Gender and Environment* with a focus on the possible contribution of literature in bringing into light the intersectionality of gender and environment through what they termed as a 'constructivist module form.' This gender politics is an inspirational contribution to the existing researches justifying the need to take serious studies on environmental education.

Mark Anthony Quintos on his submitted manuscript titled, *Social Construction of Suicide in the Philippines based on the Perspectives of Undergraduate Students from Two Universities in Metro Manila*, underscored students' perceptions on suicide as a phenomenon. It is a common fact that many students battle with depression when faced with unbecoming events in their lives that bring them to a crossroad of questioning the meaning of survival.

A study of this nature can help different societies to take critical measures in weaving policies that will support our youth to overcome this possibility of putting an end to one's life, a support group backed up by institutional policies can offer a strong threshold for survival.

The manuscript presented by the author Azmery Sultana with the title, *The gap Between the Required Entry-Level Job Experience and the Opportunity for the Freshers in Bangladesh*, is an exposition of the predicament faced by fresh graduates of tertiary education to be employed and to have a stable job. She believed that it is relevant for a country's economy to provide good opportunities in the market for the fresh graduates because this is a potential way to strengthen the socio-economic condition of their land.

The research of Minami O. Iwayama titled, *Land-Based Employment Agencies as Modern Brokers: A Study on the Recruitment Strategies for Overseas Filipino Workers*, is a good exposition of the recruitment practices of land-based agencies in our country. Her discussion on the best utilized and least effective methods of recruitment by employment agencies is a potential help in understanding the movement of employability among the Filipino workers. Our country is faced with problematic situation in giving employment opportunities to our skilled workers and this is given solution by migration of our workers abroad. As such, a research topic like this provides a venue for us to better understand and appreciate the sacrifices of our own people to find employment abroad with the noble intent of providing needs for their beloved families.

Another study focusing on the lives of overseas workers that is featured in our recent issue is a contribution from author, Axle Christien Tugano titled, *Hidden Sacrifices: Narratives of Select Filipina Overseas Workers in Southeast Asia*, featuring personal narratives of selected Filipina workers who participated in his interview. This study gives justification to an equally important role of women in providing the needs of their families that lead to their immeasurable level of sacrifice of leaving their homeland and take chances of working abroad. A woman is faced with a burden of confronting the need for them to perform their domestic roles, as they are perceived to be responsible for managing the household, and this phenomenon of overseas migration is a glaring reality of the lack of employment opportunities in our land, the reason behind this migration concern. Our author managed to give a platform for their voices to be heard through a research presentation of this sort.

We encourage our readers to immerse deeply in absorbing the richness of the research topics presented in this 2020 issue of PUP-SSDR Journal. Diverse as it may seem, the social issues presented here are confrontational of our own situation and understanding these social realities deeply can also help us weave a better tactic for our survival.

Enjoy reading SDDR 2020 Issue!

Gerlie Caspe-Ogatis