

RURAL SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES JOURNAL: RSASJ***Editorial***

What it implies to document rural societies of India and Indian sub-continent? Are the rural' s becoming items of museums? Are we looking for them more like nostalgia, something which may be hard to retrieve or live back on too. With fast paced tech-savvy and digitally empowered societies will we lose the subtle, simple, ecologically connected lifestyles? Perhaps these are some of the questions which we asked us when we began working on our journal. The journey ongoing which began in 2013 as an attempt to understand rural settlements, living traditions and historical connectedness among the rural societies of South Asia and India *per se*. The affiliate organizations to Rural South Asian Studies Journal: RSASJ in collaborations with which many conferences, seminars, workshops were organized since 2008 and till date, always gave us new insights to work through these issues. With new age mediums several organizations and digital platforms are working through to engage mass media, scholarly intellectuals, advocacy groups and policy makers and so on, delve into challenges, solutions and stories of Rural India. With platforms like PARI, Gaon Connection of Nilesh Misra, Down To Earth, we are positively engaged directly with the issues of rural India, or we can say Gaon of Bharat. Rural South Asian Studies Journal: RSASJ, which perhaps in colloquial terms may become RSASJ alike to EPW, IESHR or many such abbreviations. Yet, more than being the journal for people to publish, it hopes to bring more discussions on Rurality or *Gaon Dehat* of Bharat/India. There was a time in India when *Krishi Darshan* was the highest TRP rating owning show on Doordarshan, which symbolized the power of Indian rural communities who were strength of Indian society, economy and ecology, they were not only the people living in the villages, they thrived and nurtured in their spaces living traditions which gave urban Indian sustainability solutions and also allowed them to build the urban spaces, with stories of rural India becoming more of a bygone nostalgia it becomes important for us to understand that without rural the urban islands will be lost too. The *Ru-Urban* continuum is the lifeline of Indian rural-urban settlement nexus. In the present volume we have tried to bring articles and media, book reviews and event reports which bring to us these argumentative problems and somehow provoke us to think about their solutions too. Discursive debates on precolonial rural urban societies connectedness, which to a great extent was valued in colonial era too. Continuing with the traditions, how in social practices and traditions, people in communities both in urban and rural areas patronized those who strived and worked for the nurturing of these ***rural ecologies*** and ***human-nature nexus***. Nurturing rural spaces so functional urban environs survive was a core correlated concept understood in the administrative and social traditions, therefore, with evident studies shared in the volume we had practices of significance in rural spaces of significance in all dynamics whether political, social, ecological or economic. Power owners created spaces of recluse which were rural in their urban islands, religious sects created spaces of hermitage in close proximity to rural community settlements. Colonial administrators and policy makers ensured that rural communities and their arable lands remain equipped with essential sources for perennial revenue flow and ecologies of rural settlements thrived besides their environs in their unique living traditions which gave them unique identity in their spaces. The essence of rurality remains an under studied and ignored living source of human cultural evolution, we minimize its value as a unit of economic sustenance, yet its more than what we understood so far in our social understanding of community interactions of social groups. It's a wide spectrum of human evolution which has vision for future with wide unearthed knowledge and living spaces.

In solidarity with rural communities of India and world
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