

Note from the Editor

Amiya Prosad Sen

Thanks to the diligence and commitment shown by all concerned staff at the IAS, we have been able to continue with the publication of *Summerhill* even through a crisis the like of which my generation has not seen yet. I thank them all for the hard work and perseverance that they have shown with advancing publication work at a time when their thoughts might justly have been focused on the well-being of their selves and of their families. I also take this occasion to thank our readers and contributors for keeping our spirits alive; the first group for their trust and unflagging patience and the second, for continuing to consider us worthy of their arduous efforts. With things being beyond control for about a year now, it is no small consolation to us that the Summer 2020 number of *Summerhill* was not inexcusably late in making its appearance.

The current issue of our journal has been a matter of personal gratification to me for the way we have succeeded in creating additional publishing space in respect of original papers as well as book reviews. The number of papers that could be included in this issue stands at 15, a substantial increase when compared to the issue immediately preceding which had only about 10. I am happy that the IAS authorities kindly acceded to my request for increasing this space, particularly in view of the interminably swelling number of papers that we now receive. Contributions are still coming in even as I write this editorial, quite unmindful of the fact that the submissions to the current issue of our journal closed on 31 October of this year. The support and enthusiasm that teachers and scholars, young and old, have shown for us is indeed touching, if also marred by the fact that we were forced to return or reject about as many papers as we could finally publish. Such is the competitive keenness to publish now that we have had to overrule, at least temporarily, the possibility of successful contributors

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contributing to the journal yet another time. That has no doubt contributed to my unpopularity as an editor; on the other hand, it makes me happy to think that the *Summerhill* is visibly growing in popularity and academic stature.

As with our previous numbers, the Winter 2020 issue reveals a wide range of contributions stretching from political sociology to literary studies, philosophy, religion and ritual, tribal culture, insurgency in states of the North East, urban history and careful deconstruction of important and epoch-making texts. It is only fair that I confess that my own professional training or expertise utterly fails to negotiate such a profusion of subjects, some of them located at the very periphery of my own academic knowledge and interests. And yet, I have enjoyed browsing through these and found them personally enriching in several ways. What I found particularly exciting was the manner in which even students in high-ranking Indian universities have been drawn to our journal. This issue includes two very professionally competent papers by post-graduate students which, I thought, was a heartening sign for our current state of academics.

I am delighted that some have thought it fit to generously respond to my invitation for contributing more book reviews. It has been the case that this editor was the sole reviewer for certain issues of the journal. However, that situation has now passed and in this issue, we are happy to include as many as five. My appeal also goes out to major publishing houses to send us review copies of their ongoing productions which may then be suitably reviewed for this journal.

I took charge as editor of this journal about two years back and this is the fourth successive number that I am editing. My once co-editor, Prof. Ramesh Pradhan, left the *Summerhill* in my care about a year ago and I do hope that I have been generally successful in taking this enterprise forward from where he left me. As my own term draws to an end, it is time to look back at this journey with a sense

of satisfaction and fulfillment. This has been a journey that I will henceforth treat with happiness and nostalgia. I have often pondered over the idea of introducing into this journal correspondence from our readers and

contributors. All successful journals carry a column on "Letters to the Editor" and I do hope that IAS will duly consider including this feature in *Summerhill* at some not too distant a date.

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