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Editorial

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the **August 2026 issue of SSIJOMR** (*Shodh Samay International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research*). The present issue brings together a remarkable constellation of scholarly inquiries that collectively illuminate the intricate relationships among literature, law, culture, and society. The diverse contributions in this volume demonstrate that meaningful academic discourse must necessarily transcend disciplinary boundaries and engage with the lived realities of communities, particularly those whose voices have historically been marginalised.

The opening paper, which examines the **portrayal of mental illness in contemporary fiction**, marks a significant intervention in the ongoing conversation about how literature shapes cultural perceptions of psychological distress. The author persuasively argues that modern fictional narratives have evolved from sensationalised representations towards more nuanced, interior-focused portrayals that honour the subjective experiences of individuals living with mental illness. This shift reflects broader societal movements towards destigmatisation and empathy, positioning literature as a vital cultural space for understanding the complexities of mental health.

The **socio-legal study on strengthening family laws in India** addresses a pressing contemporary concern—the gap between legal protections and their practical implementation. The author's emphasis on corrective measures that extend beyond legislative reform to encompass mediation, counselling, legal literacy, and institutional strengthening resonates with the volume's broader theme of justice as a multifaceted endeavour requiring coordinated efforts across multiple domains.

The contributions examining **Chhattisgarh's cultural heritage**, particularly the Godna tradition and the role of print media in cultural preservation, offer compelling insights into how communities maintain collective memory and identity. The documentation of Godna as a "bodily script" or visual language that predates formal writing systems challenges conventional understandings of literacy and communication. Similarly, the analysis of regional journalism's role in cultural assertion demonstrates how media can serve as an instrument of both documentation and resistance.

The theoretical exploration of **Erving Goffman's dramaturgical sociology** provides a valuable framework for understanding social interaction, reminding us that identity is performed rather than merely possessed. This perspective enriches our reading of the other contributions, particularly those examining the struggles of marginalised communities for recognition and self-determination.

The papers on **literature and cinema, cultural discourse in contemporary Hindi literature, and Adivasi resistance in literary expression** collectively underscore literature's



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capacity to serve as a site of ideological contestation. The examination of Adivasi literature reveals how marginalised communities employ creative expression not merely to document suffering, but also to assert cultural autonomy, demand social justice, and preserve collective memory against the erosive forces of displacement and assimilation.

The study on **mental health representation in fiction** and the **socio-legal analysis of family laws** both address questions of vulnerability, care, and responsibility—themes that echo throughout this volume. These contributions remind us that scholarly inquiry carries ethical obligations to the communities we study and contributes to the broader project of building a more just and compassionate society.

As we present this collection, we invite readers to engage critically with these diverse perspectives, recognising that the boundaries between disciplines are often more fluid than our academic structures suggest. The challenges facing contemporary society—from mental health concerns to cultural displacement, from legal reform to social inequality—demand precisely this kind of integrated, empathetic, and rigorous scholarship.

We are confident that the contributions in this issue will stimulate further dialogue and inspire continued inquiry into these vital questions.

We hope you find this issue intellectually engaging and thought-provoking.

— **Dr. Ranjini Ghosh**

Executive Editor

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