

Editorial Comment
Dysfunction in society and its amelioration
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This issue of *the Journal for Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences* features scholarly contributions that call to question the present ordering of our societies. We have sad cases of high school dropout rates among the San community in Namibia, underachievement by male learners as opposed to female learners who seem to thrive on the back of the affirmative action policies that has been put in place, adolescent becoming parents when they still qualify to be called children, politicians invoking God and divine retribution on their opponents and the media, that is supposed to shine a light on these inequities, not been able to put its house in order.

These issues call for real soul searching which the various contributors have done and from their reflections have flowed recommendations and policy prescriptions. But will these stay in the ivory tower as usual or will they be used to inform interventions and policies as these matters require urgent redress? It is time to prioritize the issues covered here such as affirmative action for the boy child, curbing incidences of teenage pregnancies, hate speech, marginalization and bullying of learners and educational underachievement of vulnerable groups as well as ensuring journalists' welfare with Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound interventions while taking "AIM Action planning, Implementation, and Monitoring progress through periodic 'check the pulse' meetings" (Wilcox, et al., 2017, p. 649).

Media interventions can also help to shine light on these issues but the media also need to be freed from the shackles that hold it down from effectively functioning. When the sleeping giant is roused and it provides fact-based information it can change the trajectory of society which is the need of the moment going by the contributions from scholars featured in this issue (Kim. 2025). Kim (2025) does not completely attribute the unification of Germany to media broadcasts alone but the call for "vital information to North Koreans" says it all (p. 92).

In other words, all hands must indeed be on deck to address the critical issues raised here for the betterment of our societies. Various stakeholders must set goals, monitor progress and ensure that we follow the upward trajectory to success as these issues will bog down individuals and our collective march towards an egalitarian society where everyone can achieve their dreams. A starting point is the various recommendations flowing from these musings, but more will emerge as we journey towards the promised land of a better society where men and women, boys and girls, the governed and those governing do all in their power to make everyone have a sense of belonging and a stake in our collective progress. Like the lyrics of the kids' praise song succinctly puts it: "It's love that makes the world go round".

References

- Kim, E. E.-G. (2025). Losing to enemy broadcasts: A comparative Study of North Korea with the former East Germany. *North Korean Review*, 21(1), 92–107.
- Wilcox, K. C., Lawson, H. A., & Angelis, J. I. (2017). COMPASS-AIM: A University/P–12 Partnership Innovation for Continuous Improvement. *Peabody Journal of Education*, 92(5), 649–674.