

Editorial

As the saying goes “Necessity is the mother of invention,” the University of Gondar has grown out of the then Gondar Public Health College and Training Center (GPHC & TC) established in response to the heavy malaria epidemic that caused the death of well over seven thousand people in Dembia district, near to Lake Tana. The year 1954 brought together four organizations, named “Point Four” (i.e. Ministry of Health, UNICEF, WHO and USAID) to work towards establishing the GPHC & TC destined to produce mid-level health professionals envisaged to combat the epidemic through community-based education and services. This actually laid a foundation that made the University of Gondar a unique higher learning institution led by community-based education philosophy. Celebrating its 60th anniversary, or its “Diamond Jubilee”, the University of Gondar has currently four colleges, two faculties and three schools as well as its own community school devoted to the academic staffs’ children’s education and care ranging from kindergarten to 12th grade, all residing at six different campuses.

Initially evolved from the Department of Basic and Social Sciences that existed under the umbrella of the then Gondar College of Medical Sciences, before the actual inauguration of the university in 2004, the College of Social Sciences and the Humanities (CSSH) is one of the fastest growing colleges in the university. In its more than a decade long journey of teaching and learning, research and community services, the College has 13 undergraduate and 12 postgraduate programs in the areas of social sciences, the humanities and behavioral sciences. Between 2006 and 2014, the College has graduated a total of 5,007 students on the bachelor level and 213 reached the masters level. After the Dabat Research Center, the College founded the Research Center of Social Sciences and the Humanities as its second centre of intensive research two years ago.

The CSSH has also organized national and international conferences among which the 1st International Conference on Mental Health in Ethiopia and the 1st and the 2nd International Conferences on Population, Reproductive Health

and Economic Development are standing out. Apart from this, CSSH is distinguished by its community service projects such as Crime . Mapping, Mitigating Road Traffic Accidents through projects, such as Changes in Attitude and Behaviors among Road Users, and the Gondar City Tourist Map.

The *Ethiopian Renaissance Journal of Social Sciences and the Humanities (ERJSSH)* is the first academic organ of the College of Social Sciences and the Humanities that came into being just ten years after the *Ethiopian Journal of Health and Biomedical Sciences* established by the College of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Gondar. Coined with a big name, the *ERJSSH* is a peer reviewed journal that publishes original articles, reviews, case studies and short communications in the area of social and behavioral sciences, the humanities and other related fields twice a year. The Journal is dedicated to contribute its share in disseminating evidence-based research findings to the scientific community, policy makers and other interested readers. This very first issue is especially dedicated to contribute to the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the University.

Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to all our internal and external reviewers, the editorial team, the College of Social Sciences and the Humanities, the Office of the Vice President for Research and Community Services, all the contributors and others who in one way or another contributed for our *ERJSSH* to be become a reality. We always value your comments.

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