

## **Editorial**

The Ethiopian Renaissance Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities is an interdisciplinary journal – providing an intellectual platform for national and international scholars. By immersing critical thinking to the social sciences studies, it promotes the view of sharing information and debate within the widest possible audience. The ERJSSH bridges social science scholars across disciplines and continents – focusing on community-based research that may have application to a broader range with an ultimate goal of testing social science theories. The journal carries original and full-length articles that reflect the latest research and developments in theoretical and practical aspects of the modern societies.

ERJSSH is an interdisciplinary open access peer reviewed journal with a mission to make research and knowledge accessible to everyone without discrimination. Editors' vision is based on inclusivity and the power of collective wisdom that encourages submission from various fields of social sciences and humanities. The current issue contains enormously contentious and yet intellectually satisfying rigorous arguments awesomely crafted as presented below.

Kassahun Tegegne -- analyzing the Ethiopian Demographic Health Survey of 2016 – focusing on women's health argued that demographic factors, place of residences, religious values, and lack of access to delivery facilities remain monumental public concerns in Ethiopia. Kassahun insightfully showed the prevalence of social inequality, unsavory personal decisions (unsafe abortions), distance from health center and lack of awareness about maternal health as causal factors for the vulnerability of child bearing women.

Moreover, Asmamaw Addis and Mustofa Worku discussed the relationships between media and public scholars – sharply examining the impacts of those relationships on the process of democratization in Ethiopia. The imperative linkages, the authors argue, between democracy and journalism – made media the pivotal tool of democracy. Political participation and public mobilization can only be ignited when media willfully involve scholars and citizens in the discourse of public agendas.

Ebrahim Esa Hassen explained about the Simien National Park with its unique landscape and extant biodiversity. Ebrahim, using succinct evidence showed that the changes in land use and land cover was enhanced by population pressure (farming, settlement). This author recommended that sustainable management to mitigate/eliminate the depletion of biodiversity in the park is imperative. Additionally, Missaye Mulatie Mengstie explored the attitude of junior secondary and preparatory school students towards basic science and argued that students scored high on attitude towards basic science. This attitude in turn influenced their grade average points in chemistry, biology and physics. Missaye urges all stakeholders (ministry of education, teachers, parents) to work in tandem to maximize students' positive attitude of basic science courses.

Abraham Zelalem, Eyaya Belay and Abel Markos analyzed the temporal trajectory of Lake Tana, describing the prevailing challenges that the lake surface currently faces. The authors evaluated the changes of Lake Tana from 1985 to 2015 using geospatial technology. These authors suggested the need for the utilization of remote sensing and GIS to change the critical scenarios to helpful ones by systematical managing lake surface areas. Also, Aschalew Terefe and Aemero Asmamaw conducted a thorough assessments of methods and practices across department at secondary schools of south western Shoa and showed

the challenges that obstruct proper classroom assessments. The authors argued that there is lack of uniformity among departments, ranging from coining assessment tools, to their implementations: Teachers' beliefs, lack of resources and class size class sizes were found to be the major challenges. These authors urged that teachers use alternative forms of assessment than the traditional ones. As well, Aragaw Shibabaw assessed grade three and four language instruction books in relation to gender justiciability. Although the books are available for instruction, the author argues that these books lack coherence, cogence and depth in their gender related explanation – suffering from disproportionality. Oumer Ali, Mesafint Mucchie and Yifter Meles wrote on the effect of awareness raising about reading sub-skills on students' reading comprehension. Awareness raising, they debated, is a highly instrumental in establishing positive impact on learners' performance: Reading is a process that helps discriminating main ideas, noticing details, making prediction and thus it constitutes a major part of cognitive ability. The authors of the last article, Muluken Fikadie, Sisay Sahile and Busha Taa maintained that the Gondarian urbanization process from the 17th century to the present has been vigorously evolving. The monarchical castles, churches and markets attracted settlements and emboldened the development of urbanization in Gondar. The authors also argued that an imbalanced development that are currently induced by the planning process might have led to unintended consequences – displacing communities from their original kebeles and consequently forcing them to be relocated at the peripheries of the city.

Hence, the current issue contains nine articles to cogently be navigated by readers. As editors do not claim perfections, they strongly ask readers to forward their constructive feedbacks so that the editorial team will gain from such suggestions -in order to improve future editions.

Busha Taa, PhD  
Editor – in- Chief