



INDIAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Subject: Sociological Bulletin

Dear Colleague:

The Managing Committee of the Society in its meeting held on 26th February 2016 has decided to accept a proposal by Sage Publishers to produce, print and market *Sociological Bulletin (SB)* from January 2017 onwards. The reasons for this are the following:

Many of you, who have been authors of *SB* have been suggesting that the *SB* needs to be part of the abstract and citations data base so that its authors can quote the impact factor in their API. We believe that by accepting the proposal of publishing *SB* with Sage, our authors will not only enhance their API scores, but will help to make *SB* accessible to readers in India and globally. A large number of University libraries in our country and outside are not subscribing to *SB*; in end 2015, *SB* had only 215 subscribers and this has led *SB* to become an in-house journal. This is not good for *SB*'s professional reputation as a journal of and by Indian sociologists.

Another important reason that prompted the MC to take this decision has been financial and administrative. The Managing Editor of the *SB* (who is voluntarily providing her/his services) has not only to organise the double blind review process for every article but also to do copyediting and proofreading once the articles are accepted for publication. Professor Jayaram used students at TISS to help in this matter as the Society could not afford to pay professionals to do these jobs. Henceforth, Sage will be looking after copyediting and proof reading.

The Society has also to arrange the printing, receipt, packing and posting of *SB*. As you know the Society does not have its own office or its own office staff and is using the kind offices of the Institute of Social Sciences and its personnel to do these jobs. The Society is paying for this work, the cost of which is increasing as also the printing costs which in 2014-5 amounted to Rs. 12,96,995. A small income from subscription, JSTOR royalties and ICSSR grants has been available, but it has not been enough to cover the huge deficits that *SB*'s production and printing costs generates.

As a consequence the Society has used its capital funds (Life membership fees and interest earned from FDs) to finance *SB*. In this financial year, we will not be able to access ICSSR grants (as these are to be given to new journals) and

thus the only income that the *SB* will generate are from subscriptions and royalty from JSTOR which amounts to about Rs. 4.70 lakhs while the costs that it has to cover is around Rs.13 lakhs.

Because Sage will look after the production, printing and dispatch, the Society will save on the costs and this amount-about Rs. 13 lakhs will be a net saving for the Society. In addition to the royalties from JSTOR which will continue to accrue to the Society; Sage is giving the Society a royalty of 10% on the subscriptions generated. If the *SB*'s subscriptions increase, which we will hope it does after Sage takes over, the *SB* will also earn income for the Society. This will help the Society to enlarge and further its activities for its Life Members.

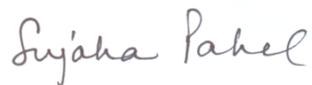
Attached is a letter from Sage which outlines its proposal and highlights the advantages that it will give to the *SB*, the Society and its Life Members.

You all have been receiving a print copy of the *SB*. Henceforth all of you will have access to a free online copy of *SB*. I understand that some of you may still want a print copy. This will be made available at a subsidised rate in lieu of postage/printing cost of Rs. 750 a year.

Through your support for this initiative, the *SB* will make its mark as a sociological journal from India that has a global presence and thereby help the Society to pursue its professional goals nationally and internationally.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sujata Patel".

Sujata Patel
President, ISS