

## We beg to differ!

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Last month an editorial in the reputed international journal LANCET on “Fear and uncertainty about Kashmir’s future”<sup>1</sup> created a major uproar in the medical and academic circles of the country. While expressing concern regarding the mental health issues of people in Kashmir, the editorial has transgressed its academic boundaries by pointing fingers at the decisions taken by the Indian government regarding its own territorial administration. Quoting a report by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights<sup>2</sup>, the editorial points fingers at the actions of the Indian Government as well as the Indian army. It also ends with a concern regarding “further violence and subjugation” referring to the Indian Government’s decision to revoke Article 370. Such a statement, if made in the editorial of a reputed international journal, sets a wrong precedence for the entire academic world. It gives false credence to the fact that in the name of “showing concern”

for the mental health of the people of a region, one can comment on core political and administrative issues which are both beyond the knowledge, scope and understanding of the journal. It has, quite deservedly, drawn protests from the Indian Psychiatric Society as well as the Indian Medical Association. We strongly condemn the editorial and sincerely hope such an editorial would not see the light of the day in future so that it does not send a wrong message to the academic world in general and the community of journal editors in particular.

### REFERENCES

1. Fear and Uncertainty around Kashmir's Future; The Lancet, 2019; 394, 542
2. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Update of the Situation of Human Rights in Indian-Administered Kashmir and Pakistan-Administered Kashmir from May, 2018 to April, 2019