11th May, 2020

Dear Editor,

Greetings!

We are delighted to submit our article “**Moral philosophy, pragmatism, and the larger cause: why war “metaphors” are needed during pandemics”** to the venerable IJME.

This article is in response to the invitation that Dr Amar Jesani had extended to Dr Soumyadeep Bhaumik, first author of this paper. A debate regarding the appropriateness, ethics and pragmatism of use of war-metaphor during the COVID-19 pandemic led to the invitation to provide an argument in favour of the use of such metaphor, which we authors have done in this article.

That humans are deeply conditioned with war narratives, we have argued that it is essential to create solidarity worldwide. A ‘warrior’ attribution to frontline healthcare workers is a motivating force and that the lens of ‘war’ in South Asian and African culture is not narrow like the European one. We have argued that seeing war as a means to peace and prosperity and its intertwining with *dharma*, makes it a powerful narrative in these unprecedented difficult times.

We believe that this article will help provide a fresh perspective to this important debate and will find a place in IJME.

All the authors, namely, Soumyadeep Bhaumik, Sambit Dash & Kamna Kakkar, have participated in the work sufficiently to meet the ICMJE guidelines for authorship. This manuscript has not been published and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. We have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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