

## BOOK NOTES

(Note : The inclusion of a book in this list does not preclude its being reviewed in a later issue of this Review.)

Binswanger, Hans P., Robert E. Evenson, C. A. Florencio and Benjamin N. F. White (Editors). *Rural Household Studies in Asia*. Singapore: Singapore University Press. 1980. pp. xii + 369.

This book, based on papers presented at a Household Studies Workshop by the Agricultural Development Council in Singapore, is concerned with theoretical discussions and empirical analyses of certain issues put forward by the new home economics school that maintains that important activities take place in the household, i.e. the household produces as well as consumes. The value of the time of the household members turns out to be an important parameter for most of the economic decisions made by households. The studies by economists, nutritionists and anthropologists, which have been included in this book, show that the treatments of household behaviour by the different disciplines have converged. This is an interesting collection of articles which should prove valuable to anyone interested in household behaviour.

Brown, Maxwell L. *Farm Budgets: From Farm Income Analysis to Agricultural Project Analysis*. World Bank Staff Occasional Papers No. 29. Baltimore (Md.), and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press. 1979. pp. xviii + 136.

The book starts with a detailed and careful exposition of the distinction between simple farm income analysis and the wider field of agricultural project analysis. The author then shows how the two analyses can be integrated. This process is explained in several stages, with a chapter devoted to each of them. Initially, farm income analysis is discussed which is followed by partial budgets, transition to complete budgeting and project analysis, budget for land, labour and capital, farm models, financial analysis and economic analysis.

The entire discussion has been kept very simple and straightforward to enable as wide a spectrum of readers as possible to benefit from the book. The book does not present a theoretical approach in analysing different problems but is very much practical, especially for those concerned with project preparation.

Sheehan, Glen, and Mike Hopkins. *Basic Needs Performance. An Analysis of Some International Data*. Geneva: International Labour Office. 1979. pp. 138.

This monograph is a result of the ILO's growing concern with the fulfilment of basic-needs requirements in all the developing countries. The basic-needs requirements cover such critical areas as food, housing, health, and the like, without whose adequate provision, both quantitatively and qualitatively, the welfare of the people is bound to degenerate. The main thrust of this study is on the collection and analysis of existing data on basic-needs performance in 135 countries. Although the quality of the data is doubtful in many cases, the statistical analysis of the data is nevertheless conducted in a manner which enables one to have an idea of some of the broader patterns of basic-needs satisfaction in countries which are in various stages of development and in different regions.

Sirageldin, Ismail (Editor), *Research in Human Capital and Development*. Volume I. Greenwich, Connecticut: JAI Press Inc. 1979. pp. xiii + 258.

This book is the first volume of a series planned to be produced annually on the 'relationship between the development and utilization of human capital and the process of economic and social change.' The series will consist of interdisciplinary studies which will be longer than a journal article but shorter than a monograph and will be specifically addressed to "fertility, health, education and manpower, migration, and the triangle of equity, distribution and efficiency". Edited by Professor Ismail Sirageldin, this first volume has touched upon most of these areas. Part I of this volume consists of three articles under the heading "Health and Fertility". Part II contains five articles under the title "Education and Manpower" and Part III has only one article under Distribution and Equity. The book is sound and comprehensive in that it discusses almost all the important factors related to fertility behaviour. The human capital theory has been applied very skilfully to different issues of fertility research.

Wolfson, Dirk J. *Public Finance and Development Strategy*. Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press. 1979. pp. xiv + 264.

This is a textbook designed for policy-makers, undergraduate students in economics, graduate students in public administration and economists-cum-fiscal advisers. The author emphasizes the importance of making economic analysis of fiscal issues readily accessible to the policy-makers. The main instrument chosen by the author in this regard is the explanation of the economic framework of fiscal policy in a non-technical manner. The book is divided in two parts. Part I deals with public spending. Part II covers issues related to resource mobilization. Both public spending and public revenues are discussed from the angles of allocation, distribution and stabilization. Administrative constraints are explicitly included in the analysis in appropriate places.

Wood, G. P., and A. T. Mosher (Editors). *Readings in Agricultural Administration*. New York: Agricultural Development Council, Inc. 1980. pp. xii + 244. \$ 5.00.

This book of readings attempts to provide pertinent literature useful to middle-level administrators of different agricultural programmes with a view to enabling them to help the farmers in developing countries to obtain modern inputs and to market their surplus agricultural products. The papers are presented in four parts, each of which represents a major problem areas. Part I deals with the System Approach to different management problems. Part II brings out the different tasks required of the managers of different agricultural programmes. Part III includes papers on different tools of management that may be useful aids in solving numerous complex administrative problems. The last part deals with the task environment in which each organization is supposed to operate. The task environment includes the circumstances that justify any programme and affect the outcome of the programme effort. The readings in the last part focus on the task environment of agricultural administrative organizations.