

Book Notes

Ali Khan and Ismail Sirageldin (eds.). *Research in Human Capital and Development*. Equity, Human Capital and Development. London (England) and Greenwich (Connecticut): UAI Press Inc. 1981. Vol. 2: xvi + 228pp.

The book is the second 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'. Edited by Professors Ali Khan and Ismail Sirageldin, this volume deals with the role of human capital formation in promoting both growth and equity in the development process. The book is divided into three parts. The first part presents articles on measurement and analysis of poverty and on the implications of real income growth over the next hundred years on the pattern of production and consumption and the occupational structure. The three articles in the second part present theoretical models and empirical evidence on different aspects of investment in human capital. In the first article, authors develop a two-sector general-equilibrium growth model when investment in human capital and physical capital occurs simultaneously. The second article traces the impact of non-human wealth on human wealth. The impact of different socio-economic factors on the extent of breast-feeding and the relevance of breast-feeding to the human wealth is the subject matter of the last article in this part. Three case studies dealing with the effects of a welfare reform experiment in the United States on earnings, the relationship between educational policy and development strategy in the Philippines and the welfare implications of Argentina's experience with inflation during the 1970s are presented in the last part. The book provides an interesting exposition of the dynamics of human capital formation in the context of the development strategy.

World Health Organization. Regional Office for Europe. *Guidelines for health care practice in relation to cost-effectiveness*. Report on a WHO Workshop. Copenhagen. 1981. 62pp. (EURO Reports and Studies: 53)

The book examines guidelines currently being practised in long-term health-care programmes in a number of countries in Europe and North America. The primary focus of the study is to access the relevance of cost-effectiveness techniques in the design and application of guidelines in health programmes. Factors relevant to the development and application of health guidelines are identified and the role of education, training and research is specifically highlighted in this regard. The book provides a valuable introduction to the cost-effectiveness analysis in health-care programmes in a variety of institutional settings. Medical practitioners who view their primary duty as providing the best health-care advice to their patients irrespective of the associated costs would find this book very useful.

Rashid Amjad (ed.). *The Development of Labour Intensive Industry in ASEAN Countries*. Geneva: ILO; Asian Employment Programme. 1981. US \$10.00. 337pp.

This book presents a set of comparative studies on the development of labour-intensive industries in the ASEAN countries – the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia. Each separate study gives an extensive overview of the past and present performances of the manufacturing sector with particular attention to the sector's role in increasing employment in the context of the development of labour-intensive industries. An evaluation is also made of the important economic policies and measures that have evolved in these countries and how these have affected the development of the industrial sector. In the discussion of economic policies, emphasis is laid on the extent to which these policies have supported or deviated from the overall strategy of increasing the utilization of the labour force, especially among sectors that favour greater use of labour. The studies conclude by providing broad directions for policy changes in order to improve the general environment for expansion of labour-intensive industries in the region.

Kirit Parikh and Ferenc Rabar (eds.). *Food for All in a Sustainable World: The IIASA Food and Agriculture Program*. Laxenburg, Austria: International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis. 1981. ix + 250pp.

During the past five years, the Food and Agricultural Program at International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis has been engaged in an analysis of the national agricultural economics and the international food market with the overall objectives of finding an answer to the question: what policies, national or international, would ensure food availability for each of the countries in both shortrun and the longrun. The research programme would be completed by 1984. In February 1981, the Institute had organized a Status Report meeting to review the work done until then and to discuss the next steps required to be taken in the years ahead before the programme was completed. This book presents the proceedings of the meeting and should be useful to its readers in understanding the goals and activities of the research effort. For a complete understanding of the methodology and the results of the research done to date, the book is sketchy and, unfortunately, of not much use.

Lester C. Thurow. *The Zero-Sum Society: Distribution and the Possibilities for Economic Change*. New York: Basic Books, Inc. 1980. 230pp. US \$ 12.95.

The book presents an analysis of the economic problems facing the USA during the 1980s. The main problems identified are energy, inflation, slow economic growth, environmental pollution, spreading rules and regulations, and redistribution of income and wealth. A chapter is devoted to the analysis of each of the economic problems. Various possible policy options are identified as possible solutions for each of the economic problem. All of the possible solutions have one common characteristic – each option implies a reduction in the real income of a different group of population. The allocation of losses among people is an important issue in political economy for which the political system is not suited. Paralysis and drift in decision-making is a natural consequence. Until the society agrees on who should bear what costs, economic policy-making would not opt for a solution to any of the economic problems facing the USA.

George Rosen. *Peasant Society in a Changing Economy: Comparative Development in Southeast Asia and India*. Urbana/Chicago/London: University of Illinois Press. 1975. 256pp.

Economic development has been responsible for the disintegration of traditional peasant societies, the consequences of which are reflected in increased social tensions and political instability. The central theme of the book carries two strands: the first examines the relationship between the character of a peasant society and that of a society which is experiencing rapid economic development; the second looks at the change undergone by the peasant society during

the process of development. Social systems in three countries are examined. These countries are the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand. Their experiences are then compared with India's. Once comparisons have been drawn, policy prescriptions are suggested which would reconcile the values and traditions of peasant societies with those of rapid economic development. The book's approach is multi-disciplinary as it draws on the fields of anthropology, sociology, political science and economics in explaining the undercurrents in the development process.

Kuldeep Mathur and Inayatullah (eds.). *Monitoring and Evaluation of Rural Development: Some Asian Experiences*. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: Asian and Pacific Development Administration Centre. 1980. 281pp.

This book presents a set of detailed case studies on the monitoring and evaluation systems for rural development in Malaysia, the Philippines and India. The presentation of case studies is preceded by an overview of the analytical techniques of evaluation. The book should prove useful to government officials engaged in monitoring and evaluation of rural development programmes and projects. It may also be helpful to the research scholars interested in determining the impact which rural development programmes may have had on the rural poor.