

Book Notes

Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund. *Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Lectures 1973-79*. Bombay: Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan. 1980. pp. vi+163. Price Softback Rs. 20.00, Hardback Rs. 25.00.

The book is a Collection of lectures delivered by different scholars from different disciplines. These lectures can be divided into three broad categories. The lectures by Mead, Narlikar and Memon emphasize human harmony, society and development. For example, Mead stresses the need for a world egalitarian society without affecting the individual identity. Both Narlikar and Memon, in their lectures, review the role of science and scientific outlook in the development of knowledge and in the social and national development.

The second category of the lectures relates to spiritualism. For example, Von Durckheim evaluates how oriental philosophy and asceticism got into the spiritual life of occidental people and demarcated the trend of spiritualism in the young generation of highly technological and industrial societies. Similarly, Sudarshan identifies the consistency between the discipline of physics and spiritualism, in terms of the study of nature and the laws governing nature.

The lectures in the third category touch upon a very sensitive and crucial problem of society – that of health. Ramalingaswami's lecture deals with the general topics of medicine, health and human (socio-cultural) development whereas Gopalan discusses specific problems of child health and human development.

Bina Agarwal. *Mechanization in Indian Agriculture: An Analytical Study based on the Punjab*. (Delhi School of Economics, Monograph in Economics No. 6). New Delhi: Allied Publishers Private Ltd. 1983.

The study seeks to determine the magnitude and direction of output-augmenting and labour-displacing effects of agricultural mechanization. The main emphasis of the author is on analysis at a disaggregated level. It has been argued that multiplicity of crops and farm operations, and the possibility that a particular operation can be performed in different ways, make a very wide range of mechanization alternatives feasible. This, coupled with the diversity of cropping patterns between farms, underscores the need for a crop-wise and operation-wise approach. However, this approach has been complemented by a study of the aggregate effects of mechanization on cropping intensity. Furthermore, two refinements have been made. Firstly, both ownership and custom-hiring – rather than ownership alone – have been taken as a surrogate for the usage of mechanized technique. Secondly, the differences, in the use of other inputs affecting output level have been accounted for so that the effect of these inputs is not wrongly attributed to other techniques.

The data used in the study pertain to principal wheat growing areas of the Indian Punjab for the year 1971-72.

Stephen R. Lewis Jr. (ed.). *Henry George and Contemporary Economic Development*. Williamstown, Massachusetts: Williams College. 1985.

This collection of articles focusses on the ideas of Henry George. An attempt has been made to draw insights from major concerns of the 19th century economists and relate them to contemporary issues in the development of the third world. First of the three specific areas selected for this purpose is land taxation for developing countries. This is the obvious choice in view of George's reputation as an advocate of a "single tax" on rental values. The fact that current literature on natural resource taxation makes intensive use of the notion of economic rent – a central concern of George – has made this area a second choice. Finally, free trade and protection has been selected because of George's influence on 19th century thinking on trade and the great importance attached to protection in today's world.

Edwin Charle. *Macroeconomics of Developing Countries*. New Delhi: Tata McGraw-Hill Publishing Company Ltd. 1983. pp. xi+209.

In view of the need for a standard textbook of macroeconomic theory in low and middle income countries, the author has designed this textbook of macroeconomics principles explicitly for the students in developing countries. Those topics have been emphasized which bear greater relevance for the students in these countries. The macroeconomic implications of foreign trade have been given more attention as against central bank policy and interest rate manipulation, since foreign trade is considered more crucial for developing countries.

Other topics covered by the textbook include macroeconomic theory with relevance to National Income and Government, Analysis of Macroeconomic Changes, Traditional and Modern Sectors, Capital and Investment, Economic Growth, Prices and Inflation, Money and Banking, Labour Force and Employment.

The topic of labour force and employment has been treated at length since the problems of labour force and unemployment generally plague the poor countries. In addition, several case studies from middle and lower income countries have been presented to elaborate theoretical points. Towards the end the discussion pertains to development of macroeconomic theory from the pre-Keynesian period to date.

B.A. Bhat, and C. C. Prendergast. *Choice of Technique in Iron Founding*. Edinburgh: Scottish Academic Press. 1984. pp. xiv+111.

This is the eighth volume in the David Livingstone Institute Series on the Choice of Technique in Developing Countries. It has resulted from the pilot project on "the choice of industrial technology in less developed countries". This study investigates the factors which influence the choice in adopting a specific technology. The authors start by presenting a general introduction to casting process, general characteristics and market structure of the developing countries and recent technological change under the influence of new scientific investigations. Another chapter gives a detailed description of 'Iron Founding Technology'. This is followed by a discussion on the human factor in the form of manpower structure and requirements. The factors conducive to technological change are the topic of the following chapter. The last chapter gives an economic evaluation of alternative technologies in iron founding.

M. Rafiq Khan and Eric Rahim. *Corrugated Board and Box Production*. Edinburgh: Scottish Academic Press. 1985. pp. xi+91. Price £ 3.95.

This is the last (9th) case study in the David Livingstone Institute Series on the Choice of Technique in Developing Countries. This volume explains the history, development and experience of Corrugated Board and Box Production in developed and developing countries. The study provides alternative technological information on manufacturing of Corrugated Board and Boxes and identifies the efficient choice of technique of production from an economic point of view. The study analyses the cost structure, economies of scale and market demand in the developing countries. In the case of the choice of technique in Box making, the study notes three dimensions; the choice between equipments incorporating different processes, choice between machines performing broadly similar functions and choice between the equipments originating in different economic environments. The data is arranged in separate tables which elucidate and provide a sound basis for the discussion. The cost data which are generated as a result of field work are relegated to the appendix.

Per Pinstrup-Andersen, Alan Berg and Martin Forman (eds.). *International Agricultural Research and Human Nutrition*. Washington, D.C.: International Food Policy Research Institute. 1984.

The book is based on several papers presented at a workshop sponsored by the UN Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, the Sub-Committee on Nutrition (ACC/SCN) and the various International Agricultural Research Centres (IARCs). It is believed that nutritional goals should be explicitly considered in making decisions about the design and modification of agricultural research and policy. Therefore, the main emphasis of the workshop has been to increase the usefulness of agricultural research through the incorporation of these goals.

The book focusses on the linkages between agricultural research and human nutrition after highlighting the nutritional activities of IARCs around the world. Considerable space has been devoted to papers presented by individual IARCs, based on their activities. A synthesis of these papers by experts along with their comments appears in the last part of the volume.