

Book Notes*

Henk Thomas and Chris Logan. *Mondragon: An Economic Analysis*. London: George Allen & Unwin. 1982. pp. viii+218.

The book seeks to analyse the economics of Mondragon – a system of worker-managed enterprises bound up in various co-operatives and located in Spain's Basque provinces. It starts with the historical trends in the development of Mondragon and goes on to examine work and training aspects with special attention to employment creation, absenteeism, education and distribution of work among co-operatives. Also described is the rather innovative linkage between the credit co-operative and the group of co-operative factories. In order to examine its growth record, Mondragons' economic performance is compared with that of private enterprises. Further, an analysis is done of the distribution of earnings and capital incomes. In addition, it is asserted that Mondragon partially meets the conditions of an "optimal and viable self-managed economy" and there is considerable scope for comparison with other cases of partial transformation of the economy. The book concludes with a thorough discussion of policy perspectives.

S. C. Dube. *Development Perspectives for the 1980's*. New Delhi: Abhinav Publications. 1983. pp. v+127.

The book is based on the proceedings of the conference on "Development Perspectives for the 1980's" held under the auspices of Asian and Pacific Development Centre, Kuala Lumpur. It is not, however, a conventional report of proceedings and goes beyond the review of facts reported in basic papers, supplementary contributions and discussions on several points.

The author observes that despite three decades of development efforts the promises of utopias have failed to be realized. This has raised serious questions not only about the appropriateness of the development strategy adopted in the past, but also about the nature of development itself. In an attempt to describe development, many important issues have been examined at length. For example the relationship between growth and equity, importance of self-reliance, limits to growth and the role of religious beliefs has drawn considerable attention in the book. In addition, the problems of population, food security, energy, basic needs and human resource mobilization are also discussed. The main conclusion is that a non-emulative development path should be chosen which draws heavily on endogenous creativity and also partakes of growth points of modern science and technology.

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ILO. *World Labour Report No. 1*. Geneva: International Labour Office. 1984. pp. vii+215.

The report is intended for trade unionists, managers, politicians, educators and laymen who are concerned about population problems. It is a synthesis of vast amount of information at ILO's disposal and the lessons drawn from its operational activities throughout the world. First three chapters deal with such issues as labour underutilization in poor countries and employment problems both in the industrial democracies of the west and in the planned economies of Eastern Europe. This is followed by an analysis of labour migration and a discussion on trends and problems of labour incomes around the world. The last two chapters are mainly concerned with social security problems and assessment of the impact of new information technology. Statistical annex provides data on structure of economically active population, income distribution and social security.

Calvin Goldscheider (ed.). *Urban Migrants in Developing Nations: Patterns and Problems of Adjustment*. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press. 1983. pp. xvii+287.

Mashrooming urban population in the less developed countries of the world has been the inevitable outcome of the mass exodus of rural workers in search of better amenities of life. The large-scale movement of rural inhabitants results in the development of urban slums and shanty towns which is a constant worry for the planners and policy-makers. This book is an important contribution to the literature for it addresses the problems of cities and urban migrants along with consequent adjustment patterns emanating from mass migration. In order to overcome the problems of relevant data and diversity of socio-political conditions, the book reports the conclusions of four case studies based on the sample surveys of one major town each of Korea, Indonesia, Colombia and Iran. Each of the case studies discusses the patterns of employment, occupations, housing, consumption, incomes and socio-psychological aspects of both native urbanites and migrants and draws inferences from their comparisons for studying the pattern of adjustment of urban migrants. Specific findings of individual case studies are also compared to examine the methodological issues in the broader context of comparative urbanization and the adjustment process of urban migrants.

C. H. Kirkpatrick, N. Lee and F. I. Nixon. *Industrial Structure and Policy in Less Developed Countries*. London: George Allen & Unwin. 1984. pp. xvi+263.

The text attempts to analyse, at both macro and micro levels, the industrial conditions in many of the LDCs and to bring out their relation to the development process taking place in these countries. Chapter 2 seeks to identify common patterns in industrialization process of various LDCs by examining the relationship between industrial structure and different stages of development. Chapter 3 focuses on some intra-sectoral issues, such as the main types of enterprises operating within LDC industrial sectors, their relative importance and the levels of overall concentration and of concentration within individual markets. Chapter 4 deals with the behaviour of privately owned enterprises, with special emphasis on transnational corporations (TNCs). The behaviour of public sector industrial enterprises is discussed in Chapter 5. Analysis in the preceding chapters raises several policy issues related to the areas of industrial trade, industrial planning, industrial concentration and competition, regulation of TNCs, technology, public enterprise regulation and location of industry. These issues have been critically analysed in the concluding chapter.

S. I. Cohen, P. A. Cornelisse, R. Teekens and E. Thorbecke (eds.). *The Modelling of Socio-Economic Planning Processes*. Brookfield, Vermont (USA): Gower Publishing Company. 1984. pp. xvi+469.

This volume of papers concerns itself with five major themes related to modelling of socio-economic groups, elementary needs associated with minimum welfare levels and demographic developments determining the size and distribution of conflicting group interests, treatment of prices in development models and, finally, the use of social accounting matrix in economic analysis.

Part-I of the book discusses social group approaches in economic models and also traces the development of planning models in India. The impact of population laws on fertility index, economic and demographic links in Yugoslavia, links between economy, labour market and educational system, and models related to basic needs planning for different population categories are subject matter of Part II. In Part III the theory of economic policy-making by the govt. in the face of pressure groups and the friction between economists' approach to development planning and realities of policy-making are discussed along with models depicting societal friction in the context of catastrophe theory. A survey of literature on price models, illustration of the relevance of Kornai's concept of market aspirations and endogenous treatment of prices in a Nigerian model are relegated to Part IV. Last part of the book deals with comprehensive models based on the social accounting matrix framework.