

Book Notes*

S. Abraham and K.B. Gotpagar. *An Annotated Bibliography of Mortality Studies in India.* Bombay: Himalaya Publishing House. 1985. vii + 191 pp.

The book contains bibliographic citations that reflect the past and the present developments in technical and substantive aspects of mortality as well as policy issues and their implications. The list of publications includes 380 published and unpublished references from 1921 to the present.

The studies listed in the book may be divided into four broad classes: (i) General mortality; (ii) Infant, neonatal, post-neonatal and perinatal mortality; (iii) Maternal mortality; and (iv) Life Tables. This book would be of great usefulness to policy-makers in the formulation of health policy in the developing countries of the world.

M. L. Dantwala, Ranjit Gupta and Keith C. D'Souza (editors). *Asian Seminar on Rural Development: The Indian Experience.* New Delhi: Oxford and IBH Publishing Company. 1986. xxiv + 435 pp.

This book consists of papers presented at a seminar organized by the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics and the Centre for Management in Agriculture in collaboration with the International Development Research Centre.

The volume is composed of five parts. The first part evaluates various rural development strategies. The second part looks at the consistency between Macro and Micro Planning and the rationale and limitation of Decentralised Planning. The third part of the book looks at the problems in implementation of rural development programmes. The fourth part of the book details the problem of reconciling the imperatives of economic growth with social justice. The fifth part examines the experiences of some Asian countries in the field of rural development.

P.R. Dubhashi. *Policy and Performance: Agricultural and Rural Development in Post-Independence India.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1986. 320 pp.

This book is a critical appraisal of India's policies in the field of agriculture and rural development. The analysis examines the institutional, technological and economic aspects of the country's agricultural and rural development policies for the past thirty-five years. The drawback pointed out by the author is that the country followed a less than holistic approach in agriculture and rural development. Policies were fragmented and unbalanced. However, a holistic approach, as suggested by the author, would lead to economic growth and the elimination of poverty.

The book will be of special relevance to administrators and policy-makers in the field of agriculture and rural development.

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Sharad S. Marathe. *Regulation and Development: India's Policy Experience of Controls over Industry.* New Delhi: Sage Publications, 1986. 328 pp.

This book is a study of the evolution of industrial policy in India from 1945 to the mid-1980s. The subject matter is dealt with exhaustively in a concise and analytical framework which would be of use to economists and policy-makers. The book starts with an historical account of the evolution of industrial policy, tracing its twists and turns over the years. Such issues as the role of import substitution, pricing policy, and import controls in implementing industrial policy are examined in detail and their impact on development assessed.

An important finding by the author is that once the system tilted towards regulation rather than development it generated its own momentum where the interests of the bureaucrats, industrialists and politicians converged. It is now required that new approaches be made to stimulate development as the existing structure of the controls on industrial activity are incapable of fostering rapid development. The system, in short, is in need of an overhaul.

Nasra Shah and Muhammad Anwar. *Basic Needs, Women and Development: A Survey of Squatters in Lahore, Pakistan.* Honolulu: East-West Center, and Ottawa: International Development Research Centre, 1986. x + 163 pp.

The book is an outcome of a project that was carried out in collaboration with the East-West Population Institute, Honolulu and the Punjab University, Lahore. It focuses on the basic needs requirements of the urban poor, specifically women who reside in *katchi abadis*. Data were collected through a sample survey carried out in Lahore City. The study is useful in that it attempts to establish what the poor in Pakistan perceive as their basic needs. These are defined in a broad sense to include not only a minimum income and nutritional level but also in terms of clothing, education, educational aspirations, health, morbidity and mortality. The book thus looks at the basic needs requirement of the "poorest of the poor" who live in the *katchi abadis* in the urban centres of the country.

Some of the important recommendations include the need for female education and for the provision of more family planning facilities in the *katchi abadis*. Improved health and immunization cover, particularly for the children, is required also if the high mortality levels are to be reduced. Finally, ways and means have to be thought out to raise the income levels of the residents of the *katchi abadis*.

Ursula Sharma. *Women's Work, Class and the Urban Household – A Study of Shimla, North India.* London: Tavistock Publications, 1986. vi + 213 pp.

This book explores the nature of women's household work in an Indian city. Women's household work is defined in a broad sense to include not only the basics such as food preparation, house cleaning and maintenance but also the broader aspects of household activity such as organization of expenditure, social interaction with friends and relations and so on. Used in this wider context, women's contribution to household activities is quite extensive. The author has argued that household service work is important to the maintenance of the household and this is even more so when the household experiences social or geographical mobility. Consequently, the household work of women acts to establish the household more firmly in the urban class structure. The book is a useful addition to the study of women in an urban setting and in a Third World country.

Katar Singh. *Rural Development: Principles, Policies and Management.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1986. 391 pp.

This book deals extensively with the subject of rural development under three main categories. The first category examines the concept and determinants of rural development. The second category examines the agricultural and rural development policies, policy models and the various programmes initiated in India. In the third category, aspects of organization and management in rural development are examined in detail, with special emphasis on planning, financing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

The book is well documented and would be of great use as a textbook for students as well as for policy-makers associated with rural planning and development.

Jill Wells. *The Construction Industry in Developing Countries: Alternative Strategies for Development.* London: Croom Helm. 1986. 184 pp.

The book looks at various aspects of the construction industry in developing countries. The author advocates the development of an efficient, indigenous construction industry as it would help in stimulating growth in other sectors of the economy. However, before this can be achieved, some barriers to the development of productive forces in this industry have to be surmounted. This book examines various methods of reducing and eliminating those barriers and concludes that government support would be essential.

Part II of the book consists of case studies from three developing countries: Kenya, Tanzania and Cuba. The case studies describe those countries' experiences which other countries can usefully emulate according to their circumstances.