

Book Notes*

International Labour Organization. *Codes of Practice. A Structural Analysis.* Bangkok. 1987. 88 pp.

This publication of the International Labour Organization summarizes a review of the codes of practice of Six Asian Countries, i.e., India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The codes of practice of these countries relating to labour relations formed the subject matter of a conference held in Pattaya (Thailand) in the month of September 1987. The review looks at the objectives for which the codes were adopted, as well as the nature of bilateral and tri-partite relationships envisaged among employers, employees, and the government. A limited evaluation of these codes of practice is also made, based on a set of common indicators.

International Labour Organization. *Monitoring Labour Markets.* Bangkok. 1987. 110 pp.

This book consists of a collection of seven papers, which look at some important issues for labour market information in the developing countries of Asia. The papers deal with labour contracts in rural areas; off-farm employment in rural labour markets; data sources on employment in the urban informal sector; monitoring the utilization of educated manpower; adjustment of the labour market to the emigration of skilled labour; and labour market efficiency. The subject matter presented in these papers raises many conceptual issues which, it is hoped, can lead to a review of conventional labour market information data.

International Labour Organization. *Managing Contract Migration: Philippine Experience Observed.* Bangkok. 1987. 68 pp.

This publication of the International Labour Organization reports the proceedings of the meeting of the Asian and Pacific Project for Labour Administration. Nine Asian countries participated in this meeting, which examined the experience of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration. The need for the seminar arose because of the fact that overseas employment administration has emerged as a new area for public policy in many countries of Asia which have experienced large-scale emigration of their labour force to the Gulf and Western Europe in search of employment.

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Ponna Wignaraja and Akmal Hussain (eds.) *The Challenge in South Asia: Development, Democracy and Regional Cooperation*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. Tokyo: The United Nations University. 1989. 360 pp.

South Asia is faced with a situation where the development process has reached a critical point. The solution of this crisis lies not in following the conventional paradigms of development but in examining alternative approaches which can lead to sustained economic development. Thus, this book goes beyond single-discipline analysis, narrow quantification, and *a priori* theorizing, which form part of the conventional paradigms of the development process. This book, therefore, emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach to analysing alternative pathways to development.

G. T. Renshaw (ed.) *Market Liberalization, Equity and Development*. Geneva: International Labour Office. 1989. xiv + 181 pp.

Current conventional wisdom favours policies of liberalization in international trade coupled with the deregulation of labour markets to accelerate the growth of output and employment. This study by the International Labour Organization examines the possibilities of such a market-oriented approach to increasing levels of output and employment. The book discusses trade policy, devaluation, financial flows, and the reform of interest rates.

Gerry Rodgers (ed.) *Population Growth and Poverty in Rural South Asia*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1989. 249 pp.

This book looks at two major issues. The first issue is that of the indirect effects of population growth on poverty. These are as important as the direct effects. The second issue is that poverty is multi-dimensional, which may entail both absolute and relative deprivation. These dimensions involve not only consumption levels but also other factors, such as assets, health, and education. The countries which are examined in the light of the issues mentioned above are India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal.

J. B. Celestin (ed.) *Urban Informal Sector Information: Needs and Methods*. Geneva: International Labour Office. 1989. viii + 44 pp.

This monograph by the International Labour Organization has been prepared within the framework of an inter-regional project on improving labour market information systems in developing countries. This monograph discusses the concept of the urban informal sector and looks at some of the methods that can be used to gather relevant information about it. The monograph outlines the way to a system of information collection of urban informal sector as an integral part of labour market information.

Gerry Rodgers (ed.) *Urban Poverty and the Labour Market: Access to Jobs and Incomes in Asian and Latin American Cities*. Geneva: International Labour Office. 1989. vi + 257 pp.

This book examines the way in which poverty can be traced to the labour market mechanisms in the cities of Asia and Latin America. This examination is carried out on the basis of a number of empirical studies. The book, therefore, depicts trends in different dimensions of urban poverty, assesses how they affect different population groups, analyses concurrent trends in labour market outcomes, and evaluates the relative importance of the labour market and other factors in the evolution of poverty. The longer term objective of these studies is to help in the design of such labour market policies as can lead to the reduction of urban poverty.

John S. Augustine (ed.) *Strategies for Third World Development*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1989. 156 pp.

This book consists of eight essays which examine strategies for third world development. The essays take a broader view of development rather than a purely limited economic one. The book, therefore, attempts to clarify the concept of development while stressing its crucial pragmatic dimensions.

Trevor W. Parfitt and Stephen P. Riley. *The African Debt Crisis*. London: Routledge. 1989. vii + 228 pp.

In recent years, the international debt burden of the developing countries has reached alarming proportions. This book addresses both the macro and the micro levels of the problem. It examines in detail how the debt problem affects Sub-Saharan Africa, in such countries as Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Zaire, and other Francophone states. The book also examines the efficacy of some of the strategies followed to alleviate the debt problem.

Ronald E. Ostman (ed.) *Communication and Indian Agriculture*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1989. 319 pp.

This book looks at the role of communication in fostering the growth of agriculture in a developing economy like India. The twenty-two essays that make up this volume give information on the current state of knowledge on the subject. The essays demonstrate how research and theory can advance our understanding of the dynamics involved in communication research in a developing country.

M. Mugtada (ed.) *The Elusive Target: An Evaluation of Target-Group Approaches to Employment Creation in Rural Asia*. New Delhi: Asian Regional Team for Employment Promotion (ARTEP). 1989. x + 238 pp.

Of recent concern in many developing countries is the problem of unemployment. To resolve this problem, these countries have resorted to direct intervention in the economy, with policies aimed particularly at the rural poor. This target-group approach has been evaluated in this book. This evaluation has been based on primary-level survey data. Apart from an assessment of the nature, benefits, and cost-effectiveness of selected programmes, these studies have attempted to investigate into their sustainability, replicability, and other such issues which may be of importance to policy-makers.