

Book Notes*

CENDIT. *Indian Social and Economic Development.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1989. viii + 206 pp.

This book forms the third volume of the *Bibliography on Indian Social and Economic Development*. There are about 500 entries, which are divided into six categories: ecology; human resources; women/children; income generation; empowerment and debates. Each entry gives the full bibliographic details as well as a description of the contents of the publication. The purpose of this book is to make available the literature on social development to a wider audience.

Luther Tweeten. *Farm Policy Analysis.* Boulder: Westview Press. 1989. xx + 399 pp.

This book is a useful guide to the student or a reader interested in agricultural matters to understand, interpret, and analyze farm policy. Farm policy is defined in the book as a set of policies that affects groups and not just individuals. The subject-matter of the book discusses the ways in which the farmers influence and are influenced by government policy. The central assumption on which the book is based is that farm policy cannot be studied in isolation; it has to be examined within the context of the given social, economic, and political setting.

ILO. *World Labour Report.* Geneva 1989. ix + 159 pp.

This is the fourth volume of the *World Labour Report*. The theme of this volume is government and its employees. Part 1 of the book looks at trends in employment, labour incomes, and industrial relations. Part 2 of the book gives a comprehensive survey of employment conditions of public service employees. Three broad conclusions emerge: (1) the pay and social security benefits of public servants have deteriorated in many countries during the 80s; (2) the organizations of the public service employees and of the employees as individuals have obtained a greater say in the determination of their employment conditions; (3) various methods have been suggested in which efficiency and effectiveness can be improved in the public service.

Hamza Alavi and John Harriss (eds.) *Sociology of 'Developing Societies': South Asia.* New York: Monthly Review Press. 1989.

This book is a collection of articles which attempts to present a coherent view of South Asian society as a historically developing totality of relations while also introducing the wider literature. The editors of this volume reject the approach which assumes that there was a "traditional" India which is undergoing change through the forces of modernization; and while acknowledging the importance of the ideologies of the South Asian people themselves, they do not accept the culturalist premise of some sociological interpretations which maintains that caste and religion make South Asia essentially different from other regions. Their approach is a historical one, assigning causal primacy to neither economics nor politics nor ideology but recognizing the organic unity of social structures and processes.

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Krishna Bharadwaz and Sirdipta Kaviraj (eds). *Perspectives on Capitalism: Marx, Keynes, Schumpeter and Weber.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1989. 270 pp.

This book comprises eleven essays which discuss the theoretical ideas put forth by Marx, Keynes, Schumpeter and Weber. These essays were first presented at a seminar organized by the Indian Council for Social Science Research. The purpose of these papers is not only to advance polemical and scholarly debate but also to focus upon the influence that their ideas have come to have on current social reality. The eleven essays have been contributed by noted scholars from various disciplinary backgrounds, adding to the value of the book.

Urmila Phadnis. *Ethnicity and Nation-Building in South Asia.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1989. 328 pp.

This book examines the manner in which ethnic groups develop and are then politicized. The book also discusses the challenges posed by such groups to nation-building. An in-depth investigation is made by the author of the diverse impulses which reinforce ethnic specifics in multi-ethnic societies and the adequacy of institutional arrangements to cope with the pulls and pressures of inter-ethnic competition for a stake in the system. Five case studies are presented in the book which look at specific ethnic conflicts in the region.

Shirley Nuss. *Women in the World of Work: Statistical Analysis and Projections to the Year 2000.* Geneva: ILO. 1989. x + 132 pp.

It is well known that there is a great inadequacy of data on female economic activity. Recently, in response to the Nairobi forward-looking strategies for the advancement of women, there has been a move towards developing a broader data-base. As a result, this book gives the most extensive and reliable data available today. The book provides statistical information and analysis of female and male economic activity at global, regional, and national levels.

Sharad S. Marathe. *Regulation and Development: India's Policy Experience of Controls Over Industry.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1989. 338 pp.

This is a much-revised second edition of the book written initially by the author in 1986. The book provides a comprehensive and analytical study of the evolution of industrial policy in India. The analysis presented in the book shows how over time the original content and purpose of various policy initiatives were rendered inoperative in the industrial sphere. The author's main finding is that once that system veered towards regulation rather than development, it acquired a momentum of its own. A convergence of interests developed between politicians, bureaucrats, and industrialists. These vested interests operated to perpetuate this relationship. A way out as suggested by the author is to move away from the traditional policy perspectives.

Arvind Singhal and Evevett M. Rogers. *India's Information Revolution.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1989. 244 pp.

This book examines the social changes in Indian society resulting from applications of communications technologies. This assumes even greater importance if we look at the work force (10 percent) employed in service and information jobs and contributing 42 percent of the country's GNP. An information revolution has taken hold in India and the purpose of this book is to monitor its progress.

Ponna Wignaraja. *Women, Poverty and Resources.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1990. 241 pp.

Although much literature exists about women in development, one issue which has not been explored is that poor women face the double burden of being poor and being women. Over the past few years womens' organizations and policy-makers in South Asia have come to realise the crucial inter-linkage between gender and equity in poverty alleviation and sustainable development. The important contribution of this book lies in the fact that it is the first study to examine the gender-equity issue in great depth.

P. V. Indiresan. *Managing Development.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1990. 284 pp.

This book puts forth the view that a degraded environment is not the result but the cause of poverty. The book combines in a unique manner the management technique of SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis and the hierarchy of Maslow needs (physical, security, social, autonomy, and self-actualization needs) with the basic supply-demand equilibrium of economic systems to bring a new perspective to the problem of development.

Ralph Turkey, et al. *Consumer Price Indices.* Geneva: ILO. 1989. xii + 186 pp.

Consumer price indices are required to assess social conditions and economic performance. The practice of constructing consumer price indices includes selecting items, estimating the weighting pattern, designing and carrying out continuing price collections, and making appropriate allowances for factors such as seasonality and quality variations which influence the course of prices over time. This manual covers all these important topics and also provides many concrete examples and explanatory diagrams.