

Book Notes*

Geeti Sen (ed). *Indigenous Vision—Peoples of India: Attitudes to the Environment.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1992. 304 pp.

This book explores various facets of the environmental practices of the indigenous populace of India. The contributors present the rituals and folklore of these people to show how they are shaped by the environment they inhabit.

The case studies presented are on the Warlis of Bombay, the Gonds, Kols, Gujjars of Himachal Pradesh, the Mundas, Oraons and Santals of Central India. Other papers are on Buddhist traditions, the impact of alien laws, attitudes on tribal populations.

This book is essential reading for ecologists, anthropologists, environmental activists and all those concerned with the survival of planet earth.

Lynn Bennett. *Women Poverty and Productivity in India.* Washington D. C.: IBRD The World Bank. 1992. xii+91 pp.

This publication is a synthesis of a detailed study by the World Bank "Gender and Poverty" by Lynn Bennett.

This publication analyses women's involvement in key sectors of the Indian economy, the relationship between gender and access within the family and beyond, the returns they are getting, and the critical constraints they face in increasing their access to and productivity in these sectors.

P. N. Rastogi. *Policy Analysis and Problems Solving for Social System: Toward Understanding, Monitoring and Managing Complex Real World Problems.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1992. 150 pp.

In this book the author presents a cybernetic methodology for policy, analysis and problem-solving for complex and ill-defined real world problems such as crime; terrorism; mental distress among individuals; poverty; illiteracy, and numerous other problems that characterise our social universe. The methodology provides a coherent frame of representation, reasoning and analysis which can be tested and is open to observational verification.

This book is useful for academics and professionals in the field of management studies, social welfare, policy studies, and the social sciences in general.

A. S. Bhalla (ed). *Environment, Employment and Development.* Geneva: ILO Publication. 1992. ix+177 pp.

This study examines the employment implications of sustainable development, especially for

*Prepared by Ms Sabiha Ibrahim, Faculty Member, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad.

developing countries, and reviews the instruments and approaches currently being used to reduce environmental degradation.

The issues discussed in this book are alternative approaches to economic development and employment promotion which incorporate environment issues; the relation between employment, environment, rural poverty and urbanisations, energy and environment and finally identifying the areas where further research needs to be carried out.

International Labour Bibliography No. 12. *Poverty in Developing Countries: A Bibliography by the ILO's World Employment Programme, 1975-91.* Geneva: ILO Publication. 1992. vii+152 pp.

This bibliography on poverty brings together ILO publications and documents issued between 1975 and 1991 relating to proposed measures for alleviating rural poverty.

It is divided into four sections. Section 1 lists 350 bibliographical references with abstracts sorted by personal or corporate authors; Sections 2-4 are indexes giving all authors, corporate authors, and main subjects or countries and areas, followed by titles in alphabetical order and complete bibliographical details.

K. C. Alexander, K. P. Kumaran. *Culture and Development Cultural Patterns in Areas of Uneven Development.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1992. 203 pp.

The objective of this study is to understand the pattern of culture in areas varying in levels of socio-economic development. Three areas were selected: Trichur in Kerala, Azamgarh in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Saharanpur in Western Uttar Pradesh.

A sample of 200 respondents were selected from each area, through two-stage random sampling procedure. Three types of information was collected – details regarding their socio-economic status: e.g. education, occupation etc., details about their knowledge e.g. natural phenomena, agronomic practices, health matters etc. and details about their values e.g. basic values, nutritional health etc.

Based on the data the authors concluded that education and mass media were the two main sources contributing to the socio-economic of change. And even though industrial growth and capital are important factors for development, investing in cultural change will make the development process faster and smooth.

This is an interesting book for anthropologists, and sociologists.

Enakshi Ganguly Thukral (ed). *Big Dams, Displaced People. Rivers of Sorrow Rivers of Change.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1992. 199 pp.

This book presents the experience of those who have been displaced by the constructions of big dams, in the light of the policies and plans which govern their rehabilitation.

Based on five case studies, four case studies relate to big dams constructed in the four major geographical regions of the country, which examine the promises made by the government and what actually happened i.e. they had to fend for themselves, gained no advantage from the project and often ended up as migrant labourers or at times in bondage. The fifth case is about the Baliraja Project that relates to a dam that the people of the area wanted, built and administered themselves.

The book aims at generating a debate on the large-scale displacement of people as a consequence of development projects, and that a solution to the problem can emerge at the national level.

Anthony J. Parel and Ronald C. Keith. *Comparative Political Philosophy:*

Studies Under the Upas Tree. New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1992. 260 pp.

This book explores four major traditions of political philosophy – Western, Indian, Chinese and Islamic – in order to identify ‘equivalences’ and respect of other traditions and understanding of one’s own tradition.

The strategy followed is to select significant representatives from each traditions. From pre-modern west, Plato and Aristotle, Augustine and Aquinas; from pre-modern China, Confucius; from India, Kautilya; and from Islam, Farabi.

A useful book for any student of political philosophy, political theory and intellectual history.

Ehtisham Ahmed and Nicholas Stern. *The Theory and Practice of Tax Reform in Developing Countries.* Great Britain: Cambridge University Press. 1991. 344 pp.

This study approaches the subject of tax reform from basic economic principles. The objectives are to develop guidelines for the design of tax policy, to show how the principles can structure systematic research into tax reform in terms of the consequences for households, producers and government and finally to combine the guidelines and applied research into a practical tax package for Pakistan. The authors provide a coherent framework to show how principles can be formulated, applied research structured, and policies developed and appraised in a systematic manner.

The book is useful for graduate students, academic economists, and other professional economists from international organisations and governments.

Arun Ghosh. *Planning in India: The Challenge for the Nineties.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1992. 284 pp.

This book examines the problems of socio-economic development in India. It analyses the causes of the prevailing social tensions, the primary roots of which lie in the economic sphere.

The main focus of the author is on ways of improving the approach to planning in the developing countries like India, and discussions on decentralised planning and the mobilisation of local effort, along with de-bureaucratisation and de-regulation of industrial growth.

In short this book emphasises the federal character of the Indian polity, regional diversity proper attention to education, health care and minimum needs of the population.

N. S. Jodha, M. Bankskota and Tej Partab. *Sustainable Mountain Agriculture: Perspectives and Issues* (Volume 1); and *Farmers’ Strategies and Innovative Approaches* (Volume 2). New Delhi: Mohan Primlani. 1992. viii + 141 pp.

The present book, is in two volumes combining results of ICIMOD (International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Kathmandu). The studies are on selected hill areas of India, Nepal and Pakistan and were presented at an International Symposium on Strategies for Sustainable Agriculture in Mountain Regions.

The main focus of these two volumes is the understanding and identification of factors and processes that contribute to the sustainability or unsustainability of mountain agriculture and related activities.

The themes covered are public policies and programmes, farmer’s resource management strategies, long-term issues in sustainability, and designing development strategies for diverse mountain areas.