

# ***Book Notes\****

**Hans Frey and Sabur Ghayur.** *Women and Development: Synthesis Report of an International Conference.* Islamabad: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. 1992. 45 pp.

This report contains the salient features of the proceedings of an international conference on 'Women and Development' organised by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in collaboration with the Society for International Development, Islamabad Chapter, in cooperation with the United Nations International Children's Fund and the Ministry of Women Development, 18–21 December, 1990. The main purpose of this conference was to provide a platform to women activists, researchers, policy-makers, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Pakistan and other South Asian countries to exchange views on integration of women in the mainstream of development.

It is a synthesis report, which presents the gist of the presentations and discussions in the plenary session as well as the main results of the working groups. The topics include: (1) Women and Law, (2) Women and Economy, (3) Female Health and Education, (4) Women and Politics, and (5) Women NGOs.

The problems pointed out are: poverty, illiteracy, economic dependence and lack of legal awareness of women. Also noted is the need to solve these problems by sustained and concerted efforts.

**Abid A. Burki and Sabur Ghayur.** *The Informal Sector of Pakistan: Problems and Policies: Synthesis Report of the National Workshop.* Islamabad: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. 1992. 64 pp.

The importance of the informal sector has been increasing for some time, as much as the need for policy-oriented research emphasising the role and dynamics of this sector. This synthesis report concerns a workshop that was arranged by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in collaboration with the Department of Economics, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, to address the questions concerning these areas.

The objectives of the workshop were:

1. To provide a forum for researchers and policy-makers to deliberate on various aspects of Pakistan's informal sector;
2. To identify major problems relating to different aspects of the informal sector; and
3. To propose specific actions to remedy the problems and to find the solutions that may be considered by different governmental and non-governmental organisations.

This report recaptures such concerns of the conference as the lessons from the past and policy implications, neglected issues, growth of small firms, human resource development, status of working women in the informal sector, changes which have occurred over the years in the composition of female labour force in urban and rural areas, socioeconomic profiles of the self-employed, and labour market information system for the urban informal sectors (IFS).

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**Rama Murthy Kuppachi.** *Managing by Consultation: Global and Asian Experiences.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1992. 266 pp.

This comprehensive comparative study explores effective ways of managing human resources. In particular, emphasis has been placed on workers' participation in the management of enterprises and organisations. The focus is on India and Sri Lanka but is provided a global view from an Asian perspective.

Chapter 1 describes the financial linkages in the management system. Chapter 2 discusses the salient aspects of cultural linkages in managing human resources in an industrial setting. Chapter 3 attempts to give a bird's-eye view of global perspectives and trends in the practice of industrial democracy. The last chapter contains a detailed case-study of a multinational corporation operating in Sri Lanka which illustrates a model of participatory management.

The book will be useful to entrepreneurs, policy-makers, and all those involved in human resource development.

**J. C. Sandesara.** *Industrial Policy and Planning 1947-91: Tendencies, Interpretations and Issues.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1992. 211 pp.

The objective of this book is to analyse India's industrial policy and planning since Independence in terms of the stated objectives, which are rapid growth, diversification, promotion of small industries, reduction in regional imbalances, and restricting the concentration of economic power in private hands.

On the basis of the analysis and findings and the overall assessment of the country's industrial policy, the author finds the performance of India's industrial economy to be satisfactory. He further suggests the need for increasing investments in infrastructure, improving allocative efficiency in the manufacturing sector, and proceeding with policies aimed at liberalising the economy.

Based as it is on the most recent statistics on India's industrialisation, it is a useful book for those interested in overviews of India's industrial and economic development.

**S. R. B. Leadbeater.** *The Politics of Textiles. The Indian Cotton-Mill Industry and the Legacy of Swadeshi, 1900-1985.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1992. 311 pp.

Tracing the rise and fall of India's composite mill sector and India's policy towards textiles, the author discusses why the mills in north India began to decline from the mid-fifties while those in the south prospered and grew in number.

The conclusion derived was that, firstly, the government's policy of protecting handloom weavers was part of the Swadeshi movement. Secondly, the emergence of the powerloom sector in the south consumed the majority of the yarn produced and competed with the cloth produced in the north.

The book is based on case histories, first-hand interviews, and historical records.

**Suraj B. Gupta.** *Black Income in India.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1992. 187 pp.

Examining and evaluating the problems of black money in full detail, including income tax evasion, excise and customs duties, bribes and smuggling, real estate and foreign exchange transactions, and misappropriation of government funds, the author provides a rough estimate of black income both in

the aggregate and the individual sources for three selected years of the 1980s. He also discusses the consequences of the circulation of black income in the political, economic, and social spheres, finally reviewing the existing policies to prevent black markets.

The major hypothesis of this study is that corruption lies at the root of most black operations, and the growth of black income is based on the social structure, excessive state intervention, and the nature of party politics of the country.

**K. Saradmoni (ed).** *Finding the Household. Conceptual and Methodological Issues.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1992. 251 pp.

This volume, the fifth and final in the Women and the Household in Asia series, brings together selected papers presented at the Regional Conference for Asia on Women and the Household, held in New Delhi, 27-31 January 1985.

One of the important objectives of this volume is to explore the conceptual and methodological issues relating to the household as a unit for data collection. The eleven original essays explore various important issues, including the formation and inner dynamics of households, the structures of society, and the differing and changing notions of family and kinship.

The first three essays examine the currently available Indian data sources, their historic evolution, important limitations and how best they can be used. The next seven essays discuss concepts like Family, Household, and Head, based on field data drawn from India, the Philippines, Korea, and Vietnam. The last essay sums up the debate and highlights the global nature of the problem.

**K. R. Vernugopal.** *Deliverance from Hunger: The Public Distribution System in India.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1992. 223 pp.

The author investigates the reasons for the unequal distribution of foodgrains in India and suggests various remedies.

The issues discussed are:

- (i) The intensity of hunger in rural poor household;
- (ii) How hunger at rural household level defeats self-employment strategies;
- (iii) How the public distribution system can be reorientated to serve only the poor; and
- (iv) The need for involving the community in food management.

This book would be of great interest to policy-makers, planners, and all those concerned with the problem of poverty and hunger.

**J. V. Vilanilan.** *Science Communication and Development.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1992. 241 pp.

Mass communication, in particular, has an important role in social and technological change. To support this notion, the author reports studies done in Kerala's literacy campaign and the Physical Quality of Life Index (PQLI).

This book is an important contribution to both the fields of science and technology and communication and development, using historical analysis to assess the scientific and technological traditions in ancient, medieval, and modern India.

**T. M. Thomas Isaac, P. A. Van Stuijvenberg and K. N. Nair.** *Modernisation and Employment: The Coir Industry in Kerala.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1992. 249 pp.

The objective of this book is to review the socio-political, economic, and technological factors that affect trends in the coir industry in Kerala which is suffering from reduced output and stagnant employment.

The study is organised into seven chapters. Chapter 1 is the Introduction. Chapter 2 presents a historical analysis of the current crisis and policy statements in the industry. Chapter 3 is devoted to a product-wise and country-wise disaggregated analysis of trends in imports of coir products in importing countries and India's export potential. Chapter 4 undertakes a systematic analysis of the available data on domestic demand. Chapter 5 examines the present scarcity of coconut husks in Kerala. Chapter 6 discusses a detailed documentation of production processes, viz. retting, fibre extraction, spinning, and weaving. The last chapter sums up the principal findings of the study and suggests policy implications to revitalise the coir industry in Kerala.

**CENDIT.** *Indian Social and Economic Development.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1992. 195 pp.

This book, which is the sixth volume in the series, is a summary of abstracts of useful and relevant writings on development issues. There are 466 entries divided into six categories: Ecology, Human Resources, Women/Children, Income Generation, Empowerment, and Debates. Complete bibliographic details and contents are also provided.

**Sabur Ghayur.** *Pakistan: The Rural Barani Areas: Pattern of Employment and Socio-Economic Conditions.* Islamabad: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. 1991. 114 pp.

This study records and analyses the socio-economic conditions and the existing patterns of employment in the *barani* villages in the country. The study is based on a survey of 845 households from 79 *barani* villages of the Punjab and the North West Frontier Province (NWFP), in such a way that at least one village from each Tehsil (sub-district) was included in the field survey.

The objective of the study was to identify information gaps and generate employment and manpower development data.

The results of the study confirm the general assumptions about these areas, namely, that living conditions are poor and the unemployment rate is high; agriculture provides employment for only one-third of the labour force; and the socio-economic conditions in the *barani* areas of the NWFP are generally better than those in the Punjab.

**Sabur Ghayur, Hans Frey and Klaus Klennert.** *Action Plan for Employment and Manpower Development in Pakistan. Report of Five Provincial Workshops on the Implementation of the National Manpower Commission Report.* Islamabad: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. 1992. 71 pp.

This report is based on the results of a number of agency-sponsored studies and on detailed

discussions between the National Manpower Commission (NMC) and representatives of the federal and provincial governments, ministries, departments, and employers' and workers' organisations. It is a valuable document on human resources and the development process, and contains detailed proposals to solve the problems of manpower development.

The report summarises the recommendations in the form of a "Proposed National Action Plan", which includes:

1. Employment generation for men and women in the rural and urban areas;
2. Development of an education and training system;
3. Employment of the educated;
4. Promotion of overseas employment; and
5. Development of an institutional system for employment and manpower planning.

**Rizwanul Islam (ed).** *Transfer, Adoption, and Diffusion of Technology for Small and Cottage Industries*. New Delhi: ILO-ARTEP, 1992. 314 pp.

Based on papers presented and extensively discussed at an international seminar on transfer of technology for SCIs amongst the developing countries, organised by ARTEP in New Delhi in May 1990, this volume focuses on the question of providing new/improved technology for small and cottage industries (SCIs) through international transfer and indigenous development.

The first part of the volume presents case-studies on the experience and potential of technology transfer for small and cottage industries (SCIs), with particular focus on transfer amongst developing countries. The second part focuses on the problem of adoption and diffusion of new technology in cottage industries. A critical review of the work on indigenous development and dissemination of improved technology for small and cottage industries is undertaken in part three. The last section provides an overview of the demand-side aspect for the adoption of improved technology by cottage industries.