

Shorter Notices

Amiya Kumar Bagchi (ed). *New Technology and the Workers' Response: Micro Electronics, Labour and Society.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1994. 367 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 375.00.

This book consists of papers presented at a seminar held at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta in October 1991. The theme of the seminar was the economic and social impact of the technologies based on micro-electronics.

The main focus of the authors here are such issues as distribution and the shares of labour and capital between the old-fashioned and new technologies, linking management and trade unions in one framework, and a comparison of the experiences of Korea and Taiwan with those of Brazil, India, and Sweden in the same areas.

S. R. Maheshwari. *Rural Development in India: A Public Policy Approach.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1994. 274 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 295.00.

In this book the author provides a critical overview, from a public policy perspective, of the government's rural development schemes which have been implemented with the objective of alleviating rural poverty.

Beginning with the historical and constitutional background, the designing, implementation, and failures of various major rural development programmes have been analysed. The major issues, namely, land reforms, rural credit, agrarian unrest, and an appropriate technology, have also been examined. The author suggests a separate administrative structure for rural development programmes.

Kanti P. Bajpai and Harish C. Shukul (eds). *Interpreting World Politics.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1994. 416 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 395.00.

Based on four branches of world politics, i.e., international relations theory, international society, regional politics, and foreign policy, this volume combines theoretical and methodological concerns with "real world" problems and issues.

Anglo-American Studies is reviewed from the standpoint of international relations theory. The section on International Society comprises twelve essays on the concepts and prospects in the post-Cold-War world, the role of the Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), the globalisation of economy, politics and communications, etc. The third and fourth branches, Regional Politics and Foreign Policy, question the role of ethnicity, democracy, and the conduct of foreign policy.

J. S. Grewal and Hugh Johnston (eds). *The India-Canada Relationship: Exploring the Political, Economic, and Cultural Dimensions.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1994. 462 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 350.00.

This book examines the political, economic, and cultural dimension of the Indo-Canadian relationship.

The book is divided into four parts. Part 1 consists of papers on the Indo-Canadian relationship

in trade, security, investment, diplomacy, and migration. Part II compares the political processes in Canada with those of India, the educational policies followed in the two countries, and environmental protection and human rights. Women and Women's studies are the focus of Part III. Finally, Part IV presents a cross-cultural perspective on contemporary Canadian and Indian literature.

V. M. Dandekar. *The Indian Economy 1947–92: Volume I: Agriculture.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1994. 408 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 350.00.

This book is the first volume of a series of three on the Indian economy of the 1947–92 period. Volumes II and III, on employment and poverty and on industry, public finance and trade, respectively, are forthcoming.

In this volume, the author has updated and revised his writings on Indian agriculture between 1947 and 1992, focusing on institutions rather than on production and technology. Chapter 1 reviews the methods of transforming the traditional subsistence agriculture into a commercially viable agriculture. Chapter 2 argues for decentralisation in agriculture. Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 highlight the acute food shortages of the war and post-war years. In Chapter 5 the author argues for concessional credit for both production and consumption use, while the final chapter, Chapter 6 discusses the formulation of future agricultural policy. The emphasis is on transforming subsistence agriculture into modern economic farming. Other issues examined in this chapter are the financial difficulties of the government and the international pressures on the domestic economy.

Pravin Visaria and Rakesh Basant (eds). *Non-agricultural Employment in India: Trends and Prospects.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1994. 370 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 360.00.

The declining share of the workforce in agriculture in the rural areas of India has brought about a shift towards non-agricultural activities. This book is based on a seminar organised in March 1989 at Ahmadabad by the Gujarat Institute of Development Research and the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, Bombay. The topic was "Non-agricultural Employment in India: Trends and Prospects".

The papers presented in this volume deal mainly with the nature, extent, and determinants of rural non-agricultural employment in India; the socio-economic characteristics of non-agricultural workers; the inter- and intra-state variations in rural non-employment in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra; restructuring of activities through the upgrading of "labour-intensive technologies"; and, finally, identifying new areas for future research on the impact of government policies on non-agricultural employment, the share of female non-agriculture workers, and the rural-urban nexus.

V. P. Pancharukhi, R. G. Nambiar, Rajesh Mehta, G. A. Tadas, and S. K. Mohanty. *Complementarity in Trade and Production: Intra-South Potentials.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1994. 179 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 245.00.

This volume proposes to discuss the concept of complementarity as a tool for examining the potential for trade expansion between developing countries.

The authors have divided the study into three sections. The first looks at trade complementarities by computing similarities in the export and import structures of the developing countries. The second section examines aspects of competitiveness in the export and import structures by exploring the potential for trade expansion. Finally, the third section analyses trade complementarities by integrating the cost and technological parameters in the production process of the developing countries.

Using a quantitative approach in an integrated framework, the authors suggest various policy and institutional measures for South-South co-operation, by establishing institutional arrangements and by the reorientation of technology to match resource endowments.

Indira Hirway and Piet Terhal. *Towards Employment Guarantee in India: Indian and International Experiences in Rural Public Works Programme.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1994. 283 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 295.00.

The potential of rural public works as a policy instrument for sustainable rural development, alleviation of poverty, and the feasibility of an employment guarantee programme in India forms the substance of this book.

The conclusions derived from this study show the necessity of making an effective political commitment by the government to support the rural works programmes, and also of the need to bring about radical changes in public administration. The authors urge a gradual introduction of an employment guarantee scheme for rural landless labour in India.

Bikram Narayan Nanda. *Contours of Continuity and Change: The Story of the Bonda Highlanders.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1994. 228 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 275.00.

The main focus of this book is the existing social relations and the current social transformation of Indian tribes. The author examines the Bonda tribe in the highlands of Southern Orissa, where customary tribal practices and social expectations, domestic and public roles, and the traditional ways of determining work and leisure have undergone a rapid change.

Sandhya Venkateswaran. *Environment, Development and the Gender Gap.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1995. 236 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 250.00.

The relationship between women and the environment in the Indian context is the main theme of this book. The author highlights women's role in activities relating to the environment, the impact of environmental degradation on them (the different rural and urban women's groups), and finally, the differential impact of resource degradation and environmental policies on each group.

Important issues have been discussed in detail from the female perspective, and they relate to croplands, common lands, forest and water resources, domestic energy, social forestry, technology, urban environment, and pollution. This is a comprehensive study for those interested in environmental issues in relation to gender.

Upendra Baxi and Bhikhu Parekh (eds). *Crisis and Change in Contemporary India.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1994. 453 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 250.00.

This volume is based on the viewpoints of internationally distinguished observers of India. It consists of eighteen essays dealing with Indian political and social transformation.

The essays can be divided into four groups. The first group critically analyses the contribution of the founding fathers of modern India. In the second group, the crisis of governability and the nature of politics, the formation of civic loyalty, and the origin of political language are examined. Communal riots and the problem of religious and secular identities in the way of constructing a modern India have been addressed in the third group. Finally, the last group discusses the issues of community and public health, and the need for a psychological understanding of the practice of power in contemporary India.

Vinay Bahl. *The Making of the Indian Class: A Case-study of the Tata Iron and Steel Company, 1880-1946.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1994. 432 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 395.00.

The main theme of this book is the resistance to imperialism and capitalism in India during the colonial period and the formation of the working-class movement in the Indian steel industry.

Based on a case-study of the Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO), which was the only basic and heavy industry using Indian capital and employing the largest number of workers in colonial India, the author examines the social, economic, historical, political, and cultural forces that were responsible for the emergence of the Indian working class and the shaping of their class consciousness under colonial rule.

Raja Gopal. *Organising Rural Business: Policy, Planning, and Management.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1995. 184 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 245.00.

Appropriate planning for marketing rural products has been the prime objective of India's rural development programmes. Based on this theme, the author discusses various important aspects of managing product marketing in a rural setting. It starts with a discussion of the existing market networks for rural industries and their economic viability from an entrepreneur's point of view, as well as a look into the existing gaps in the system. Secondly, it analyses the marketing conflicts and the management of the production and marketing stages. The importance of cooperative marketing and retail marketing has also been highlighted. The last chapter is a manual which would prove of use to those launching a new product under different product-market conditions.

Centre for [the] Development of Instructional Technology. *Indian Social and Economic Development: An Index to the Literature.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1994. 201 pp. Hardbound. Indian Rupees 250.00.

This volume, the eighth in the series published by the Centre for [the] Development of Instructional Technology, contains entries for the period 1990–1994 in six fields—ecology, human resources, women and children, income generation, empowerment, and debates. Each entry has been listed under the specified subject index providing comprehensive bibliographic detail and a description of the contents.