

## ***Shorter Notices\****

**Guenther Fichtner and Ismail Salleh (eds).** *Promotion of SMEs: Policy Environment and Institutional Framework.* Kuala Lumpur: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. 1991. 179 pp. Paperback. Price not given.

Small and Medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) have gained importance in developing countries due to their role in promoting economic growth and employment opportunities for skilled and semi-skilled workers. This book presents papers by professionals from Malaysia, Taiwan, and Korea at a workshop held in 1990 at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), Malaysia. Its three main themes were: (1) Creating an environment conducive to the promotion of SMEs; (2) the role of government in assisting SMEs; and (3) the role of business associations in the promotion of SMEs.

However, it has been observed that as SMEs consist of different types of enterprises, certain problems in their operation have been highlighted: low productivity, lack of access to financial facilities, inadequate level of technology, use of obsolete machinery, high raw material costs due to the small quantities purchased etc. Based on these and other difficulties confronting the SMEs, it is proposed that such policy measures need to be implemented as can redress these areas of concern.

**Ludgera Klemp.** *Women Shaping Democratic Change: Documentation of a Workshop in the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Bonn, 21-22 October 1992.* Bonn: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. 1992. 79 pp. Paperback. Price not given.

This book is based on the outcome of an international workshop focusing on women's political issues. The participants consisted of women experts from Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Germany.

The main focus of the discussion was democratic change and social reform processes taking place in many parts of the world and providing new opportunities for women to shape themselves a democratic environment. The conclusions reached are: (1) The problems facing women are a worldwide phenomenon; (2) common problems can be solved by mutual co-operation and solidarity among the women throughout the world; and (3) there exists a need to increase women's participation in all forms of decision-making as well as in the social, political, and economic aspects of life.

**Qutubuddin Aziz (ed).** *Population Planning and Labour Welfare.* Karachi: Pakistan Media Corporation. 1991. 96 pp. Paperback. Price not given.

Pakistan is the ninth most populous country in the world, with the current rate of demographic increase to be one of the highest in Asia. Hence the need for promoting the concept of population and family welfare and the small-family norm amongst the workforce in Pakistan.

This volume consists of the proceedings and recommendations of a national seminar, "Population Planning and Labour Welfare and the Role of Information, Education, and Communication", organised in 1991 at Karachi by the National Institute of Labour Administration Training (NILAT). It is a useful contribution in the area of population planning and labour welfare as the participants from such diverse groups as government and non-government agencies, industrial establishments, trade unions, and research bodies.

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

**Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.** *Small and Micro Enterprises Promotion in Pakistan: Macro Economic Policy Frameworks and Implementation Issues: Outcomes of Three Workshops Organised in 1992.* Islamabad: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. 1992. 32 pp. Paperback. Price not given.

This paper is a report of the three workshops on the issues and constraints faced in the promotion of the small and micro enterprises (SMEs) which were organised at Islamabad by the Swiss Development Cooperation between April and August 1992.

Two main concepts around which the discussion in the workshops was taken place included (1) the macro-economic policy framework and (2) the implementation issues. The former identified the impact of the fiscal and trade regime, with respect to sub-contracting possibilities and the integration of the SMEs with the formal economy; the latter focused on support programmes for the small and micro enterprises (SMEs) in the areas of credit, training, etc., and showed a bias towards the direct provision of subsidised inputs and the desirability of an integrated approach with respect to various support programmes.

The conclusions reached here are that all those macro level policy aspects that had an adverse impact on the SMEs be removed and the support programmes be encouraged.

**Muhammad Ali Chaudhary, Pervez Azim, and Abid Aman Burki.** *Skill Generation and Entrepreneurship Development under "Ostad-Shagird" System in Pakistan.* Islamabad: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. 1989. 149 pp. Paperback. Price not given.

The main focus of this study is the "Ostad-Shagird" system which promotes the quality of labour force. The study also examines skill generation and the development of entrepreneurship in the urban informal enterprises.

The book is based on a survey comprising 2030 respondents and 24 informal activities which are divided into twelve chapters. Chapter 1 introduces the book. Chapter 2 focuses on the factors contributing to the domestic employment situation and government policies. Chapter 3 analyses the social profile of both the *Ostads* and the *Shagirds* in terms of their age, educational level, marital status, etc. Chapter 4 examines how the enterprises working under this system are owned and operated. Chapter 5 explains how skill formation takes place, the criterion of being an *Ostad* or a *Shagird* is evolved, and the levels and the forms of payment determined. Chapter 6 provides information on the opportunities of skill learning which are necessary for both enterprises and new workers. Other issues relating to the "Ostad-Shagird" system that have been analysed relate to the regulation of labour laws, health, the income-generated from training the *Shagirds* and the expenses incurred, and the initial investment and future credit use. A very important aspect that has been compared in this study is the interaction between the formal and the informal sectors, in terms of the training techniques and the use of old and new tools and machines. The study is concluded with a chapter containing recommendations to improve employment and entrepreneurship as well as production efficiency of the "Ostad-Shagird" system.

**Dieter Nohlen.** *Elections and Electoral Systems.* Bonn: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. 1984. 105 pp. Paperback. Price not given.

This volume is part of a series of publications on "Democracy and Social Change", which is intended to support the advisory and educational activities of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in the field of social development in the Third World.

The publication provides basic information about electoral systems in general and the electoral system of Germany in particular. It focuses on (1) the meaning and functions of elections under various political systems, (2) the history of election laws and voting rights, (3) the political consequences of elec-

toral systems, (4) the advantages and disadvantages of majority systems and proportional representation systems, (5) the structures and consequences of electoral systems, (6) the electoral system of the Federal Republic of Germany, and finally (7) it analyses the problems which arise from the transfer of electoral systems from Germany to other countries.

**Ashfaq H. Khan and Mir Annice Mahmood.** *Complementarities, Comparative Advantages, and Benefits and Costs of Regional Cooperation in Land Transport and Communication.* Islamabad: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. 1993. 146 pp. Paperback. Price not given.

An efficient transport and communications network paves the way towards economic development as well as regional cooperation particularly in the areas of trade and tourism.

This study, sponsored by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), identifies the complementarities and comparative advantages and benefits which the SAARC member-countries would gain by regional cooperation in land transport and communications.

It is divided into nine chapters. Chapter 1 is introductory. Chapter 2 discusses the role and functions of land transport and communications for the development of a region, highlighting the economic similarities as well as dissimilarities among the member-countries, and also providing information about their structure of production and trade.

Chapter 3 examines the current state of transport, which includes road and rail; and the communications network, which includes postal and telecommunication facilities in this region. Chapter 4 examines the bottlenecks and shortcomings of the land transport and communication system. Chapters 5 and 6 highlight the existing state of intra-regional trade and trade potential among the member-countries. Chapter 7 focuses on the existing state of tourism, which is another important aspect of the land transport and communication network. Chapter 8 discusses alternative scenarios by asking the question: How much intra-regional trade and tourism may increase in the region (1) if all countries cooperate with one another, (2) if some countries cooperate with one another, (3) and if there is no cooperation with one another? Finally, Chapter 9 presents a summary and some policy recommendations.

**Sabur Ghayur and Zulekha Zar.** *Pakistan: Working Conditions in the Textile Sector: A Study of the Large-scale Textile Manufacturing Industries in the City of Karachi.* Islamabad: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. 1993. 84 pp. Paperback. Price not given.

The manufacture of cotton textiles is amongst the leading industrial activities in Pakistan, earning the largest amount of foreign exchange and generating about one-third of organised manufacturing employment. Government incentives and concessions introduced from time to time have not accelerated the pace of textile industrialisation as the problems related to deteriorating working conditions and exploitation still exist.

This book is based on a survey conducted the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and National Institute of Labour Administration Training, focusing about organised textile manufacturing units in the District of Karachi which are registered with the Pakistan Manufacturing Association. Chapter titles indicate the focus: (1) Terms and Conditions of Employment; (2) The Working Conditions; (3) The Nature and Causes of Industrial Disputes; and (4) Occupational Safety and Health.

It is divided in nine chapters. Chapter 1 is introductory. Chapter 2 gives a brief but detailed outline of the cotton textile sector in Pakistan. Chapter 3 is an overview of the labour legislation in Pakistan in terms of industrial relations, occupational safety and health, social security, and minimum wages specific to the textile sector. Chapters 4, 5, and 6 concentrate on the workers' profile and classifications in terms of age, educational level, in-house training, mode of payments and benefits, etc. Chapter 7 focuses on the nature of labour-management relations. Chapter 8 examines the health and safety conditions in the textile industry. Chapter 9 concludes the study by giving a brief outline of the main findings

and by making suggestions for improving the working conditions in this sector.

**WHO Study Group. *Prevention of Diabetes Mellitus: Report of a WHO Study Group.*** Geneva: World Health Organisation. 1994. vii + 100 pp. Paperback. SFr. 15.00. Technical Report Series No. 844.

Diabetes Mellitus is identified by hyperglycaemia and disturbances of the carbohydrate, fat, and protein metabolism which are associated with absolute or relative deficiencies in insulin secretion. This report formulated by a WHO study group of international experts aims to identify preventive measures for the main types of diabetes and its complications at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels.

Divided into eight sections, the first discusses the impact of diabetes on individuals and society and the ways to prevention. The second section reviews the definition, classification, and diagnostic criteria for diabetes as formulated in 1985 by the WHO study group on diabetes mellitus. The next two sections focus mainly on the primary prevention of insulin-dependent and non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus. The secondary prevention activities, i.e., the screening programmes for identifying the beneficial effects, the costs, and the limitations, have been discussed in the fifth section. The sixth section explains in detail the tertiary prevention, which includes the predisposing factors, the warning signs, the methods of diagnosis, the interpretation of the findings, and the preventive interventions for the acute complications like hypoglycaemia, infections, etc., and the chronic complications like atherosclerosis, diabetic eye disease, kidney disease, neuropathy, etc. The last section of the report focuses on the purpose, design, and function of operation of the national programmes for diabetic prevention and control, and on identifying the areas of basic, epidemiological, interventional, and health services research. Finally, the report concludes with the study group's recommendations about the screening methods and tests and the planning of national programmes on diabetes mellitus.