

Shorter Notices*

Kamal Nayan Kabra. *Development Planning in India: Exploring an Alternative Approach.* New Delhi: Sage Publications, 1997. 251 Pages. Hardbound, Indian Rs 295.00.

As a newly independent state India started the process of planning in the early fifties, with hope and enthusiasm. This study reflects on some of the critical aspects of development planning in India. The issues discussed have both theoretical and operational relevance, and form a part of the current development policy debate.

The study evaluates the planning process and points out the usual hurdles in the implementation of plans. It suggests practical measures for an effective plan implementation accompanied by institutional options for the enrichment of the development process.

The author has reviewed the vast literature on the subject and emphasises integration of the social science approach in the Indian context. In conclusion, it is stressed that the context and meaning of the planning process must be re-thought and the constraints must be overcome with a fresh force to make development planning more relevant to the current and emerging realities. This book is useful for those involved in development planning and development studies.

Eva Cheung Robinson. *Greening at the Grassroots: Alternative Forestry Strategies in India.* New Delhi: Sage Publications, 1997. 144 pages. Hardbound, Indian Rs. 250.00.

Development and implementation of social forestry programme in India has a history of about twenty years. Even after two decades of its inception, it is still unsuccessful in promoting the plantation activities. The purpose of this study is to find out the reasons for its failure and to provide alternative measures for tackling the major problems faced.

The book highlights that Indian afforestation efforts are directed at fulfilling the urban and commercial requirements, ignoring the rural needs for fuel, fodder, fibre, and food. In the author's opinion, this attitude is 'scientific forestry', the model promoted in the colonial and post-independence period, and it has replaced 'subsistence forestry', which is characterised by rural people's knowledge. This leads to the confrontation in organisational cultures and knowledge systems of the official forestry programmes

*By Afia Malik, Research Economist, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad.

(between the Western model and the indigenous notion of development), which resulted in the suppression of local knowledge.

The author presents three case studies relating to voluntary organisations functioning in Andhra Pradesh. In the environment of confrontation, these groups worked along with the rural people to find an alternative. The organisational cultures of these groups created more participatory, interactive, and empowering relationships with villagers and provided a context in which forestry practices could emerge out of local knowledge.

E. T. Mathew. *Employment and Unemployment in Kerala: Some Neglected Aspects*. New Delhi: Sage Publications, 1997. 193 pages. Hardbound, Indian Rs 295.00.

The state of Kerala has achieved international fame for its development in several areas of the social sector. Its enormous success in the social sector is accompanied by a dismal record on the economic front. The incidence of unemployment is three to five times higher than the all-India average.

Based on the quinquennial surveys, conducted by the National Sample Survey (NSS) Organisation, this study probes into the employment/unemployment trends in Kerala. It examines the causes, nature, extent, and patterns of unemployment in the state. The major findings include the improvement in the worker-population ratio—the concept used for measuring the level of employment; a higher rate of urban unemployment as compared to the rural one; a relatively large proportion of subsidiary status workers in the population as compared to the rest of the country; an increase in casual employment in non-agriculture; and an increase in educated unemployment at an alarming rate, specially among the females. Socioeconomic factors are found to be playing an important role in the formation of these trends.

With its clear and broad focus, this in-depth study deals with every aspect of employment/unemployment in Kerala. It will serve as a model for the analysis of NSS data belonging to other Indian states as well.

Sangeetha Purushothaman. *The Empowerment of Women in India: Grassroots Women's Networks and the State*. New Delhi: Sage Publications, 1997. 384 pages. Hardbound, Indian Rs 425.00.

This study attempts to explain how and why women at the lowest rung of society in India mobilise. This is done with the help of a case study of a decentralised, informal, loosely structured network of non-governmental organisation and a women's collectives, Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) in the state of Maharashtra, India.

The study analyses the implications of the form and the nature of organisations for changing power relations and promoting women's autonomy. It also highlights the need for and effectiveness of feasible forms of organisation in mobilising resources for

poor women and for facilitating their participation in the development process. Further, it demonstrates that these decentralised networks of organisations, as compared to the social movement theory which emphasises centralised organisational forms, increase the visibility and participation of poor women, and also enable them to bargain for resources and change of state policy while protecting the autonomy of the organisation involved.

K. J. Joseph. *Industry under Economic Liberalisation: The Case of Indian Electronics*. New Delhi: Sage Publications, 1997. 245 pages. Hardbound, Indian Rs 325.00.

Since early 1990s the Indian economy has witnessed a change as a consequence of the liberalisation of the trade and industrial sector. This study endeavours to assess the impact of liberalisation on structural change and growth in the Indian electronics industry. Drawing lessons from the experience of Indian electronics, the book highlights possible effects of market-oriented liberalisation on the structure, growth, and competitiveness of India's industrial sector as a whole, and it also points out the directions that further policy changes can take.

First of all, input-output analysis is used to examine the possible implications of the changes in the product structure. In this analysis, the issues focused on are: the impact of investment decisions on output; the inter-sectoral linkages; and the problems affecting the Indian components sector. Two case studies are discussed, one on computer and the other on television. The case of computer industry reflects an important dimension of structural change, i.e., the change in the market structure and the consequent changes in the behaviour of the agents involved with the release of institutionally set entry barriers. This is studied in the framework of the structure-conduct performance (S-C-P) paradigm. The case of television industry illustrates the impact of regional market segmentation on the performance of firms.

Next, the author analyses the technological behaviour of firms in the Indian electronics industry. Other issues discussed are the implications of observed growth and structural change for other macro objectives including employment, international competitiveness, and regional balance; and development and export of software. In the last chapter, the author draws some general conclusions for the entire Indian industrial sector, as a result of the on-going economic liberalisation.

O. J. Kuik, M. V. Nadkarni, F. H. Oosterhuis, G. S. Sastry, and A. E. Akkerman. *Pollution Control in the South and North: A Comparative Assessment of Environment Policy Approach in India and the Netherlands*. New Delhi: Sage Publications, 1997. 253 pages. Hardbound, Indian Rs 350.00.

Environmental pollution is a common concern in all the countries of the world.

Most of them have some form of environment policy in regard to their specific needs and circumstances. It is a relatively new governmental activity, therefore the challenge is to find the mix of effective, efficient, equitable, administratively feasible, and acceptable policy instruments.

Both India and the Netherlands have a long history in environmental policy, however with different starting-points. India is in the process of modernisation while the Netherlands is in the post-industrial era. Assuming both countries will learn from each other's experience, this study provides an insight into the constraints and strengths of pollution control instruments in the two countries and recommends improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of their policy measures.

The book is divided into three parts: Part I describes this research area from an international perspectives, i.e., the main trends in environmental policy-making, with an emphasis on the potential and actual performance and acceptance of economic instruments. It also presents a theoretical framework for assessing the performance of different policy instruments in a specific policy environment. In part II the case studies for both India and the Netherlands are presented, describing the historical development of environmental policy instruments and the main problems they are supposed to tackle. These instruments are assessed in terms of effectiveness, administrative and financial costs, as well as practicality. Part III brings together the findings of the first two parts, identifying the similarities and differences in the performance of policy instruments in the two countries. It concludes with a number of suggestions emphasising the role of economic instruments more than other policy options for improving the efficiency of environmental policies.

Peter Custers. *Capital Accumulation & Women's Labour in Asian Economics.* New Delhi: Sage Publications, 1997. 401 pages. Hardbound, Indian Rs 260.00.

Women have played a crucial role in the process of capital accumulation in Asian countries. Highlighting the experience of three Asian countries, India, Bangladesh, and Japan, combined with the readings of the economic evolution in other parts of Asia, this study provides a theoretical interpretation of the rapidly changing economic conditions in Asia and their consequences for women.

The author brings into focus the key issues in the debate on woman labour force that has accompanied successive movements for women's liberation in European countries. The three major topics discussed are: the nature of production relations in the ready-made garments sector, focusing on the garments sectors of the Indian state of West Bengal and Bangladesh; agricultural modernisation and its socioeconomic and environmental effects on women; the labour management strategies applied by Japanese corporations to achieve maximum control of their work force. The author discusses the original interpretation of 'Japanisation' and uses both marxist and faminist concepts to explain why the state (Japan) has promoted the employment of middle-aged women as

part-time wage labourers.

In the concluding chapter, the author confirms the importance of key Marxist concepts and, at the same time, proposes an extension of the Marxist economic theory with concepts proposed by various feminist theoretician—developmental feminism, ecofeminism, the German feminist school, and the socialist feminism. This theoretical book is an interesting contribution in the field of women's studies mainly.

George H. Axinn and Nancy W. Axinn. *Collaboration in International Rural Development: A Practitioner's Handbook*. New Delhi: Sage Publications, 1997. 334 pages. Hardbound, Indian Rs 395.00.

The world community is moving into the 21st century with a new line of thinking. This has affected both the theory and the practice of rural and international development, particularly in the area of development cooperation. This handbook is designed for those engaged in international development cooperation, and is intended to provide practical and useful information and insights into the professional aspects of their work. An important feature is the lessons derived from the author's personal field experience, coupled with and supported by the knowledge and experience of others as reflected in the literature on this subject.

This volume is divided into four major parts: Part I focuses on the field of international rural development and identifies current issues and concerns on this subject. Gender issues are given special treatment. Part II addresses the strategic and policy alternatives, and the design of programmes and projects, with an emphasis on collaboration, accountability, participation, decentralisation, and devolution. Programme development, evaluation strategies, and learning and communication strategies for development are also discussed. Part III deals with implementation and administration, and reflects on organising, staffing, directing, and financing international development. Part IV concludes with a discussion on the challenging but optimistic view of the future of collaboration in international development.

This handbook is a combination of theory and practice and is mainly designed to be a guide for field practitioners in international development.

K. Srinivasan. *Basic Demographic Techniques and Applications*. New Delhi: Sage Publications, 1997. 224 pages. Hardbound, Indian Rs 295.00.

The book discusses the basic demographic techniques normally employed in population analysis which are useful in the planning and management of public health and family planning programmes. It is based on a series of 20 lectures and 10 laboratory exercises conducted by the author for graduate students in an Executive Programme in Health and Population for Developing Countries.

The topics covered include: the sources of demographic data and their

presentation; the techniques used in the measurement and analysis of fertility, mortality, and nuptiality; the techniques for population projections, specially the construction of life tables; the techniques of standardisation; the evaluation and adjustment of data; the techniques for effective management of health programmes; and the description of a computer software package for demographic training and application.

This comprehensive textbook would be generally useful to students of population studies.