

Book Notes*

Anthony Bottrall. *Managing Large Irrigation Schemes: A Problem of Political Economy.* London: Overseas Development Institute. 1985. 81 pp.

The book deals with the theoretical and practical aspects of irrigation management, a topic that is very important for those developing countries like Pakistan that have extensive irrigation systems. Water is vital for development, not only from the irrigation point of view but also from a sanitation point of view. However, to provide the necessary infrastructure requires large sums of money. That is one aspect of the problem. The other aspect is the distribution of water supplies: who gets water and in what quantities? In rural areas the problem is further exacerbated when landlords and other members of the feudal classes who use their influence in the distribution of water for their own benefit. Given this background to the problem, the book looks at various aspects of irrigation schemes such as irrigation management and support services, farmer motivation and co-operation, and evaluation of the organization and management of large irrigation schemes. The last chapter presents comprehensive guidelines for evaluating irrigation management schemes.

Arie Kuyvenhoven and L. B. M. Mennes. *Guidelines for Project Appraisal.* The Hague: Directorate-General for International Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 1985. x + 190 pp.

The book provides a concise guide to planners and implementers in developing countries about the techniques of financial, economic and social cost-benefit analysis. Basic tools of cash-flow accounting such as Net Present Value, the Internal Rate of Return and the cost-benefit ratio are introduced at an elementary level. Worked examples are provided to illustrate their use in project planning. In economic analysis, financial prices for inputs and outputs are adjusted to reflect their actual economic values. Again, worked examples are provided to make the planner aware of the adjustment process. Social analysis is a step further than economic analysis and examines the equity question in project analysis. The issue of distribution weights, critical consumption level, and related topics are discussed under social cost-benefit analysis. As an adjunct to the theoretical aspects of cost-benefit analysis, the book provides various detailed case studies which illustrate the application of the techniques in practical situations.

Bina Agarwal. *Cold Hearths and Barren Slopes: The Woodfuel Crisis in the Third World.* New Delhi: Institute of Economic Growth. 1986. xvi + 209 pp.

The supply of cheap and plentiful energy is a problem in many Third World developing countries. It is even more acute for the poor in those developing countries which do not have access to natural gas and electric power but have to rely on more traditional sources of energy like woodfuel, charcoal and cattle manure. This source of energy is also facing a crisis in that a shortage of this fuel for energy purposes is growing. The book addresses this problem and its possible solutions, which include reforestation, improved quality of wood-burning stoves, and improved wood-conversion hardware. However, these solutions may be difficult to implement as

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they are innovative and their absorption into rural life may meet with social and cultural obstacles.

Case-study literature, which discusses the actual experience of the diffusion of the three possible solutions mentioned, above brings out the problems inherent in these schemes. It is essential that for such schemes to be successful, the social and economic base in the rural areas be restructured and made more equitable so that people can participate fully in implementing such schemes. The book is useful in that it highlights the energy crisis confronting the poorer sections of society.

Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP). *Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements and Techniques in Rural Development.* Dhaka. 1985. ii + 113 pp.

This publication is based on the output of two sub-regional workshops on Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements and Techniques in Rural Development which took place in 1983. The two workshops had been organized by CIRDAP in Pakistan and the Philippines.

The publication is divided into three parts. The first part deals with the recommendations and suggestions that resulted from discussions in the workshops. The second part deals with a paper that comprehensively looks at the monitoring and evaluation arrangements present in the various countries participating in the workshop. The third section of the book consists of the working paper which was prepared as a background paper for the workshop. The paper was meant to highlight the issues that required consideration in the workshops. The book would be useful to policy makers and project implementers.

D. P. Chaudhri and Ajit K. Dasgupta. *Agriculture and the Development Process: A Study of Punjab.* London: Croom Helm. 1985. 216 pp.

The book is a comprehensive study of agricultural development in the Indian state of the Punjab. Various factors such as technology, improved quality of seeds, use of chemical fertilizers, etc., which contributed to high agricultural growth rates have been examined in the book. The state's contributions to agricultural development and to providing the necessary infrastructure have also been examined. Other important issues that have been looked into include fragmentation and integration of the market, the effect of growth on rural inequality and poverty, and the impact of growth on the economic structure of the province. International comparisons in the growth of agriculture are made with Japan.

In conclusion, the book brings out the 'perils' of modernization which are reflected in the breakdown of the traditional order. However, this challenge can be met by introducing appropriate policies which would enhance and continue the process of development by diversifying and strengthening the economic base on which growth in agriculture depends.

Irma Adelman and J. Edward Taylor (eds.). *The Design of Alternative Development Strategies.* Rohtak, India: Jan Tinbergen Institute of Development Planning. 1986. xiv + 330 pp.

The book contains papers read at a joint United States-China conference on Alternative Strategies for Economic Development held at Wingspread in Racine, Wisconsin, in November 1980. The book is based on the lessons learnt by Western economists working in the field of development planning and policy, with particular emphasis on the latter. The book essentially reflects the Western economists' viewpoint of development.

The subject matter of the book encompasses economic theory (with papers by Heal and Arrow), comparative economic systems (with a paper by Montias), cross-country analyses (with a paper by Adelman), and other subjects such as multisectoral planning models, project analysis, traditional economic analysis and trade policy covered by Lewis, Robinson, Dorfman, Ranis and Balassa. The book is non-technical in nature which would make it attractive to a larger non-specialist audience, and can serve as a useful textbook for students of development economics.

John W. Mellor and Gunvant M. Desai (eds.). *Agricultural Change and Rural Poverty: Variations on a Theme by Dharm Narain.* Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press. 1985. xix + 233 pp.

The book is a collection of articles on a very important theme in agricultural development: the impact of the Green Revolution on the rural poor. Recently, a debate is under way about the positive and negative effects of the Green Revolution on the rural poor. This book looks at the complexities raised by this debate and suggests policy recommendations. A greater portion of the book revolves around the ideas of the noted Indian economist, Dharm Narain. His research work dealt with the interrelationships between poverty, food prices and the performance of agriculture. Most of the data used in the analysis of poverty are for India, although comparisons are made with Japan, South-East Asia, and Africa.

The conclusions drawn from the various articles favour accelerated growth in agricultural production but with safeguards for the rural poor for protecting their standard of living as well as providing them with additional employment opportunities.

K. Mahadevan (ed.). *Fertility and Mortality: Theory, Methodology and Empirical Issues.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1986. 351 pp.

The book deals with the theory, methodology, and issues of fertility and mortality. The topics covered relate to sex roles, social change, cost of children, socio-cultural determinants, methodological aspects and determinants of mortality.

The book is divided into five sections. The first deals with theories of fertility and the second with culture and fertility. Case studies from different cultures are presented, which show the various factors that determine fertility in those varying cultures. From such examination of case studies, population policies can be designed and implemented. Of particular note are the three chapters on demographic transition in Kerala (India) and Indonesia which make up the third part of book dealing with social change and fertility. The fourth section of the book deals with analytical models and factors that affect morbidity, mortality and related issues. From this section researchers can identify topics for future examination. The book has an extensive bibliography, extremely useful for demographers and population specialists.

Michael Posner (ed.). *Problems of International Money, 1972-85.* Washington D.C.: International Monetary Fund. 1986. 191 pp.

This book consists of papers presented at a seminar organized by the International Monetary Fund and the Overseas Development Institute of London in March 1985.

Seven papers were presented at the seminar which dealt with various international monetary issues such as exchange rate management, balance of payments adjustment, the role of reserves in the international monetary system, the debt problem, and the role of the IMF. Preceding these papers is a description of the international monetary system since 1972 with particular reference to structural change and financial innovation.

Ozay Mehmet. *Development in Malaysia.* London: Croom Helm. 1986. 183 pp.

The book examines the process of development in Malaysia. Despite rapid economic growth since 1970 the problem of poverty is still a serious one. The major thrust of the book is on an examination of the New Economic Policy which had two main objectives, namely the alleviation and removal of poverty and a restructuring of the socio-economic order.

To achieve these objectives, a strategy of development by trusteeship was followed, an approach unique in the Third World. This required that resource allocation and investment priorities be determined by rules and procedures as outlined by the trustees. The trusteeship system also required that control over resources be separated from ownership and that the controlling power be vested in the trustees.

The major conclusion of the book is that the trusteeship system failed to effectively combat the problem of poverty and those who were in charge of the system, i.e. the trustees, benefited at the expense of the poor that they were expected to help.

Petr Hazell, Carlos Pomareda and Alberto Valdes (eds.). *Crop Insurance for Agricultural Development: Issues and Experience.* Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press. 1986. xviii + 322 pp.

The book is based on selected papers presented at a conference on crop insurance and agricultural credit organized jointly by the Inter American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture and the International Food Policy Research Institute, in San Jose, Costa Rica, in February 1982. The selected papers fall into three major groups. The first deals with the demand for insurance; the second with public policy and insurance, and the third with crop insurance in practice. Case studies from various countries, such as Mexico, Brazil, the United States and Japan, are examined to discuss the relative strengths and weaknesses of their crop insurance programmes.

In conclusion, the editors suggest that current crop insurance programmes need to be reformed to make them meet the requirements of the farming community and of those employed in the agriculture sector more effectively. The book has an extensive bibliography which would be of great use to the serious researcher.

Rizwanul Islam (ed.). *Strategies for Alleviating Poverty in Rural Asia.* Dhaka: Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies. Bangkok: International Labour Organization (ARTEP). 1985. xii + 314 pp.

The book consists of selected papers which were presented at a conference on "Monitoring Poverty and Anti-Poverty Policies in Rural Asia", held at Dhaka, Bangladesh, in the month of April 1984. The conference was organized jointly by the Asian Employment Programme (ARTEP) and the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies.

Part I of the book examines the various approaches and policy measures used in battling poverty in rural Asia. Part Two analyses the causes of rural poverty dealing with underdevelopment in an historical context. Domestic class structure and the interrelationships between the classes are also discussed here. Part Three of the book presents case studies on poverty from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The book would be useful to researchers whose main concern is with determining the causes of and the measures for alleviating poverty.

Sanjay Kathuria and Nisha Taneja. *India's Exports: The Challenge from China.* New Delhi: Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations. 1986. 106 pp.

The book focuses on the Chinese challenge to Indian exports which arose out of the recent reforms that have taken place in China during the last few years. The export performance of India is analysed in the background of these reforms. After a brief comparison of the performance of the two economies, it is concluded that the Chinese performance was by far the better one and this was due mainly to the more pragmatic policies followed by China as compared to those followed by India. For example, China's exports had been aided by an appropriate import policy that supplied inputs like raw cotton and fibres to its textile industry. The Indian import policy, on the other hand, impeded export performance. The products that were examined included Hand Tools, Industrial Fasteners, Cotton Fabrics, Cotton Garments, Hand Knotted Carpets, Handicrafts and other products such as bicycles, leather footwear, tea and a whole range of engineering products.

The study draws the obvious conclusion that unless Indian economic policies are suitably reformed, Chinese exports will replace Indian exports in their traditional markets as the range of goods exported by China is similar to that of the goods exported by India.

Victor S. D'Souza. *Economic Development, Social Structure and Population Growth.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1985. 138 pp.

The book probes the relationship between economic development and population growth. This is necessary because appropriate policies have to be formulated for resolving the many problems that are arising because of an uncontrolled increase in population. This is particularly so in some of the Third World developing countries.

The book is based on an empirical analysis of the relationship between economic development and population growth of three villages in India. Thus, the nature of the relationship that is examined is at the micro-level, taking into consideration the disciplines not only of economics and demography but also of sociology. An interesting finding of the study is that the economic decision-making model which is used to show the relationship between economic development and family size does not explain many issues that relate to this relationship.