

Book Notes

A World Bank Country Study. Bangladesh. Strategies for Enhancing the Role of Women in Economic Development. Washington, D. C.: IBRD/World Bank Publications. 1990. iii + 150 pp.

This report is a study of women in development. In particular, it reviews the situation of women in Bangladesh, analyses their participation in the labour force and outlines government strategies to incorporate women's needs and contributions into national policies and programmes.

The material is presented in nine sections. The first defines women's dilemma and the government position on development and the role of women; and it formulates strategies.

The next three sections discuss the situation of women, women's participation in the labour force, and government strategies to include women in national policy and planning.

The remaining five sections analyze the need for programmes to enhance women's access to education, training, water supply, sanitation, productive resources in industry, and agriculture, etc.

The main purpose of the report is to focus attention on the urgent need to improve the extremely difficult living conditions of women in Bangladesh.

T. K. Oommen. State and Society in India: Studies in Nation-building. New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1990. 225 pp.

This book is a conceptual analysis of the inter-relationship between state and society in the context of nation-building. In twelve chapters, the author explores the misplaced polarities of nation versus state, political nationalism versus cultural nationalism, Indianism versus localism. All these dimensions, according to the author, are mutually reinforcing and enriching to India, but he argues against the attempt to shape nations on the basis of religion mainly because it is a threat to the Indian plurality and should be discouraged. Instead, he argues that nation-building should be based on nurturing pluralism in values, technology, and culture.

This book will be invaluable to students of sociology, political science, and social anthropology, as well as to policy-makers and administrators.

A. K. Ghose. Economic Growth and Employment Structure. Geneva: ILO 1990. v + 98 pp.

Economic development has always been associated with a steady decline in the relative weight of agricultural employment. In this book the author examines the issues and trends relating to agricultural employment in 86 developing countries for the period 1969-1985. However, due to conceptual difficulties in using the results obtained from a cross-country analysis, complete reliability of statistical data is not possible. As such, the objective of the study has been to examine the extent to which empirical evidence is consistent in qualitative terms.

Martin Doornbus. K. N. Nair. (eds). *Resources, Institutions and Strategies – Operation Flood and Indian Dairying*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1990. 398 pp.

The seventeen studies presented in this volume were prepared in the context of a research project on the origins and impact of Operation Flood (O. F.), India's major dairy development project, which has attracted the interest of many due to various factors. Some of these factors are the programme's claim to be anti-poverty in orientation, incorporating a project planning approach and a livestock development programme, as well as the possible long-term dependence of India's dairy industry on imported inputs.

All these studies deal with that aspect of Operation Flood which relates to its growth and its impact on the 'Anand Pattern' of dairy cooperatives. The book then discusses issues relating to the resource base, environmental implications, and the question of equity.

These studies would be of general interest to researchers and teachers in development studies, cooperatives, and rural industrialization.

A World Bank Country Study. *Bangladesh Vocational and Technical Education Review*. Washington, D. C.: IBRD/World Bank 1990. xi + 105 pp.

This report analyzes (a) the most outstanding obstacles to internal and external efficiency of vocational and technical education at the secondary level; (b) it identifies possible reforms which may upgrade and improve the performance of formal vocational and technical education (VTE); (c) it examines alternative non-formal approaches to formal vocational and technical education, with special reference to training services that would contribute to the alleviation of poverty and increasing the participation of women in training and employment.

This report is intended to provide the data and recommendations needed for effective reforms and investments in secondary vocational and training education.