

Book Notes*

Azizur Rahman Khan and Rehman Sobhan (eds). *Trade Planning and Rural Development*. London: Macmillan Press Ltd. 1990. 236 pp.

The volume contains essays by a number of outstanding economists to honour Nurul Islam, a distinguished Asian Economist who has made a major contribution to the economics profession in South Asia. The focus is on three themes - international trade and aid, planning, and rural development.

CENDIT (Centre for Development of Instructional Technology). *Indian Social and Economic Development 1990 – An Index to the Literature*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1990. viii + 210 pp.

The main purpose of this volume is to provide a comprehensive abstracting and indexing service to those involved in the development process. This is the third volume in the series, containing 500 entries divided into six areas – ecology, human resources, women/children, income, generation, empowerment, and debates.

Each item provides full bibliographic details as well as a description of the contents. The compilers have laid an emphasis on the literature dealing with field surveys, case studies, decision-making strategies, and the tools for development.

D. E. Cooper Weil, A. P. Alicbusan, J. F. Wilson, M. R. Reich and D. J. Bradley. *The Impact of Development Policies on Health – A Review of the Literature*. Geneva: World Health Organization. 1990. ix + 165 pp.

This publication reviews selective literature on the links between health conditions and development policies as related to economic growth in five sectors – macro-economics, agriculture, industry, energy, and housing.

It identifies the immediate and underlying causes of ill-health in each sector and pinpoints the major gaps in existing studies. There is a consideration of how changes in policy and implementation can mitigate the negative effects and enhance health conditions. A basis is provided for future studies to examine the linkages across sectors and to identify important areas for policy intervention.

Kenneth N. Ross and Lars Mahlck (eds). *Planning the Quality of Education – The Collection and Use of Data for Information Decision Making*. UNESCO: Pergamon Press. 1990. 180 pp.

The book is made of the papers and discussions presented at an international workshop held in November 1989 on "Issues and Practices in Planning the Quality of Education" organized by the International Institute for Educational Planning.

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The papers were designed to present international viewpoints on educational planning with reference to primary and secondary education, and they were divided into three parts.

The first part considers the different information requirements for different levels of decision-making in education, and reviews the educational information collection practices.

The second part explores the linkages between the informational processes and the quality of education.

The third part illustrates the dialogue between the producers and the consumers of information, and the technical issues associated with the collection preparation and analysis of information.

The conclusion summarizes the fundamental needs for training and research.

Hartmut Elsenhange. *Development and Underdevelopment – The History, Economics, and Politics of North-South Relations.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1991. 176 pp.

The book provides an in-depth discussion of the dynamics of North-South relations, relative balance of power, and interdependence. The focus is on two major theoretical perspectives. The state's development is seen as the result of the accumulation of capital financed by:

- (a) state mobilization of local savings and control of external economic relations; and
- (b) the pull of exports and the inflow of export earnings.

The book will be useful to students and to general readers interested in the economics and history of North-South relations, development economics, and international relations.

Nirmala Banerjee (ed). *Women in a Changing Industrial Scenario.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1991. 319 pp.

The four studies included in this volume are based on first-hand research. They constitute an attempt to study the region-based differences in the patterns of women employment in terms of the physical distance, of the socio-economic traditions of women's status, and the nature of work being undertaken.

The essays highlight the features specific to the Indian situation in terms of the sexual division of labour as relevant to the theoretical and policy formulations. It is a valuable book for scholars, policy-makers, and those interested in women studies and labour economics.

Noman Uphoff, Priti Ramamurthy, Roy Steines. *Managing Irrigation: Analyzing and Improving the Performance of Bureaucracy.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1991. 263 pp.

This book addresses the crucial but neglected topic of how the farmers' participation in irrigation management can improve the efficiency, equity, and overall performance of irrigation systems. The structure and orientation of irrigation bureaucracies in the developing countries are also discussed. The book suggests a framework to improve the performance of irrigation bureaucracies.

Sushil Srivastava. *The Disputed Mosque – A Historical Inquiry.* New Delhi: Vistaar Publications. 1991. 142 pp.

This is a study of the revival of the historical, religious, and communal conflicts in Ayodhya. The

primary effort of the book is to date the origin and chart the progress of the conflict regarding the issues surrounding the Babri Masjid – Ramjanambhoomi Controversy.

The book discusses the origin and spread of the dispute and Hindu revivalism in Ayodhya. The history of Ayodhya before Babur is given and an attempt is made to unfold the mystery of what really existed on the site of the masjid.

The book is for those interested in the stresses and constraints faced by society, and for those who may want to bring the issue out of the confines of fundamentalist jingoism into the realm of rational inquiry.

Tarlok Singh. *Social Science Research and Problem of Poverty.* New Delhi: Concept Publishing Company. 1990. xxviii + 468 pp.

Since the early seventies, the alleviation of poverty has been at the centre of political dialogue. A collection of 27 papers by social scientists to view the problems of poverty, it has been arranged in three parts – poverty as a multidisciplinary study, survey and measurement of poverty, and social research and policy issues.

The papers, prepared from background information, analysis of problems, and the experience of action programmes draw on the work of economists, sociologists, political scientists, psychologists, and statisticians.

Victor S. D'Souza. *Development Planning and Structural Inequalities – The Response of the Underprivileged.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1990. 208 pp.

The book considers the transformation of society through planning and examines the impact of economic development on the social structure in the framework of modernization. The emphasis is on the major indicators, such as literacy and urbanization.

The material will interest sociologists, economists, planners, and others involved in the development process.