

## *Book Notes\**

**Vandana Shiva.** *Ecology and the Politics of Survival.* New Delhi: Sage Publications, Tokyo: United Nations University. 1991. 365 pp.

In recent years, "green" movements have emerged in various developed and developing countries as concern about the environment has grown. One immediate manifestation of these "green" or "ecology" movements is the desire to preserve nature and ensure the people's collective rights to common resources.

However, these "green" movements have developed their *modus operandi* keeping in view the objective conditions as they operate in the developed countries. In other words, these movements have all the biases of a North-led intellectual effort. One of these biases is that poor people cannot be a source of ecological solutions and that, in fact, they only create environmental problems.

This book looks at ecology movements from a Third World perspective, the first of its kind. In addition, the book also examines the way these movements have brought into question the validity of the dominant concepts and indicators of economic development in the world today. The book will be of general interest to ecologists, economists, agricultural scientists, planners, and policy-makers.

**Alia Ahmad.** *Women and Fertility in Bangladesh.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1991. 184 pp.

This book deals with fertility rates in Bangladesh. High fertility and low mortality rates have contributed to the rapid growth of population in that country which, in turn, has resulted in increased poverty and related problems. One possible way of reducing fertility is to link it with the status of women. Thus, according to the author, if appropriate policies are adopted which directly affect the socio-economic status of women, this can then help reduce fertility.

The book is based on in-depth interviews with a cross-section of women exploring the link between high fertility and the status of women. The book concludes that the status of women is an important variable which does affect the level of fertility.

This book would be of specific interest to sociologists, economists, and demographers, and all those other researchers who are investigating the links between gender and development.

**Arif A. Waqif.** *Regional Cooperation in Industry and Energy: Prospects for South Asia.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1991. 264 pp.

One of the major objectives of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is to raise the rate of economic growth of its member-states. However, this has not been possible, largely due to political considerations. There is also a growing awareness at the same time among the member-states that meaningful regional cooperation can make a significant contribution to national economic growth and development. Thus, SAARC has begun to identify areas of bilateral and multilateral cooperation which can be of benefit to the member states. With this background in view, two questions arise (i) in which specific areas would regional economic cooperation be feasible and beneficial, (ii) and what are the constraints that need to be addressed to facilitate such cooperation?

\*Prepared by Mir Annice Mahmood, Senior Faculty Member at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad.

The papers, by different contributors in this book, deal with these two questions in the context of specific sub-sectors of industry and energy where regional economic cooperation is desirable and possible.

Thus, given the subject matter of the book, policy-makers, economists, and planners would find it of great interest, particularly in the South Asian context.

**N. Bhattacharya, D. Coondoo, P. Maiti and R. Mukherjee.** *Poverty, Inequality, and Prices in India.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1991. 236 pp.

This book presents a detailed analysis of the absolute and relative levels of living of India's rural population for the period 1952-1983. The authors look at disparities in consumption across households in rural India, the trends in such disparities, and the trends in the incidence of absolute poverty. This analysis is combined with an examination of the differential price trends faced by different sections of the population.

The conclusion reached by the authors is that the prices of items purchased by the poorer segments of society have risen more sharply than the prices of those commodities bought by the relatively richer and affluent sections of society. The authors also present evidence in their conclusions that the standard of living of the rural population has neither improved nor deteriorated significantly, but that the lowest 40 percent of the rural population has remained chronically poor. In general, the book is of great relevance to scholars interested in poverty-related issues.

**Ajeet N. Mathur.** *Industrial Restructuring and Union Power.* New Delhi: ILO-ARTEP. 1991. XII + 166 pp.

In recent years, a concern has been expressed about structural adjustment and its effects on employment, in particular the social costs associated with restructuring as well as the benefits to be achieved by enterprises and national economies. In this connection, the ARTEP has examined these problems both at the national and the enterprise levels. In the case of the latter, the studies have concentrated on the impact of industrial restructuring on employment, skills, and industrial relations as observed from the point of view of the trade unions.

The book is a continuation of the earlier research in this area. It examines systematically how the on-going liberalization of trade regimes in India affects trade union power, and to what degree the differences in oligopoly and product market competition affect the structure and behaviour of the unions. The analysis is carried out by using the case-study approach in 18 selected manufacturing enterprises in India for the period 1979-1989.

**Peter Oakley et al.** *Projects with People: The Practice of Participation in Rural Development.* Geneva: ILO. 1991. xv + 284 pp.

This book shows a wide range of experiences in which attempts are made to promote participation by the people within the framework of development projects. The book comprises case studies from Africa, Asia, and Latin America which highlight the successes and failures of the methodological approaches relating to participation by the people in a number of sectoral, institutional, and policy settings.

The book will be of use to development practitioners as it lays a basis for moving forward to promoting people's participation.

**Ralf Hussmans, Farhad Mehran and Vijay Verma.** *Surveys of Economically Active Population, Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment*

*ment: An ILO Manual on Concepts and Methods.* Geneva: ILO. 1990. xvi + 409 pp.

This book discusses the international standards of statistics of the economically active population, and of employment, unemployment, and underemployment, which were adopted by the Thirteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians in October 1982. The main objective of this manual is to explain the international concepts and definitions in greater detail than given in the 1982 conference resolution. The manual also provides technical guide-lines on the application of international standards for collecting data on the economically active population through household surveys. General methodological issues dealing with sampling, questionnaire design, data processing, data evaluation (of the economically active population), etc., are also elaborated in this book.

**Janet Henshall Momsen.** *Women and Development in the Third World.* London: Routledge. 1991. xi + 115 pp.

It is a universal truth that all societies discriminate against women. Instead of alleviating the problem and raising the status of women, modernization of traditional economies has actually increased women's dependent status as well as their workload. Thus, the second sex in the Third World has to face a double or even triple burden of productive and reproductive work, and everywhere they put in longer hours than men. In this book, ten worldwide case studies are presented, showing how women are coping with their lot in the Third World. The author's examination of policy and practice raises questions about development planning and the empowerment of women. The book also looks at the effect on women of environmental degradation and the social costs incurred when economic restructuring has to be undertaken.