

Book Notes*

N. C. Saxena. *India's Eucalyptus Craze: The God That Failed.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1994. 264 pp. Indian Rupees 275.00.

Eucalyptus planting on farm lands in India has generated a great deal of controversy. Environmentalists believe that it not only lowers the water table but also depletes soil nutrients thus having a negative effect on the surrounding crops. Foresters deny this. The author presents a third perspective to the issue—that of the farmers themselves.

Based on detailed household surveys and village-level studies, the book provides a profile of the socio-economic background of those who adopted eucalyptus; the regional pattern of planting this tree; and the reasons for its adoption by farmers in north-west India during 1980–86, and its rejection after 1986–87.

Susanne Thorbek. *Gender and Slum Culture in Urban Asia.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1994. 233 pp. Indian Rupees 225.00.

The process of urbanisation leads to an intensification of the gender struggle. New contradictions between the sexes are created at several levels affecting women the hardest. This book deals with poor women in a slum on the outskirts of Colombo (Sri Lanka), and in the largest slum area of Bangkok (Thailand).

The author examines the common and differing features of both slums, focusing on gender identity and the impact of slum life on women. The emphasis is more on the lives of these people, their relations with other people and with their way of thinking, than it is on money, for it were these aspects that were found to preoccupy them.

Harish Kapur. *India's Foreign Policy 1947–92: Shadows and Substance.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1994. 231 pp. Indian Rupees 245.00.

The book identifies four major goals of Indian foreign policy: the quest for security; diplomacy for development; regional primacy; and the search for an international role. The author defines each of these objectives, evaluates their comparative importance and traces their historical evolution since 1947. The changes that have occurred in the original conception of these goals and the domestic and international factors which have contributed to the change in emphasis and content are also highlighted.

The book also deals with the role played by different institutions concerned with formulating foreign policy, such as the bureaucracy, the cabinet and parliament, and the personality factor in determining foreign policy.

K. C. Alexander. *The Process of Development of Societies.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1994. 212 pp. Indian Rupees 225.00.

Development as a process of change involving all elements of society is the basic theme of this book. Divided into ten chapters this study outlines the features of developing societies; theories of economic development; demographic problems in development; the role of agricultural development in

*Prepared by Durr-e-Nayab, Staff Anthropologist, and Sabiha Ibrahim, Faculty Member, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad.

economic transformation; the process of urbanisation and market development; and the sociological and political aspects of development.

Romy Borooah, Kathleen Cloud, Subadra Seshadri, T. S. Saraswathi, Jean T. Peterson and Amita Verma (eds). *Capturing Complexity: An Interdisciplinary Look at Women, Households and Development.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1994. 324 pp. Indian Rupees 295.00.

This book is a collection of some of the research papers from two workshops held in collaboration between the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and The Maharajah Sayajra University of Baroda, India. The book examines the current theoretical and methodological approaches which look at gender as a development issue in a number of different disciplinary and topical areas, which include fertility choice, women's productivity in agriculture, trade-offs made between child-care and work outside the home, household structure and social context, and on how to generate national level data grounded in local and regional context.

The book stresses three points in conclusion namely: (i) that special research methods are needed for obtaining information on women; (ii) that household-level studies can capture the complexity of factors that affect individual behaviour and choice; (iii) that such information is critical to the formulation of more efficient programmes and policies.

Mathew Zacharian and R. Soory Amoorthy. *Science for Social Revolution? Achievements and Dilemmas of a Development Movement: The Kerala Sastra Sanitya Parishad.* New Delhi: Vistaar Publications. 1994. 187 pp. Indian Rupees 195.00.

This volume is based on first-hand observations, interviews, and study of documents which examine in detail The Kerala Sastra Sanitya Parishad (KSSP) movement involved in the promotion of scientific thinking and technology for the benefit of the people. It examines its origins, the methods it adopts to achieve its goals and its strengths and weaknesses.

Narendar Pani. *Redefining Conservatism: An Essay on the Bias of India's Economic Reform.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1994. 135 pp. Indian Rupees 195.00.

The search for pragmatic options using a combination of journalistic and academic methods to view economic reforms in India since it was set in motion in the mid-eighties is the main theme of this book.

The period covered is between 1985 and 1992, including the 1991 balance of payments crisis. This is a period of definite conservative bias both positive and negative to economic reforms. The author points out that this conservatism was the result of numerous factors including the broad political consensus on the need for economic reforms, the reluctance to dismantle mechanisms of state intervention particularly in the rural sector and compulsions posed by the forces of political instability.

World Bank. *Conserving Soil Moisture and Fertility in the Warm Seasonally Dry Tropics.* Washington, D. C.: World Bank. 1993. 88 pp. (Technical Paper No. 221.)

An imbalance between natural resources, population, and basic human needs exists in many

regions of the world but it is particularly acute in the developing countries of the Warm Seasonally Dry Tropics (WSDT).

This technical paper examines the general character of the WSDT eco-region and the constraints on expanded production in Chapter 2. The basic guidelines and techniques for land-use management and soil-moisture conservation are discussed in Chapter 3. Chapter 4 presents agricultural and engineering techniques for controlling water and wind erosion. Chapter 5 describes the methods for maintaining and improving soil fertility and finally in Chapter 6, alternative production systems for the sustainable management of soil and water resources are presented. This paper is intended to provide policy-makers, project managers, and agriculture operations staff and those interested in WSDT with an overview of the region's soil, water and climatic resources and to provide state-of-the-art technological options for increased production and sustainable soil and water resources management.

Gail Omvedt. *Dalits and the Democratic Revolution: Dr. Ambedkar and the Dalit Movement in Colonial India.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1994. 457 pp. Indian Rupees 325.00.

This study focuses on the Dalit movement from its origin in three linguistic regions of India—Maharashtra, Andhra and Karnataka—and on the interaction of these movements with the nationalist movement and the 'class' struggles of the workers and peasants, as well as with the major ideologies of Gandhism and Marxism.

Based on original research material from three linguistic areas this work takes into account the realities of caste, class and gender and also includes a critical analysis of Ambedkar's thought, which is the dominating ideology of the Dalit movement.

Saraj Pachauri (eds). *Reaching India's Poor: Non-governmental Approaches to Community Health.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1994. 457 pp. Indian Rupees 325.00.

This book analyses, documents and disseminates the experiences of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) which implement health and family planning programmes in India.

The book is divided into two parts. The first part is presented in the form of twelve case studies which discuss the NGOs programmes of health and family planning in various parts of India which serve the tribal as well as the rural and urban populations. Part two examines the issue of community health.

Dalip S. Swamy. *The Political Economy of Industrialisation from Self Reliance to Globalisation.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1994. 292 pp. Indian Rupees 275.00.

Indian Industrialisation from Independence to 1990 is the focus of this book. The author discusses the changing roles of the planning process, the performance of the public sector and the contribution of foreign capital in the three periods of industrialisation in India which are: industrial growth with regulation (1950–65); industrial slow down (1965–74); and industrial revival without regulation (1974–90).

World Bank. *Income Gains for the Poor from Public Works Employment: Evidence from Two Indian Villages.* Washington, D.C.: World Bank Publications. 1994. 49 pp. Living Standards Measurement Study. (Working Paper No. 100.)

Public work projects have been a popular policy instrument for poverty alleviation in the developing countries. This paper provides estimates of how time allocation within sampled households

responded to new rural employment opportunities provided under the 'Employment Guarantee Scheme' of the state of Maharashtra in India, called the Conditional Time Allocation Model (CTAM). The aim of this scheme is to alleviate rural poverty through income gains to the participating workers.

Shashi Joshi and Bhagwan Josh. *Struggle for Hegemony in India 1920-47: Culture, Community and Power.* Volume III. New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1994. 403 pp. Indian Rupees 375.00.

This book which is the third volume on India's struggle for independence, consists of the history of state policies, the national movement and the role of the left in the freedom struggle. In this volume the role of the Communist Party of India during the freedom struggle (1920-47) and its interaction with the colonial state, political parties, trade unions and mobilisation of workers and peasants has been examined. An attempt has also been made to understand the nature of the social forces which contribute to the emergence of a segment of militant Hindu nationalism and an alternative mass movement of the Muslims demanding Pakistan.