

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Bridging the Social Gap Perspectives on Dalit Empowerment**, Edited by Sukhadeo Thorat / Nidhi Sadana Sabharwal, Published by SAGE Publication, New Delhi, 2014, pages 279, Price ₹ 995.

The Human Development and Social Inequality Report has brought a significant shift in the notion of human development, particularly of *dalits*. The focus is therefore, centered around the quality of people living in rural as well as in urban areas. This book narrates and conceptualises exclusion – linked deprivation of excluded and indigenous groups in Indian society. The basic objective of this book is to analyse the present status of *dalits* and *adivasis* and capture the inter-social group inequalities in the attainment of human development. This book appears to be one of the reference books on (a) conceptual framework on *dalits and adivasis* which can be seen from the indicators of Human Development and Human Poverty indices; (b) Human Development Index and Human Poverty Index at aggregate level and disaggregated by groups; and (c) the situation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes vis-a-vis other community groups, with reference to certain individual indicators.

The book contains fourteen chapters, which discuss divergent issues relating to *dalits and adivasis* and their poverty and human indices and provides a list of contributors, abbreviations, appendices, bibliography and index. The first chapter is an introductory one describing issues of inter-social group inequalities in human development and exclusion – linked human development in Indian Society. Prof. Amartya Sen draws attention to various definitions and dimensions of the Concept of Social exclusion (Sen, 2000). He described the situation as 'unfavourable exclusion' and 'unfavourable inclusion,' respectively.

Chapter two has dealt with the strategies and policies for empowering the *dalits and adivasis*. The author rightly suggested measures towards empowering mechanism, administrative mechanism and monitoring through implementation of Sub-component plan and Tribal Sub-plan. Chapters three and four reveal discrimination of SCs/STs in the contemporary society and their human development and poverty, respectively. In both these chapters their socio-economic and political aspects were analysed. Appropriate data were used for acute poverty and discrimination against the social groups. Poor performance in implementation of development schemes for the benefit of these communities is noticed in all the States in the country.

Chapter five examines the various levels and patterns of income by using consumption expenditure as a poverty indicator for SCs and STs. The NSS data expressed the fact that consumption and expenditure are very low among SCs/STs as per their 38<sup>th</sup>, 49<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> Rounds of NSSO for the years 1983, 1993 and 1999-2000, respectively. The author clearly mentioned in the chapter that consumption pattern levels among SCs/STs and non-SCs/STs was significantly low and high, respectively. Chapter six provides the disparity levels in poverty to the extent of disparities indicated in the incidence of poverty among the social groups which brings out the inter-state and regional variations in levels of disparity.

Chapter seven presents the literacy and education levels among the social groups like SCs/STs with special reference to social, gender and inter-state inequalities among non-SCs/STs population. Chapters eight and nine thoroughly examine housing amenities and health, nutritional status among the social groups, respectively. The housing facilities in India increased by about two and half a times as compared to those in 1961 to 2001. The author

has defined that the term 'Census House' pertains to houses used for residential, partly residential and non-residential purposes. The index of housing shortage expressed as number of residential and partly residential census house per 1,000 households increased from 933 in 1961 to 974 in 2001 for both rural and urban.

Chapter ten analyses the changes in the livelihood patterns among social groups in India, and specifically examines three major aspects of occupational diversification such as, shift from agriculture to non-agriculture occupations in rural areas, pattern of diversification within agriculture sector and changes in occupation pattern in urban areas.

Chapter eleven explores the changes in access to land and capital assets of *dalits*. The NSSO surveys have shown the disparities in land assets, non-farm asset holdings having disparities in aggregate capital assets. The authors highlighted that distribution of land is fairer in case of STs than SCs. Chapter twelve discusses the gender-wise estimates of employment and unemployment and disparities among SCs/STs in rural and urban areas. The data focused by the author show that rural male employment rate was lowest for SCs (46.2 per cent) followed by non-SCs/STs and STs, female employment rate was the lowest.

Chapter thirteen outlines the main provisions of reservation policy and examines its impact on the employment and education of SCs and STs. Article 16(A) of the Constitution of India permits reservation in favour of marginalised groups like SCs, STs and OBCs. The author highlighted its impact on employment, education and legislation. Chapter fourteen provides the road for *dalits* in the new millennium. This book could justify the factors which contributed to disparities among SCs and STs and human development to support the inter-social groups during the period between 1980–2000. The authors who themselves are editors of this book, observed a positive

improvement in HDI and HPI. In this book, the gaps or disparities between SCs and STs on one hand, and non – SCs/STs, on other in terms of HDI, HPI are ably analysed. However, the editors seriously tried to address the issues of social exclusion in human development which would have been useful to plan and implement suitable policies to tackle the challenges that confront the marginalised social groups.

Obviously, this book presents brilliant ideas for all stakeholders and researchers in universities and academic institutions. This will also help higher bureaucrats connected with the development of SCs, STs and OBCs in appropriate policy formulation for the targeted rural disadvantaged.

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**Displacement, Revolution, and the New Urban Condition Theories and Case Studies**, by Ipsita Chatterjee, Published by Sage Publications India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, ₹ 645.

Development-induced displacement is not a new phenomenon in India or the Third World. Independence from colonial rule ushered an era of government-sponsored development projects that used and recycled spaces, soils, geological formations, and the bowels of the earth to create dams, power projects, mines and factories. These new spaces hoped to erase the decades of stagnation under colonial extraction and catapult the country into an era of indigenous modernity that would tackle the problems of hunger and poverty. Displacement of the poor and indigenous people was seen as a necessary social cost for erasing uneven development and materialising long-term progress.

This book explored all-pervasive and perhaps ever-present urban issue of displacement. According to the author, displacement is a contradiction, because it uproots people. She made enormous effort to