

development, better education, better communication, better income, better exposure, less out-migration than unirrigated areas. It is also proved that better irrigation facilities tend to dominate certain segments of the farming community in the village political issues and discriminate lower castes on purity and pollution aspects.

The book is very useful to the scholars particularly young scholars as to how to carry out research study, prepare review of literature and present data and findings. The author has shown skills of social science discipline and showed excellent academic pursuit.

Dr. K. Suman Chandra

Issues and Perspectives in Anthropology Today, Edited by R.Siva Prasad and Eswarappa Kasi, Serials Publications, 2013, Price : ₹ 995 pp.264.

Anthropology is multi-dimensional in its approach and embraces the multiplex human events centralised on the bio-genetic as well as socio-cultural perspectives. 'Anthropology Today' is a conglomeration of different notions and ideas, which are inherent in the changing nature of the disciplines across the places.

The theme of the special issue of 'Man in India' (January-June 2009) was 'Issues and Perspectives in Anthropology Today'. The special issue covers broad themes from theory to empirical understandings of the discipline. This book is an extension of the special issue of 'Man in India' on 'Anthropological Perspectives'. Those papers which could not be included in the special issue are brought together and they became part of the current book.

In this book, diversified socio-economic, religio-cultural, ethno-political, eco-environmental as well as bio-psychical pattern and perspectives that have influenced the human society as a whole and which have molded the thought-patterns and action

orientation of the people in the different cultural levels have been explored. Altogether nineteen papers have been included in the book. Different papers emphasise on various trends of human behaviour in the different geo-environmental, socio-political and ritualistic settings. Some of the papers focus on the nutritional problems, health culture, human group identity formation, ageing and globalisation.

The paper on migration brings out how migrants make place in host communities by inscribing these places with parts of their culture. Data are drawn from fieldwork carried out among migrants from Karnataka. The paper on health sector reform policy discusses about the cultural issue of health care seeking behaviour in Bangladesh. It discusses how social structures particularly people's beliefs, perceptions and attitudes on illness influence the primary health care seeking behaviour.

In another paper, the concept of nutrition transition has been used to explain the shift away from a diet high in fibre and common carbohydrates towards more energy-dense diets that are high in sugars, refilled foods, and saturated animal fats as well as a move towards a more sedentary lifestyle. The paper on ageing brings out how the societal- familial and economic problems of older people vary from culture to culture, society to society. It discusses how as a result of different expectations, values, cultures and socio-economic background, the older members of a tribal group experience the life cycle in a different way than the mainstream culture.

In yet another paper, the impact of drought on the economy, ecology and culture in a tribal social setting is discussed by establishing the interrelationship among them and finds that drought not only affects the economic conditions of the people and causes degradation of natural resources but also vividly influences their socio-cultural practices. In another paper the

importance of the Sun Goddess festival of Bhojpur region called *Chhatha Puja* in which rituals record the motive of fertility and prosperity of the family is discussed.

The paper on the tradition of worshipping feminine divinities which is as old as ancient culture is analysed in relation to the Kamakhya temple located in Guwahati. In India, the system of goddess (devi) worship and pilgrimage to their seats' (shaktipithas) are one among many ancient living traditions. Another paper portrays the muslim women's status in Delhi. The paper tries to investigate Muslim women's perception on the religio-cultural indicators (inheritance of property, Mehr system, dowry continuation) and non-cultural indicators (education and paid work participation) associated with their status enhancement.

One of the articles discusses about the hazardous condition of nutritional status of the Santal Tribe of West Bengal and brings out the malnutrition situation in West Bengal. It emphasises how malnutrition and under-nutrition constitute a serious hazard to the growth and development of people, particularly children. One of the papers is a case study of an intra-caste conflict among Khatiks in Bhopal, India. It spells out the features of a local leadership competition that is tied to a struggle over the re-interpretation.

One of the papers gives an account of democratic decentralisation and participatory planning in Kerala. In another paper an anthropological analysis of the relationship between water as a natural resource and human societies is attempted.

Eswarappa Kasi's paper focuses on the sociological understanding of the development of sericulture in India and how sericulture with its vast potential for employment generation in rural areas plays a vital role in alleviating rural poverty and unemployment. The paper explores studies made earlier in the areas of sericulture in India general and Andhra Pradesh in particular.

Pushpesh Kumar's paper attempts to explore the reasons behind the collapse of income-generating schemes initiated by Tribal Development Department of the Government of Maharashtra to improve the socio-economic condition of Kolams who are considered as the most 'primitive' and impoverished tribal community.

These papers on various sub-themes of Anthropology will be of interest to development practitioners, students of anthropology, policy makers, and other professionals concerned with Tribal Development.

Dr.N.V.Madhuri

Indigenous Institutions, Social Capital and Sustainability in Tribal India, by Tabang Mibang, Serials Publications, 2013, Price : ₹ 995 pp.274.

Social capital is considered as an essential element in the realm of social coherence, stability and solidarity. In the recent years, the concept of social capital has gained intensive attention from both academics and policy makers. The core of social capital concept represents the presence of dense networks of formal and informal associations and the accompanying norms of generalised trust and reciprocity. Just as human and physical capital, social capital has been brought forward as an important resource available to societies. It is also considered to have an important influence on the performance of societies at the economic, social and political level which allows people to overcome collective action problems more effectively at lower cost, resulting in better performance, participatory democracy, empowerment from below and effective government.

This book is a study which applies the concept of Social Capital in the context of Arunachal Pradesh which is enriched with intensive social networks, trust, mutual reciprocity and social commitment within the