

groups which are reflected in observance of various socio-cultural festivals and rituals. The study is an attempt to examine the trajectory of social capital in Arunachal Pradesh with specific reference to *Adi* society - one of the ethnic groups of Arunachal Pradesh. Apart from the participant observation of an insider, the study is based on the responses of 440 respondents, selected from ten administrative circles of East Siang district.

The author brings out that the social ties, the fellow feelings, the support system, the social trust and inter-connectedness is gradually slipping away and individual preoccupation is making inroad into social domain of Arunachal Pradesh. He also reveals that important social pre-requisite of a vital democracy like voluntary and intensive participation in various activities related to social development, strong positive values and ties that bind people to one another leading to more powerful norms of generalised reciprocity and cooperation are also eroding.

The study reveals a significant change in associational life, access to different resources, livelihood possibilities and local socio-political relationship over the last few years in the society of *Adis*. The changes are reflected in emergence of the new social capital (associations and organisations) in the form of youth association, student's association, farmer's group, self-help group or small saving and non-governmental organisation pertaining to emerging issues like health, gender, environment, education, etc. The changes in the changing perception, attitude and thinking process of the people are also revealed in the study with regard to some important customary practices and other social issues like marriage, ritual and ceremonies, social taboos and restriction etc.

An attempt has been made to understand the effect of casual factors behind the change in various levels of social capital and the state of social capital at present. At the same time, the study also attempts to suggest remedial

measures. In brief, the study is an attempt to understand the process of traditional social capital in transition, continuities and discontinuities due to emergence of new social capital.

The author concludes that traditional institution based on traditional norms of solidarity and reciprocity are more inclusive and effective in generating fellow feeling, belongingness and trust among the people in the village and they govern access to community controlled natural resources that provide sustenance, social security and social safety net for those who are in crisis. In short, the study reveals the forging of a new synthesis between the old and new without major or revolutionary emotional disturbance or turmoil in the institutional and inter-group behavioural pattern of the society.

Providing a comprehensive and analytical view of various issues of social capital, this book will attract the students, researchers, academicians, policy makers and social anthropologists interested in tribal issues.

Dr.N.V.Madhuri

Economics in Action, by V. Santhakumar, Sage Publication, 2013; Pages 351, Price : ₹ 545.

The quest for development has become the dominant aligning pursuit for most of the world. People may have starkly differing views on what kind of development is desirable. They usually disagree on how it may happen, and they could have divergent views on its implications, but what they will have in common is the pursuit of development. And willy-nilly this pursuit makes all of us use the concepts, frameworks and assumptions of Economics. This usage of Economics is often unconscious, picked up from here and there.

Understanding relationships alone is not sufficient for development practitioners. They should be able to infer, by reading such material, what they can do to better development

outcomes in the context in which they are working, informed by theory and empirical research. Thus, the focus of this book is on action. However, there are different levels of action. Changing or redesigning the economic policies of the country is also an action and it is expected that these will be carried out by those who have a more complete career/education in Economics. This book does not address them. Instead, it addresses the requirements of two other realms of action.

- One, many people including development practitioners (politicians, NGO volunteers, civil society activists and government officials) participate in public debates on policies. Some understanding of economic imperatives and implications is extremely useful to make such public debates insightful and meaningful. This book is a modest attempt to contribute such knowledge to the participants of public debates.
- The second domain where this book may be useful can be called 'micro action'. This is where specific development interventions are designed and implemented. For those involved in the design of a village water supply project, a waste cleaning mechanism

in a semi-urban area, in making the local government effective, in ensuring attendance of children in schools and so on, some insights of economics may be useful to them.

Some of us had a formal exposure to the field of Economics and may therefore, be more conscious of our unstated assumptions and more cautious in drawing summary conclusions. While sometimes a brief exposure to any field may give a false sense of confidence and lead to its foolhardy usage, on the whole, people are better off with some exposure, rather than none.

Santhakumar's book is an attempt to provide such an exposure to Economics to the average development practitioner. The book is divided into 6 sections and 22 chapters and is reasonably priced at ₹ 545. It succeeds substantially in this attempt because of three reasons. First, it gives a comprehensive, end-to-end view of the field (as much as is possible in a slim volume). Second, its language is English, not Mathematics, which often seems to become the default language of Economics. Third, it uses the context of our here-and-now, not some distant past or unknown future.

Dr. G.V. Krishna Lohi Das