

In Chapter-VI on 'Policy Environment and Regulation – Sign of Reign,' the author has stressed that there is a need for close interaction between banks and MFIs. Banks need to realise their social obligation and choose all channels available to fulfill their obligations, which include lending to MFIs for on-lending to marginalised sections of society. The enforcement of new regulations and the concerted efforts of MFIs in complying with the regulatory and client protection norms and bank continued patronage will go a long way for sustainable growth of the microfinance sector.

In Chapter-VII on 'National Rural Livelihood Mission,' the author has highlighted that NRLM seeks to promote inclusive growth by mobilising the rural poor and enabling them to save, build productive assets and enterprises, access financial livelihood, educational, health and nutrition services and entitlements, negotiate better terms for their products and services and provide rural youth with skills and opportunities to secure jobs in mainstream economy.

In Chapter-VIII on 'Investment Climate – Faltering, but Hope Remains,' the author is hopeful to state that with the positive responses from the sector in terms of an improved regulatory environment and responsible financing by the MFIs, the equity flow is expected to be encouraging for all and more particularly to smaller and medium sized MFIs, hence hope remains, despite flattering performances. Even MFIs have turned their attention with new found rigour to new forms of capital flows including securitisations, NCDs and qualified institutional placements.

In Chapter-IX on 'Global Trends in Microfinance,' the author agreed that the global scenario is not promising for the MFI industry, though some economies have booked better portfolio. The author has suggested that a number of initiatives like values of

responsibility, corporate ethics and social performance management are to be addressed to face the key challenges of this sector. Indeed, MFIs have to adopt new strategies to bring back their clients as well as to reduce their operating and administrative expenses.

The tenth and the final chapter on 'Future – Forward Looking,' reminded that as long as ultimate focus of microfinance initiatives are towards the poor and their livelihood improvement, microfinance will survive, sustain and grow. The only relevant expectation is that it should strive to meet the requirement of the vulnerable customers.

The report is a comprehensive reference for those who want to review the performance of the microfinance sector as well as interested to know the status of various policy decisions taken by the Government of India and other agencies in facilitating the growth and development of microcredit in backward regions of India. The author should be highly appreciated as the report handles difficult and contentious issues in a most comprehensive manner and highlights the microfinance sector in a most fascinating manner. Finally, a small remark that though some critical aspects like the 'Repayment Crisis in the Microfinance Sector' has been given scant attention in the report, that does not drag attention from the broad contents and database as vividly presented in the report.

– Dr. B.K. Swain

Dynamics of Rural Poverty in Bihar: Determinants and Strategies by Dr. Rashmi Prasad, Janaki Prakashan Publishers, Patna 2012, Price : ₹ 995.

The book on "Dynamics of Rural Poverty in Bihar : Determinants and Strategies" seeks to explore the link between growth and poverty, between agricultural growth and

poverty, between agrarian relations and poverty and assess the impact of various poverty alleviation programmes. This book has attempted to initiate in-depth analysis of poverty in its various manifestations of regional, social and institutional aspects to bring dynamism into the studies of rural poverty in Bihar. Finally, this book seeks to suggest appropriate policy package for removal of poverty. It is based on various poverty alleviation studies conducted by MoRD and individual researchers apart from the secondary data of NSS and CSO.

The book is organised into seven chapters. The first chapter deals with the National Perspective on Planning for Poverty Eradication vis-à-vis the poverty structure and facets of poverty alleviation in Bihar. It is a resume of the poverty debate and contribution to a novel understanding of the nature and magnitude of the chronic problem of poverty in Bihar. The analytical review of large number of studies, committee reports on poverty in India as well as Bihar is presented in the second chapter. Chronological analysis of all the studies conducted on poverty in India is arranged based on various alternative approaches to poverty eradication.

The third chapter is devoted to special features of the economy of Bihar so as to understand the interface between the rich natural resources and high incidence of poverty. Shortage of investment flows is a major stumbling block in Bihar. The major constraints for the industrialisation of Bihar are infrastructural inadequacy, lack of skilled manpower, size of local and export market, industrial policies of the centre and states and natural endowment. A structural shift in rural employment has been witnessed in most of the states except Bihar.

Magnitude and trends in rural poverty and sectoral growth pattern is discussed in chapter four. Assessment of poverty indicators

and the effectiveness of poverty eradication programmes in reducing income inequalities and poverty reduction is being analysed based on the data obtained from different sources including household surveys of NSS. Social, economic, political and bureaucratic factors are adversely affecting the efforts made in Bihar compared to other states during 1983 to 2004-05. One of the causes of poverty in Bihar is low per capita income. Poverty in the State is also the outcome of slow growth and it is among the slowest states in India. The performance of agriculture is quite dismal in spite of 84.20 per cent workforce depending on agriculture. The institutional structure increasing population, slow industrial growth, infrastructural bottlenecks, literacy, states finances, absence of good governance, caste, class and politics negated the development process and diluted the RD programme implementation.

Chapter five on Agrarian relations, Agriculture development and Rural poverty examined the extent of trickledown theory and agrarians relations in reducing poverty in Bihar based on the data collected by CSO. The rate of growth in agriculture has always been on higher side in Bihar and could not create any impact on poverty reduction. The relationship between agricultural growth and poverty appears to be highly iniquitous in Bihar. This means that there are other factors explaining low trickledown or weak link between agricultural growth and poverty decline in the State of Bihar. Low productivity in agriculture shows that the impact of green revolution was limited and hence low poverty reduction. In spite of Zamindari abolition, tenancy reforms, land ceiling act and consolidation of landholdings, poverty continues to be apposing in Bihar due to iniquitous agrarian relations. The role of politicians and bureaucracy could not disturb the existing landholding pattern and power equation in Bihar.

Chapter six is devoted to evaluate the poverty alleviation programmes and impact of the programmes is assessed based on several studies conducted by MoRD, Gol and DRD of Bihar apart from the secondary sources of data. It is observed by all the studies that the impact is very limited due to the lack of follow-up support to the beneficiaries of self-employment programmes. The focus of all these programme implementation appears to be target oriented and untimely. The impact of MGNREGS is also limited due to minimum number of days of employment and low participation of women. However, the average wage rate is maintained at ₹100 on par with many other states. The impact of all other Rural Development programmes including Public Distribution Schemes (PDS), nutrition programmes (ICDS, Mid-day meal schemes) and social security programmes have a little effect on poverty. It is observed that the PAP could not reduce the poverty in Bihar but widen the gap between poor and non-poor.

Chapter seven sums up the main findings, draws the conclusions and suggests a few policy implications for Bihar as how to reduce poverty in the State. Since majority of population is dependent on agriculture in Bihar, special emphasis should be given on small and marginal farmers, employment generation programmes for landless and unskilled labour and the emphasis on skill development for women and youth. The proper integration on technological and institutional reform, providing the market, credit, input supply to farmers will induce them to adopt better farm practices to enhance the productivity and provide gainful employment opportunities that could help reducing poverty. Extension of minimum support prices, agricultural insurance, small farm technologies, agricultural export and agricultural research and development will enhance the growth in agriculture and

development. Participatory irrigation management is worth emulating in Bihar. Substantial increase in public investment, power sector reforms, effective use of land and proper infrastructural facilities could facilitate the development in Bihar. The promotion of Self-help Groups, the farmers groups and strengthening of PRIs and NGOs would facilitate decentralised governance and reduce poverty in Bihar. The growth of Bihar economy has taken a turnaround during the recent past and the State is likely to be the next home for Indian agriculture. Winds of change have started flowing. Saplings of development have been planted in the State by upholding the rights of downtrodden, neglected castes and groups, the long standing caste dominance will crumble down to the dust in the years to come. The renewed governance reforms will bring a change in the political will.

Though the book is primarily based on review of various studies conducted on the economy and the poverty structure of Bihar, the author could analyse in the chronological order so as to make a resume of the social, agricultural, economic and political development of the State. The book could get access to lot of data on various aspects of Bihar. This will be useful for all those who are working in rural development and poverty.

– Dr. Y. Gangi Reddy

Anthropology and Tourism by Anupama Srivastava and Keya Pandey, Serials Publications. New Delhi, 2012, Price : ₹ 695.

The book 'Anthropology and Tourism' focuses on new subject i.e., presenting tourism in anthropological point of view. The book contains 'three' parts. The first part deals with Anthropology and culture. Second part deals with Anthropology and Tourism. Third part deals with impact of tourism on tribals living in forest