

and political empowerment and its role in the achievement of a wide range of individual and development goals-from better health to higher incomes and stronger economic potential. It also looks at certain crucial problems such as inadequate admission of girls, dropouts, stagnation, defective curriculum, irregular attendance, lack of study materials, poor nutrition of children and so on. One of the papers examines the issues of tribal education among Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups like Sahariya and Baiga.

This book is an attempt to comprehend factors and conditions responsible for the present level of literacy and education, quality of education and implications of education received by cross section of tribes from their human rights, development and empowerment perspective. About tribal education the book has positive note. The increasing literacy rate and positive change in the field of education especially at the primary and middle level is a testimony to such conclusion. It is also an attempt to suggest ways and means to ensure quality education for the tribals.

Providing a comprehensive and analytical review of various issues of tribal education, this book will attract the researchers, planners, policy makers, social workers and social anthropologists interested in tribal issues.

– *Dr. N.V.Madhuri*

Rural Development – Under Decentralised Governance, edited by M. R. Biju, Concept Publishing Company Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi, 2012, Price : ₹ 1200.

The book 'Rural Development – Under Decentralised Governance' is a compilation of 23 articles written by eminent development administrators and academicians. The focus of the book is multi – faceted growth of rural India. The author highlights the Development

Administration, Rural Development policies, programmes, rural institutions, the problems in implementation of RD programmes and provides suggestions for quality implementation of RD Programmes. Initially the Rural Development was identified with agriculture development. As time passed the spectrum of Rural Development was broadened and multi-dimensional approach was initiated to eliminate rural poverty.

According to Rakesh Hooja, an eminent civil servant in India, development administration is synonymous with rural development administration. Numerous rural development programmes are adopted to alleviate poverty, but the development administration in actual practice, remained with the district collectors and the collector continued to play a significant role in development administration.

S. M. Vijayanand, is an Additional Secretary, MoRD, Gol. He is an ardent supporter of decentralised governance and gave an impetus to People's Planning in Kerala. With the implementation of MGNREGA, the PRIs were given legal importance of planning and implementation of the scheme and there is no parallel authority to PRIs in implementation of this programme. He suggests new Anti – Poverty Sub - Plan with MGNREGS as the nucleus to remove rural poverty.

According to Palanithurai, there is a mismatch between the decisions, allocation of resources and the needs of stakeholders due to lack of scientific data. The data collection is an art and science and professionals should be trained to collect data from Gram Panchayat to District level. Every Gram Panchayat should be provided with computer to store the data. This facilitates better policy planning and better management of resources.

Biju points out that in an era of globalisation, the benefits of rural

development programmes are not reaching to the needy and the schemes are not local specific to adapt to the local conditions, thus the programme fails. He argues that due to loopholes in the schemes instead of poor people, rich people are benefited. He advises that governance should be flexible, adapted to the changing needs of the society to reach the poor.

Archana G. Gulati speaks about stupendous growth of communication technology particularly mobile revolution. The mobile has become the poor man's basic life line connecting him to employment opportunities and thereby enhancing livelihood opportunities. But still many poor and remote rural areas are not accessible in this modern age of communication. The government should play a vital role in connecting the people and remote rural areas by adopting 'Universal Service Policy' i.e., by providing subsidies to the especially disadvantaged sections and to unconnected urban populations and remote rural areas.

Shankar Prinjia et.al., talk about rural health planning. According to authors, there is no proper coordination between ANM and PRI members. The awareness among the PRI members regarding their roles and responsibilities in health care delivery was minimal. The authors advise that the PRI members particularly, women members should be trained in health care delivery system, so that the ANMs feel comfortable in consultation for rural health planning process.

According to Dr. Shankar Chatterjee, through employment generation programmes (MGNREGA & SGSY) and housing programmes (IAY) rural areas in India will develop. The MGNREGA has enhanced the livelihood security of the poor. Through SHGs (SGSY) women have been benefited economically and bargaining power with the authorities and they are solving social problems like dowry

and preventing child marriages. Through IAY (Housing Programme) houses were provided to the BPL families.

V. M. Rao says that due to societal rules women voluntarily accepted the subordinate role to the other half. Women are under – represented in decision making with little control over money matters, although they contribute more to the households in rural areas. He suggests that skill development and enhancing marketing facilities, empowers the women in rural areas.

V. Ramakrishna opines that due to various socio-economic constraints and orthodox social milieu of agricultural society, women were comprehensively strangulated in political participation. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment has institutionalised the women's representation in PRIs but could not do much at the participation in democratic process. He suggests that women should be given two to three terms i.e., 10 to 15 years in PRIs to perform a feasible role in society.

M. S. Gill points out that non-institutional agencies, moneylenders have emerged as an important source of finance in rural areas. Farmers have no option except to non-institutional credit / moneylenders, which lend them at a high rate of interest but they are accessible to all needs and available at all seasons. Rich farmers are the actual beneficiaries of any debt waiver.

S N Dhar says that SHGs (Self-Employment) are accepted as an effectual approach to developmental planning to raise the income and asset levels of the underprivileged. Skill enhancement by the Government, NGOs will help the SHGs for generating more income. Reduction of interest rates within the groups may increase the capacity of sustainability of SHGs.

T. Krishna Kumar points out that the tribal families who depend on agriculture are not

getting the reasonable price for their produce. So they were not able to develop economically and financially. The globalisation has become a bane to the tribal agriculturists because the farmers are not able to get the required quantity of fertilisers and seeds of good quality. He suggests that the government should help the tribal agriculturists to develop their agriculture.

Anita Modi says that empowerment of women is necessary through SHGs and with the help of micro-finance. The motto of SHG should be "for the women, by the women and of the women". According to Jitendra Ahirrao, 'the micro-finance has become one of the most effective interventions for economic empowerment of the poor and emerged as a powerful tool for rural development'. B.C. Das points out that self-employment of the rural poor through SHGs, their capacity building, credit arrangement, technology and market support will enhance the quality of rural life.

According to B. Vanitha, 'the women empowerment is a process from a state of powerlessness (I cannot) to a share of collective self-confidence (We can)'. G. Prasad Babu and Rajkumar Josmee Singh say that "Micro – finance has significant role to play in Indian economy for boosting micro entrepreneurial activities for creating productive assets coupled with employment generation". R. C. Mishra and K. C. Mishra point out that "Bharat Nirman" is a new deal for developing rural areas and to build rural infrastructure in core areas like i) Irrigation ii) Rural Roads iii) Rural Water Supply iv) Rural Housing v) Rural Electrification and vi) Rural Communication.

Niti Mehta and Anita Arya discuss about "Krishi Mahotsava or Rath" which is an annual event conducted by the Government of Gujarat to disseminate scientific farming practices in the months of May – June just preceding the kharif season.

According to the UN estimates (2007), there will be at least 800 million hungry people looking for the food in the world. To meet the food needs of these people B. K. Mohanthy suggests for adoption of new bio-tech crops i.e., Gene Revolution and new irrigation techniques like drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation to boost the agriculture production.

Rajkumar et. al., say that participation of people in watershed management makes them overcome problems and gain more control over the natural resources and livelihoods.

According to K.V. Ramachandran, 'there is a severe shortage of housing due to the wide gap of population growth and demand for houses'. The rural poor cannot afford houses and they are incapable of giving protection against natural calamities like floods, cyclones, earthquakes and the surroundings of the houses lack the most fundamental requirements for hygiene. The housing programmes should be suitable to the climatic as well as to the economic conditions of the poor and suitable to the local needs and local conditions.

According to Anupam Hazra, the MGNREGA is the most powerful initiative ever undertaken for transformation of livelihoods in rural India. There has been a significant reduction in labour migration and an improvement in the livelihood of the poor. But the potential of MGNREGA is yet to be realised. Absence of worksite facilities for women with children and the need for a fair revision of the schedule of rates and issuance of job – cards on time are the prime concerns in implementation.

This book is an encyclopedia of Rural Development and highly educative to the students, academicians, administrators, development professionals, sociologists, politicians, policy makers, environmentalists, NGOs and research scholars etc.

– Dr. S. N. Rao