

There are four status papers covering the said states in the north east India, and stringed-up elaborately to discuss the basic concepts of sustainability and the evolutionary perspectives of sustainable development in the selected states.

Overall, the history of forest dwellers, resources and approaches for ecosystem were analysed based on the problems and distribution of forest type and its products necessitating the conservation of forest in the context of North East India. The portion of the book explains the agricultural resources and process of land utilisation, agricultural holdings and its situation, cropping pattern and product marketing of both agro and agri-based product cycles. The authors stress the need for prevention of water resources by elaborating the existing status and problems in the irrigation systems and reservoirs too.

Obviously, this book presents brilliant ideas for conservation and management of resources and presenting analysis of the various elements involved in integrated development of resources and resource systems that the subject specialist, researcher, planner and policy maker will find this book interesting and useful.

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Environment and Social Concerns,
Edited by Venu Trivedi and VK Shrivastava,
Concept Publishing Company Pvt. Ltd. New
Delhi – 110059, 2011.

Environment and issues associated with it are garnering tremendous amount of attention in the recent past. The global concern for environment was emanated due to destructive path of development processes without caring for future generations and greed for present day development. As a result, the environment issues were totally neglected leading to severe depletion of natural resources causing alarm throughout the world.

However, the publication assumes greater attention since it also deals with the social concerns while caring for the environment. As the social concerns do play vital role in ensuring environment, the book devoted much on social concerns related to environment. In fact, the publication was an outcome of Conference on "Environment Problems and Initiatives" held at Indore in the year 2007.

The book is a compilation of 22 papers presented in the Conference spread over five sections. The first section on Social Concerns consists of four papers, the second section on Dimensions of Environmental Problems 11 papers, the third section on Techno-political Responses consists of 3 papers, the fourth section was devoted to Focus on Indore City and Its Environment consists of 3 papers and the last section on Public Image consists of only one paper. Thus, the bulk of the papers were devoted to environmental concerns, perhaps due to the very prime issue of environment. The book also consists of English version of abstracts of 15 papers submitted in Hindi and recommendations thereof.

The papers submitted on different themes were preceded by write-up by the authors in the form of Introduction chapter dealing with various issues associated with environment and social concerns at national and global perspectives.

Though the four papers presented under the section may not deal with wide gamut of issues, yet the section provides a bird's eye view of importance of social issues in protecting the environment.

To sum up, all the papers under the section dealt micro-level issues that are directly related to causes of environmental pollution. Most of the papers in the section were good sources of micro-level issues but they are not exhaustive in nature to capture the comprehensive issues.

The third section of the book was devoted to "Techno-Political Responses" in regard to controlling the environmental damage and effectiveness of different category of measures.

The fourth section of the publication is devoted to the issues related to Indore city. There were three papers under the section.

The lone paper under the last section on "Environment, Social Concern and Initiative : A Bird's Eye View" by Saroj Yadav basically deals with the components of environment care. The paper points out that emphasis on poverty alleviation, diffusion of information on environment awareness in the society is quite essential.

The last section of the publication consists of gist of papers submitted during the Conference.

In all, the publication provides an opportunity to understand the issues related to environment and social concerns. Though the book has the issue of social concerns, most of the papers published are mostly with the environment issues and emphasis on social concern was quite imbalanced. However, for those who are interested in environment concerns, the book provides new insights.

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Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation, Edited by M.J.Chandre Gowda, Concept Publishing Company PVT LTD, New Delhi, ₹ 500.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E) are the two closely associated terms in any project implementation process. Participation is increasingly being recognised as an integral part of the M & E process, since it offers new ways of assessing and learning from change that are more inclusive and more responsive to the needs and aspirations of those most directly affected. Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E) is geared towards not only

measuring the effectiveness of a project, but also towards building ownership and empowering beneficiaries; building accountability and transparency; and taking corrective actions to improve performance and outcomes. Participatory monitoring and evaluation enables the stakeholders to engage in M&E, exchange the contents, the process and the results to take up corrective actions if found any deviations in the implementation process. The four principles of PM&E are Participation, Negotiation, Learning and Flexibility which are very important for realising the expected results of a project. If the monitors and evaluators thoroughly know about these principles and process will help to achieve the objectives of the projects. These elements are properly dealt in this book and it is very much useful for the beginners or first time readers on the topics of PM&E. This book provides a complete package for monitoring and evaluation, covering concepts, tools and methods and case studies to demonstrate the practising of monitoring and evaluation in everyday scenario. The book is a detailed reference material of concepts, approaches and methods related to PME as well as impact assessment. More emphasis is given to Impact Assessment in this publication for importance in understanding why programmes do not reach the people for whom these programmes are meant and fail to achieve the changes aimed at the planning and designing stage. It is also required to know the significance of the changes that have happened amidst the quagmire development scenario projected in most situations.

The suggested tools are for both qualitative i.e. to know 'how and why' of the project implementation and quantitative methods i.e. to know what, who, where, how many, how much of a phenomenon, to test the internal and external validity of the evaluation process. Participatory approaches like Participatory Impact Monitoring and Assessment (PIMA) and Logical Framework