

Sardar Sarovar Project is no less than a "living technology university" and the present volume has documented the history of many facets of this very important project. The challenges faced in the implementation of SSP paved way to realisation of the constraints of a command economy. It is observed that the requirements of SSP implementation led not only to speedy development of several related infrastructural facilities but also in establishing institutions in place. The book is worth reading keeping in the context of ongoing debate on the bill on Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation and Resettlement (LARR) that is to be enacted very soon. The lessons learnt are very much to be taken into cognizance for any policy decision in the area of rehabilitation and resettlement of project affected persons.

– Ch. Radhika Rani

Institutional Design for Tackling Child Labour Problem by D.Rajasekhar, K.G. Gayathri Devi & V.Anil Kumar , Concept Publishing Company, New Delhi, 2011, pp.122.

Despite the existence of government policies and programmes, the incidence of child labour is high in India. The same is the situation in Karnataka State. Karnataka undertook several steps towards achieving total elimination of child labour. The Action Plan for Elimination of Child Labour in Karnataka was one such important step. The State Child Labour Project (SCLP) was a project formulated to achieve the objectives of the action plan. Taking SCLP implemented in Karnataka as a case, this book suggests the institutional changes that are needed to tackle the problem of child labour.

The book closely examines SCLP for coming up with policy suggestions relating to institutional design to eliminate child labour. The implementation of the project was based on collaboration between the Government and its line departments and the local,

grassroots NGOs. The authors show that NGO-GO cooperation in the SCLP worked towards positive achievement in the identification of child labour.

The study shows that poverty is the major factor contributing to the problem of child labour. The study argues that no matter what the efforts of the government interventions in the identification, rehabilitation and mainstreaming are, there would always be factors which render these efforts unsuccessful and contribute to the problem of child labour. Poverty of the households also negates the limited success achieved in the mainstreaming of children rehabilitated through bridge schools.

The findings show that SCLP did well in the identification and rehabilitation of child labourers. An overwhelming majority of children completed the bridge school because of provision of residential and boarding facilities. However, rehabilitated children could not be mainstreamed due to inability to get admission into government hostels and limited options to pursue vocational education.

The study suggests that in order to reduce the problem of child labour, the government should rehabilitate children through residential bridge schools, reserve seats in the government schools with hostels for rehabilitated child labourers and provide appropriate vocational education to children uninterested in regular school education. It also suggests that efforts should be made to target parents of child labourers in the existing SHGs or form new ones for them and provide assistance to strengthen their livelihood activities.

Child labour is a localised phenomenon with local specification and particularities. In order to understand this problem and alleviate it, there is need to involve local government

and local civil society. A task force under Gram Panchayat or municipality is to be set up to prevent and tackle the problem of child labour because of their potential to contribute to the eradication of child labour in the form of local information, communication, and local monitoring and mobilisation of local resources.

It further suggests that all the development programmes may be persuaded to provide a mandatory provision of benefits for the parents of child labourers. The budget releases to different government departments implementing the development programmes can be linked to providing and fulfilling such a provision.

– *N.V.Madhuri*

Socio-Economic Profile of Rural India Series-II, Edited by S.C. Patra and Ashish Vachhani, IAS, Published by: Concept Publishing Company Private Limited, 2011, Pages 309.

Rural India is unique in the world because of the rich heritage, strong traditions, indigenous way of management of water, land and other natural resources, past practices in conflict resolution and local leadership. India's North-eastern region consists of eight states with a geographical area of 2,62,179 sq. km which accounts for 7.9 per cent of the country's geographical area. About 3.8 per cent of the Nation's Population live in the region. While Assam and Manipur has considerable plain lands, the other six states are hilly and mountainous.

It is generally felt that the impact of Rural Development initiatives is not balanced and falls short of expectations in many parts of the country, especially in the North-East. Chapterisation of the book and sequencing of the articles is very apt. The book is divided

into three chapters, namely, Assam, Nagaland and Manipur and Tripura.

The authors presented an overview on the entire North-Eastern region in the introduction part. Economic Development indicators of four states were focused and salient details are furnished.

The section of the book on Assam has elaborate explanations on the history, economic profile, geographical information, demography, language, climate, art and handicrafts, administrative setup, educational infrastructure, Panchayati Raj system and Rural Development schemes.

The demography, decadal growth, tribes and festivals, history, political process, progress made during 40 years of statehood, land use pattern, status of agriculture, industrial development, mineral health, infrastructure development, transportation, power etc. were briefly provided in the section on Nagaland. The last section narrated the socio-economic scenario existing in Manipur and Tripura.

Since the book has been compiled from the summary and data of Socio-Economic village assignment reports of some of the IAS Probationers, the book is content rich and informative because of secondary and primary data as well as state-district profiles and grassroots level compilations of village specific studies. The book will provide an insight to the readers about the North-Eastern region which is tribal dominated, backward and details of which are less known throughout the country.

The book though not yet been priced is a valuable publication.

– *G.V.Krishna Lohi Das*