

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*