

these characterisations the author has tried vehemently to show that women literacy volunteers have been empowered socially, economically and politically, in the process of being trained for the literacy campaigns. The author has resorted to the quantitative epistemological findings to study the extent of empowerment of women literacy workers.

Through the various chapters, the author has constructed the existing status of women and is of the opinion that literacy has not contributed to the achievement of empowerment. From the discussions in phased manner through various chapters it emerges that women literacy workers though educated and trained in addressing the campaigns go through similar restrictions and constraints that women in general in the rural society undergo. The author also admits that the established codes of conduct which are potentially exploitative in nature are loud and actively followed undisputedly in the rural society. The author also opines that there is no difference in the gendered discriminatory practices while comparing the pre and post-training period. However, there is an enhanced social empowerment in terms of decision making in household affairs. But in specific circumstances especially those that are associated with the purchase and ownership of property, women's voices are throttled and their representation does not cross the boundaries of the house, nevertheless here and there spurts of empowerment are seen or experienced as voices of very few women are heard and considered for owning property and gaining registration in their name in the study area.

Apart from socio-economic and political empowerment of women literacy volunteers, the author sees a remarkable change in the personalities of the trained literacy workers as they have gained courage to come out of their houses and conduct the campaigns and gradually in the process, they are accepted as leaders. According to the author, the political

empowerment has been significantly faster as there has been a cognitively improved participation of women in gram sabha meetings. Therefore, the author concludes that literacy empowers women and unhesitatingly considers this stage as a pre-condition for volunteering for literacy work, which built in an assured self-confidence to participate in the post-literacy campaigns. The other practical outcomes of the participation in the campaigns were vivid in terms of the enhanced abilities of the women to read, write and to do little mathematics, withdrawal from observing purdah system, improvement in interactions, satisfaction in teaching the mothers-in-law which are the visible consequences of the participation in the campaign and have helped them as they campaigned.

Findings documented by the author on the impact of the campaign on the women literacy workers and his findings in terms of the empowerment of women are more generic in nature. These findings supporting the decision making powers of women in the modern times confining only to the kitchen seems to be limited since women have gone far ahead from the kitchen empowerment and these days are into social and economic empowerment.

By and large, the author of the study has followed the usual requirements of the research and has established his findings systematically by concluding on some relevant suggestions. The book has been well organised and published by the Concept Publishing Company.

– Dr. G. Valentina

**Development of Special Economic Zones in India**, Volume 1, Edited by M. Soundarapandian, 2012, published by Concept Publishing Company, A/15-16, Commercial Block, Mohan Garden, New Delhi-110059, pp. 344, Price ₹ 2000.

Few selected papers presented in the seminar on 'The Prospects and Implications of

Special Economic Zones in India' are edited into a book of two volumes and titled as 'Development of SEZs in India'. Volume I deals with policies and issues of SEZ and Volume II analyses impact and implications of SEZs. The present volume I is the compilation of 30 articles which discusses the issues relating to Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

A.Ranga Reddy in his article 'SEZs – A Step for Quality Industrialisation' presented an overview about the SEZ act, its objectives, incentives and facilities and benefits offered from SEZ and impact of SEZ. He also highlighted the controversies against SEZ.

In the paper on 'Theoretical Understanding of SEZ Strategy in India; a Case Study of GMR SEZ of Hyderabad', the writers Tamali Chakraborty and Barun Kumar Thakur gave theoretical framework for SEZ and related it to the case of GMR SEZ of Hyderabad and drawn the similarities in theory and reality and drawn a conclusion that SEZ policy negatively affects the agriculture and Government has to relook its policy.

Through the article 'Economic Trends of SEZs in India', K.B. Nidheesh and P. Palanichami analysed the secondary data available from Ministry of Commerce, India, website to study zone-wise the employment trends, export contribution and percentage share of FDIs in total SEZ investment. It was concluded that SEZ policy contributed to the economic development of the nation in terms of exports, employment and investment from time to time.

A. Chandrababha in her paper on 'SEZs in India; Problems and Prospects' presents and discusses about the progress and performance of the SEZ, rehabilitation and resettlement, labour laws, implications and problems and challenges in SEZ development etc.

In the paper on Impact of SEZs on Employment in India, S. Natchathira Jothi focuses on employment generated through

SEZs. Author analyses the employment generated both in Government as well as private SEZs and state-wise distribution of employment. He also tried to make an assessment about the employment that can be generated through upcoming SEZs in India.

K. Vanitha and D. Kumar in their paper on "Special Economic Zones in India- Policy and Growth" gave an introduction about the objectives, rules, incentives and facilities provided to units in SEZ. They discussed in detail about the institutional evolution of SEZ. In their paper on "Land Resource Conflict Resolution - A Study of Indian SEZs, authors N.M.P. Verma and Vinit Kumar focus on land acquisition for SEZs.

Through their paper "SEZs - A Theoretical Analysis", M. Balaji Naik and S. Saipogu Ramanjaneyulu gave introduction to SEZs with special focus on Andhra Pradesh. In the same way T. Rajendra Prasad and H. Sudhakara in their paper on "Performance of SEZs in India", analysed the performance of SEZs in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and as such overall southern zone in the areas of status, land allocation, exports and employment provided through SEZs.

From the paper titled "A Comparative Study of SEZ and EPZ's in India", authors, P. Senthil and S. Asaithambi gave phase-wise description of history of EPZs/SEZs in India with listing out of relative advantages and disadvantages of both types. In the article "What are SEZs? Provisions Governing Such Zones", authors, G. Sathis Kumar, S. Ramaswamy and G. Kavitha talk of different types of zones and some features of SEZs and the gap between the ideal and reality. M. Subramanian and Karthick Raja in their paper "RAPID Model-SEZ: Issues and Strategies" again focus on the history of SEZ and some facts and figures about SEZs in India. After analysing the issues they have come out with strategies for betterment.

"Tourism as a Potential Sector for Growth under SEZ" is a paper by S. Gopalakrishnan,

where the writer gave detailed description of the only one SEZ presently in principal approved in tourism sector at Himachal Pradesh.

By reading the articles in the book, an individual develops knowledge on the issues related to the SEZs. But there is lot of repetition in the content of the papers as most of the authors analysed the secondary data available in the website of the Ministry of Commerce and Industries. There are very few articles based on empirical studies. In many articles authors focused on problems of land acquisition, challenges that the SEZs face and the benefits that the SEZs get from the Government etc. The editor of the book should have ensured that there is no repetition in the content. Overall it is informative and readability and presentation is good. However, in the overall assessment, this is a good resource book on various aspects pertaining to SEZ and their impact on people. The present volume has great relevance of time to the rural development too.

– Dr. C. Dheeraja

**Bureaucracy and Rural Development in Mizoram**, by Harendra Sinha, Concept Publishing Company Pvt Ltd, New Delhi-110059, Published 2012, ₹ 700.

The book on Bureaucracy and Rural Development in Mizoram has been a fine addition to the process of governance and related problems in implementation of rural development programmes and schemes.

Though the methodology adopted and the findings recorded do not speak anything new, not revealed till date by other authors, empirical research findings of this kind are very rare these days. Any empirical research per se, based on primary questionnaires and the analysis of data give credence to the subject researched upon.

The book is divided into eight chapters with appendices as addendum. The first six

chapters' viz. (1) Introduction (2) Bureaucracy and Rural Development (3) Democratic Decentralisation in Mizoram (4) Bureaucracy and Rural Development in Mizoram (5) Problems and Prospects of Rural Development in Mizoram (6) Block Level Bureaucracy: Their Role and Responsibilities — are at best a good compilation and collation of existing literature - a typical characteristic of many publications on Indian Research Studies. Herein the reader has the benefits of glancing at a large number of references of books, general articles, web based information on the theme of bureaucracy and rural development. The dichotomous views of writers have hardly been analysed to give credence to the writer's own understanding of the relevance of quoting them.

The cream of the book is placed at chapter eight i.e. "Findings and Suggestions" constituting a meagre thirteen pages, followed by a preparatory ground work in chapter seven i.e. "Assessment of Block Level Bureaucracy". Necessarily these two readings constitute the real interests of any kind to the discernible subject specialist on grassroots governance and related problems in India.

Though the chapter seven is named as "Assessment of Block Level Bureaucracy", there are very few earmarked sentences which make any judgement about the bureaucracy of four blocks (constituting the study area) mentioned above. In a span of nearly four pages (P 182-186), there is hardly a sentence which makes a critical judgement of Lunglei bureaucracy. The author has failed to understand the difference between compilation of facts and figures and making judgement out of the same data. While assessing on bureaucracy of Hanhthial block, statements like development of transport and communication as the most important means in achieving development of this mountainous block-serve no specific purpose when the cause of absence of this is not analysed. Stereotype facts like absence of Extension