

Chapter four titled, 'The Tenets of Transformation,' provides key lessons from the SARVAM experiment by elaborating on how the villages for intervention were chosen and the different entry point activities done and the social infrastructure built and finally how the community was linked to the institutions. Thus, the authors conclude that the systematic interventions made by SARVAM contributed to the social, financial, human and physical capital that improved the quality of life of people.

In chapter five, the authors discussed about the sustainability, replicability and scalability of the interventions of the SARVAM.

In chapter six, the epilogue of the SARVAM's rural development experiment, one of the editors, Prof. G. Palanithurai shares his views of the experiment saying that it is a process-oriented and demand-driven one. According to him, SARVAM's Integral Rural Development experiment has demonstrated how, starting with children, a transformation process can touch the entire community. This could be considered a model for micro-level rural development experiments.

Chapter seven gives details about the birth of new research and training institution, 'Sharanam' (Centre for Sustainable Rural Transformation), based on the field experience of SARVAM. It gives an overview of Sharanam's vision, mission, guiding principles, values, strategic direction for five years and scale of operations.

By reading the book, one gains knowledge on the issues related to development, especially integral development. The book provides an understanding of the practical issues faced by the programme implementers and the community. The language used is simple and the style of presentation is attractive with many colourful field photographs. In the overall assessment, the book is a good resource book on various aspects pertaining to integral development. This book may be used as a reference material for students, NGO workers and researchers, as it has a great relevance of time to the rural development functionaries.

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State of India's Livelihoods Report, 2015 by Girija Srinivasan and Narasimhan Srinivasan, Published by Sage Publications India Pvt. Ltd and ACCESS Development Services; pp. 177; Price: ₹ 1,195.

India's economy has witnessed a significant economic growth in the recent past, growing at 7.3 per cent in FY 2015 as against 6.9 per cent in FY 2014. The size of the Indian economy was estimated to be at US \$ 2.01 trillion for the year 2014 as compared to US \$ 1.84 trillion for 2013. This growth is powered by greater access to banking, technology adoption, urbanisation and other structural reforms.

Livelihood literally is a means of making a living. It encompasses people's capacities,

assets, income and activities required to secure the means of living. Livelihood is sustainable when it enables people sustain a reasonable quality of life and cope with shocks and stresses that occur from time to time. Livelihood that is sustainable should help people enhance their well-being in the future without undermining the natural environment, the resource base.

Even as India continues to record fairly impressive growth rates, poverty remains widespread and disparities entrenched. It is these complexities that have to be captured by exploring wide-ranging themes and the role of different actors in the context of livelihoods of the poor.

This book, consisting of 8 chapters, makes an attempt to analyse the most important aspects of livelihoods in India.

The opening chapter titled 'Overview: Taking Stock,' explores the macro-economic context of livelihoods which is seen to have improved gradually over the last two years. It also takes stock of other aspects of livelihoods, apart from income enhancement, by tracking human development index (HDI) and the progress on millennium development goals (MDGs). Finally, it looks at the significant changes in the pattern of funding by State governments for supporting different projects and programmes, resulting in key reductions to departments and programmes, relating to livelihoods. It also briefly touches livelihoods in agriculture and allied sectors along with wage employment.

Chapter 2 namely 'Policy and Financing Framework for Livelihoods,' provides an annual policy update focusing the discussion around budget, policies, legislation and programmes relating to livelihoods like the Land Acquisition Act, National Food Security Act, RRB Amendment Act and Labour Laws. Other developments such as the transition of erstwhile Planning Commission to NITI Aayog, National Policy on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Antyodaya Yojana and setting up of Price Stabilisation Fund for Horticultural Crops have also been touched upon.

The third chapter titled 'Some Important Programmes in Livelihoods: Searching for Focus?,' examines how some of the flagship programmes such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Rural Livelihoods Mission, National Urban Livelihoods Mission and the Food Security Programme are designed, run and monitored.

Chapter 4 on 'Dairy based Livelihoods,' takes a deep dive into the dairy sub-sector, which is a key livelihood for a large number of rural households.

The fifth chapter titled 'Producer Companies,' carries forward the conceptual and systemic underpinnings of producer companies in the Indian context covered in previous year's report and makes an effort to dialogue with producer companies, their boards, members and other stakeholders,

especially the promoting institutions in different States including some of the resource agencies.

Chapter 6 with the title 'Skilling India: An Aspirational Challenge,' puts the spotlight on skill development by presenting a picture of the present education and employment scenario, framework of initiatives to address the skill challenge, targets set for skilling by the government and a brief analysis of the major programmes for skill development and their results.

Chapter 7 on 'Non-farm Sector Enterprises and Employment,' looks at the key trends in the non-farm sector. Apart from an in-depth coverage of handloom, handicraft, khadi and village industries, other non-farm sector activities have been touched upon.

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) has become a statutory responsibility for the Indian companies with the passing of the Companies Act, 2013. Chapter 8 describes the private sector engagement in livelihoods and CSR through an analysis of CSR policies of a few companies, interventions of a few big corporates in the sphere of livelihoods, aggregate funding under CSR and challenges in the manner of companies engaging themselves in CSR. It looks at the 10 top ranked companies in CSR and the range of activities that they engage in.

Though the report does not deal much with income-generating activities, it includes some of the accompanying issues related to quality of life. It provides an overview of this and analyses the policies and funding framework through an examination of budget allocations, new policy pronouncements, large programmes initiated and legislative efforts that have a bearing on livelihoods. The authors have examined the dairy sector in some depth as it provides substantial livelihood opportunities to vulnerable households.

It appears like the authors have sourced information from various sources and that is why a few rough edges exist too.

On the whole, the book gives a holistic picture of rural livelihoods in India. This book is moderately priced at ₹ 1,195 and would be useful for the students, researchers, teachers, academicians, development workers, policy-makers and various development organisations interested in rural livelihoods. This book will be extremely useful for the students of Rural Development, Social Work, Sociology, Economics, Political Science, Public Administration and the like.

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