

Book Reviews

GROWTH OF URBAN INFORMAL SECTOR: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS. By Sharanappa Saidapur. pp. 334 + xxi, tables, figures, maps, photographs, bibliography, 2013. Serials Publications: New Delhi. Hard cover. Price ₹ 1250/-

The abrupt starting of the first line under 'Preface' by the author confused me initially, which runs as "The present study is an attempt to fulfill the above felt needs of the problems. Effort has been made to present the relevant facts and information on the subject on the bases of field investigation....". (p.xiii), until I moved on to the next page wherein the author writes "The present book is an outcome of the research work done at the Department of Studies and Research in Economics, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga (Karnataka).

The author further mentions in his preface "The present study explores the income and employment generating capacity of diverse urban informal sector brick manufacturing enterprises in the small urban centres of North Karnataka Region. Brick making is one of the most important economic activities in the North Karnataka region and it is one of the major small scale industry in this region. Therefore, the brick-kiln as an independent and utility oriented activity has been taken headway in the urban cities, in particular Gulbarga and Dharwad. It examines a number of overriding issues pertaining to these enterprises".

This volume is based on the Ph.D. thesis of the author submitted to Gulbarga University.

The presentation style of this volume is typical of Ph.D. thesis presentation in India followed by the researchers. The content list of the volume is as follow: 1. Research Design; 2. Conceptual Base of Urban Informal Sector; 3. Review of Literature; 4. Growth of Urban Informal Sector in India; 5. Informal Sector in Karnataka; 6. A Profile of North Karnataka Region; 7. Socio-economic Factfile of Brick-manufacturers in North Karnataka Region; 8.

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Employment of Labour in Brick-kiln Industry; 9. Problems of Brick-kiln Industry; 10. Summary of Findings and Suggestions; and at the end Bibliography has been given.

The volume carries a 'Foreword' by Honourable Minister Dr Mallikarjun Kharge, Union Minister for Labour and Employment, Government of India, New Delhi. The Union Minister writes, "In India, the urban informal sector is providing employment to the large section of labour-force in urban centres. But there is dearth of literature to explain the nature of scope, structure, problems and prospects of informal sector in Indian economy. The book draws almost entirely on recent literature in this area and the understanding on the brick productive system" (p. x).

The term 'informal sector' was first used by ILO in 1972 and was then taken up in the Report of the ILO/UNDP Employment Mission to Kenya, and later it has been widely used in development and employment literature. The informal sector has no universally acceptable definition. This sector has generally thought to consist of very small units producing variety of goods and services by independent or self-employed labourers, which could be family members or hired labourers. Only two types of workers are in the informal sector, wage workers and self-employed workers in the unorganized sector who operate farm or non-farm enterprise, or engaged in a profession individually or with partner, or as home based worker. The informal sector is considered to be a means to the strategy for eradication poverty and unemployment in the developing countries. The author states the objectives of the study are as follows — to study the nature and growth pattern of urban informal sector in India, Karnataka in general and the North Karnataka Region in particular; and to examine the growth performance of brick industry in the study region. The study is based on primary and secondary data. The research study of the author covers the period from 2005 to 2009, in the urban areas of Gulbarga and Dharwad districts lying in North

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Karnataka region. The study covers the 220 respondents (both owners and workers) of brick-kiln industry of the two districts.

There are 26 major findings of the study as listed by the author under 'Findings of the Study' (pp. 308-311), and almost an equal number of 'Policy Suggestions' (22 suggestions). The author has also made 'Suggestions for Brick Workers', which runs to 22 points and further sub-points have been presented.

The author has made an attempt to bring out the process of manufacturing of bricks and their marketing and emerging profits in the trade. A detailed study of brick manufacturers in Gulbarga and Dharwad was undertaken by the author for analyzing the economics of brick manufacturing. One of the important conclusions of the study is that the brick-kiln has become a source of occupation for the Scheduled Caste people in Gulbarga. While in Dharwad the brick-kilns are owned and managed by relatively more number of 'Other Backward Castes' (OBC) people. The brick-kiln industries have provided employment to certain categories of (mostly unskilled) workers. The author has examined the work, working condition, type of employment opportunities, type of wages and amount of wages received, favourable and unfavourable working conditions, work related hazards faced by the workers, the social security benefits received by the workers etc. The author has also studied the general profile of the labourers, particularly the marital status, religion, caste classification, housing condition, family income, source of loan, source of entertainment, mode of payment of weekly wages etc. The author found that according to the women workers the brick making is far more respectable than that of other works in his study area.

The author has also discussed on the scope of further research. The author states "A tentative mention may be made of the scope for further research in the industry's profitability, survival and providing large employment in the informal sector. To what extent scientists can co-operate and complement research in quality burning of the bricks and bringing 'energy efficiency' on the one hand, and on the other hand by introducing pollution free method of manufacturing earthen bricks" (p. 319), for this there is need for further research.

The reviewer feels that the author has much laboured to present the prevailing situation on the growth of urban informal sector, with particular reference to brick-kiln industry. This volume would be of much help to the research scholars working on the economics of informal sector and the people associated with it in running the industry.

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DEVELOPMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES IN INDIA: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES. Edited by D. Pulla Rao. pp. 332 + xxxv, tables, index, 2012. Serials Publications: New Delhi. Hard cover. Price ₹ 995/-

The author has given a very generalized title to this edited volume covering 21 articles, which is the outcome of the seminar on "Inclusive Growth and Social Tension" conducted in the Department of Economics, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam during 6-7 October, 2010. The editor in his 'Acknowledgements' writes (p. xiii), ".....about 600 delegates participated and nearly 500 delegates presented papers and participated in the discussion and deliberations. I am highly thankful to the paper contributors for helping me in bringing out this book". While going through these lines presented by the editor Professor D. Pulla Rao, I was wondering how is it possible for 500 delegates to present papers in a two-day seminar. If I assume that the organizers had skipped off tea-break and lunch-break, and had continued the seminar academic programme till late evening, even then I think, it is impossible for the delegates to present their articles within the limited two-day programme. Prof. Pulla Rao has not mentioned the themes of specific sessions, if any, that were held during the seminar.

Under the 'Contents' of the volume under review no categorization of the 21 articles have been made. The editor has presented just a list of 21 titles, authored by 25 scholars. Some of the themes of the titles are as follows: Population and Educational Status of Scheduled Castes in School Education in India; Gender Equality and Dalit Women's Empowerment in India; Dalit Children Access to

Schooling in Karnataka; Motivation and Aspirations among Dalit Students for Higher Education; Dalit Women in India; Role of Dr B. R. Ambedkar in the Upliftment of Scheduled Castes; Dalits and Buddhism; Social Status of Dalits in Punjab; Poverty Alleviation Programmes for Scheduled Castes; Empowerment of Dalit Women in India; Scheduled Castes: A Sociological Interpretation; Development of Scheduled Castes in India, etc. These are generalized descriptive essays without any analytical frame, and most of the articles have not dwelt upon the trend of changes that are taking place in the socio-economic spheres in the families and in the younger generation of Dalits today.

In the article on 'Dalit Children Access to Schooling in Karnataka' by Dinesha PT and Nanjunda, the authors state that "The paper is based on the Secondary data collected from the Department of Statistics (Govt. of India), Census Reports (1991 and 2001), Reports of the Karnataka Human Development Report focusing literacy, enrolment and dropouts if (*should be of*) SC students in Karnataka" (p. 66). Thus the authors have presented the government statistics which simply gives a generalized picture on a broad canvas. What is the present situation of schooling of SC students, the reasons of dropouts, and the government programmes for school education of Dalits in remote areas of Karnataka, the problems at the family level of Dalits, problems of the children, problems of the teachers, and the block administration; nothing has been discussed by the authors. I expected that the authors would present the real state of development in Dalit schooling programme of a block or cluster of villages having Dalit concentration, but was dismayed reading the article. Mere government statistics do not reflect 'development' in true sense of a society.

In another article entitled "Siddalingaiah's Self-sprung Achievements in *Ooru Keri* – An Autobiography: A Study", the author S. Bharathiraja writes, "Siddalingaiah's reminiscence gives an authentic expression of sufferings inflicted upon Dalits by the caste supremacy. His autobiography *Ooru Keri* portrays his life-long-struggles, atrocities, poverty, and treacheries of Indian caste system" (p. 76). The author has presented brief biography of the Dalit leader, but has forgotten to mention his birth

and death years. While discussing an autobiography it is essential to mention the time span of the activities of the person and period, and the situation in which he lived in. There is no mention of these in the article.

There are many spelling mistakes and wrong language expression. Sri Pinipi Vishwa Roop, The Honourable Minister for Animal Husbandry & Welfare, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, writes in the 'Foreword' (p. x), "The book is really useful as a reference volume as it has discussed not only the theoretical aspects but also provided results from field studies and research output."

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EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMES AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA. By Shankar Chatterjee. pp. xiv + 212, tables, annexure, index, 2013. Global Research Publications: New Delhi. Price ₹ 795/-

The volume 'Employment Programmes and Rural Development in India' by Dr Chatterjee carries a 'Foreword' by Sri M. P. Bezbaruah, IAS (retired), who states, "This volume will be useful for scholars and researchers who are interested to get an in-depth about self and wage employment programmes in India." Dr Chatterjee of National Institute of Rural Development, has not presented any introduction to the title 'Employment Programmes and Rural Development in India' specifically, except providing the abstracts of the nineteen articles presented in this volume, under 'Preface'.

The nineteen articles have not been grouped under any specific sub-heading or sections. The articles have simply been listed from 1 to 19, each of which the author considers as 'chapters' — "The volume is the collection of 19 chapters focusing on different rural development programmes" (p. xi). The themes of discussion as can be gathered from the 19 articles are — Self-employment and Wage employment; Agricultural Marketing; Women Entrepreneurs; Development of Self Help Groups; Livelihood in Draught Prone District of Maharashtra; SGSY and BPL Families; Sanitary Napkin Units; Rural Development in North Eastern States;

Microcredit; Food Grain Distribution; and Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. The last article discusses on Federations promoted by the Government of West Bengal, like *Upasangha*, *Sangha*, and *Mahasangha*.

The articles are related to the study primarily conducted in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Mizoram, and Chhattisgarh.

There are many spelling errors which could have been corrected if proper editing was carried out before sending the manuscript to the press. However, the reviewer feels that this volume on employment programmes by the government for rural development is informative and would be of much help to the students and the researchers, as well as to the administrators, who are inclined to take up rural development studies and its implementation programmes at the grass roots level.

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MICRO ENTERPRISE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA. Edited by Subrata Kumar Ray. pp. xii + 325, tables, diagrams, figures, index, 2013. Serials Publications: New Delhi. Hard cover. Price ₹ 1100/-

This hard bound volume is the result of a modest attempt by the author, expressed in his own words under Preface, "towards explaining diverse issues of micro enterprises with reference to India in general and to West Bengal in particular." The editor further writes, "The materials of this work derived from the University Grants Commission (UGC) sponsored State Level Seminar on 'Micro Enterprise and Rural Development in India' was held in November, 2011 at Sabang Sajanikanta Mahavidyalaya of Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal. The present book consists of essays that address the macro dimensions as well as micro level manifestations" (p. xii). The editor has not mentioned the township location of the Mahavidyalaya, only the district name has been mentioned.

Twenty-three scholars have presented seventeen articles in this volume, many of them belong to Vidyasagar University, Indian Institute of Technology,

Burdwan University, and from colleges of Paschim Medinipur, Nadia, and only one scholar representing a college of Gandhinagar in Gujarat. The introduction to the articles were made in the 'Preface' itself along with acknowledgements. There is no specific introduction to the volume. The seventeen articles have not been grouped under any specific sub-heading or sections. The articles have simply been listed from 1 to 17.

The themes and some titles of the articles presented in the volume are as follows: Survival and Growth of Micro Enterprises and their Contribution to Rural Development in India; Traditional Handicrafts in West Bengal; Micro Enterprise and Household's Livelihood Strategy; Challenges of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and its Impact on Rural Economy; Role of Markets, Policies and Institutions; Sustainability of Self Help Groups under SGSY Scheme; and Women Empowerment and Role of Self Help Groups in Micro Finance. Thus we find most of the articles by the authors are on small scale enterprises based on their field studies and secondary data on West Bengal. There is only one article on 'Small Scale Industry of Gujarat' which discusses on the issues and policy concerns.

The volume has not been properly edited and checked hence many spelling errors remain. However, the reviewer feels that this volume on rural development through micro finance enterprises is an informative book and would be of much help to the students and the researchers, as well as to the administrators, who are inclined to take up rural development studies and its implementation programmes in rural areas of India.

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TRIBES IN INDIA: CONCEPTS, INSTITUTIONS AND PRACTICES. Edited by Vinay Kumar Srivastava. pp. xxxii + 408, tables, charts, figures, index, 2013. Serials Publications: New Delhi. Hard cover. Price ₹ 1595/-

This volume presents the concepts, institutions and practices of the tribes of India, a collections of

articles edited by Professor Vinay Kumar Srivastava of the Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi. The editor gives a lengthy introduction to the volume which is very informative and analytical and further provides a summary of the discussion presented by the scholars in their articles with his own critical observations.

The volume is sectioned into two parts, not titled. Though the section has not been specifically titled, but the eleven articles listed under Part-I suggest that the emphasis in discussion is on the concept of tribe and tribalism. Under Part-II, there are nine articles which present discussion on tribal economy and society, educational system, health and illness, and development and change. Thus it can be stated that the twenty articles presented in this volume discusses on the theoretical aspects and empirical study on the tribes of India and its changing dimensions.

The editor has nicely balanced the listing and organization of the articles in the volume which provides a wide coverage of the subject 'tribes' in India.

In his introductory text Professor Srivastava has raised certain important issues which are of interest for the general people and for the academicians too. "Which social formation deserves to be called 'tribal'? Or in simple words, what does tribe mean? It is a difficult question to answer in comparison to the meaning of the category 'Scheduled Tribe', a Constitutional term, which serves the purpose of designating certain communities, where membership is acquired by birth, for the benefits that the government provides them....." (p. vii). He further writes, "...it is not a permanent feature of Indian society, for once the economic and social condition of the communities has substantially improved and they are like the other developed communities, in other words, when the economic and social gaps between communities have narrowedis likely to be withdrawn. Already, the talk of 'de-scheduling' the communities from the list of the communities earmarked for reservation and benefits has begun with the Draft of the National Tribal Policy" (p. vii).

The reviewer feels this (de-scheduling) is impossible to happen in near future, given the present political situation and set up (multiparty system) in India, and the mindset of the politicians in general

and the representatives of the tribal leaders in particular, for the fear of losing their vote bank. Further, who are going to judge that the "economic and social conditions of the communities have substantially improved"? The communities themselves or the political leaders? In certain areas and localities, a particular tribal community has greatly improved socially, economically, and educationally, even then the family members of the affluent group (some cluster of families close to the power centre) are getting all the benefits of reservation for their sons and daughters and their other relatives for couple of generations. On the other extreme the tribals far off from urban areas, in the interior areas are hardly receiving the benefits of reservation. My forty years of living in Jharkhand has made me to believe so. No single tribe as a whole in India can be identified as 'greatly improved socially and economically'. So de-scheduling a single tribe would be an injustice inflicted on that tribe. Only thing which can be easily identified is at the family level, the economic condition and educational status of the tribal family members. Which are simple to identify and does not lead to controversy. Unless the government creates a policy and executes the 'policy of one job for one family member of a nuclear family' up to two generations (or for 25 years, which ever is early), and that too up to class III grade level (clerk or assistant post level) only, and no promotional benefits out of turn, then only the government at the centre can hopefully think of getting the policy approved by the core policy making committee. Such a policy would reduce the financial burden on the government and would expose the tribals to develop a mindset for competition among themselves. De-scheduling of some tribes straightaway is not possible as it cannot cross the hurdles which would be placed by the opposition.

Only thing government can do Constitutionally is to do away with the reservation policy of STs and SCs. after say by 2050, that is, after one century of the adoption of the reservation policy by our Republic. But for this we need to have a dedicated, unimpeachable and farsighted representatives in our parliament.

Two articles in Part-I are very interesting and informative. One is of Sukant K Chaudhury's (University of Lucknow) article, 'Do Kondh

Constitute a Tribe?' Here the author discusses about the riot that broke out in 1994 between two communities. "The Pana, an erstwhile untouchable community, was listed as scheduled caste after independence. Most of the Panas have embraced Christianity. Most of the Kondhs (the Kondhs are the largest tribe in Orissa, ...their population amounting to about 20 lakhs), have also become Christian. "The recent uprising is due to politicization of the whole Kondh land. Conflict between Kondh and Pana, non-Christian Kondh and Christian Kondh has loomed large, leading to recent riot" (p. 79).

Our laws are very confusing. Particularly laws regarding tribes and the traditional tribalism (so is the case of castes and scheduled castes) — those who follow the traditional tribal belief system, and have their own world views and worship their traditional deities is well justified to be called as tribes. But why some families, those who have opted for following another religion for their own personal interest, should be considered as tribe and be given equal status as a tribe, and be provided benefits by the government, like the traditional tribals? They are getting two simultaneous benefits, one from the government and the other from the Christian church. Our political masters wished that this should happen, so it has happened, though there is no strong logic behind it.

I was informed that this is because of the vote bank politics. Our politicians would never try to understand the economics of the vote bank politics, and how to a great extent it is dragging behind the Indian economy for their political ambitions. India lacks a strategic culture philosophy for its development.

Similar situation has been highlighted by Twinkle Pal (Hindu College, Delhi) when the author discusses about "The Case of Gaddis of Himachal Pradesh". The author writes, "Gaddis are the most populous tribe of Himachal Pradesh. They are semi-nomadic. indigenous people of the Bharmaur area of Chamba district.... They are also found in Kangra district. It may be noted that although the Gaddis of Bharmaur tehsil and Kangra district display a lot of similarity in terms of cultural patterns and social organisation, it is only the Gaddis of Bharmaur area which have been recognized as Scheduled Tribe by the Government of India.....Majority of the Gaddis are Hindus and

worship Shiva as their main deity. The Gaddis include the *savarna* (the pure one) — such as the Brahmin, Rajput, Thakur, Rathi and the non-*savarna* — such as the Hali, Rihara, Sipi, Batwal and Dagi. The Bharmaur tehsil has been granted the status of scheduled area and by virtue of this all people inhabiting the area are listed under scheduled tribe" (pp. 142-143).

What a simple solution to the complex situation found out by the government. It is said that Rajputs, Thakur and Khattris wear sacred threads and regard themselves as true Gaddis. And by virtue of their living in scheduled area they are considered as tribe. Now I realize why our learned and wise people who had laboured hard drafting our Constitution, had not specifically defined the word 'tribe'. They were very farsighted.

But this has also created problems. "If we examine the Gaddi community their identification as a tribal community becomes quite disputed.... The Lohar (ironsmith) belongs to the non-*savarna* section of the Gaddi and offers his services to a group of families in the village.They have adopted several caste characteristics. However as far as their identification is concerned these communities do not call themselves as caste group, they call themselves as tribes these communities may have adopted a way of life quite similar to that of high caste but in recent past they have been reinforcing tribal image and distinctiveness" (p. 151). This has been elaborately discussed by Srivastava (2008) elsewhere. "Thus, the Gaddis may have adopted several caste characteristics still they prefer their inclusion under the category of tribe (and definitely as scheduled tribe), and not as caste" (p. 151).

We do not have even a complete 'National Population Register', I should say a 'decadal register, we do not have yet a list of persons living 'below the poverty line' in the States of India, controversy and corruption have spoiled our progress, as we find in Jharkhand, a mineral rich poor state with a high concentration of tribal population. We do not have any information family-wise of the tribals of Jharkhand, about the tribals who are getting the benefit of the reservation policy in government jobs. There is no 'tribal register' or 'family register getting reservation benefits' in the government departments

who are getting the job benefits from the governments. One has to dig deep to get an information from the government departments.

These only tell about our inefficiency — inefficiency of the administrators, inefficiency of the bureaucrats, the people as well as the representatives of the people. And all these are having telling effects on Indian economy and development programmes in India.

Professor Vinay Kumar Srivastava in his article on “A Critical Reading of the Draft of The National Tribal Policy (A Policy for the Scheduled Tribes of India)”, writes, “The Draft of the National Population Policy on Tribals was released in February 2004, during the tenure of the NDA governmentthe need of a national policy was always felt... Contrary to our expectations, it was hardly discussed in press. A seminar to discuss it threadbare was planned by the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) in Hyderabad... however nothing materialized..... Then, in July 2006, under the direction of the UPA government, another Draft was circulated. It was called the Draft of National Tribal Policy (a Policy for the Scheduled Tribes of India). The Draft was available on the Internet the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of the Tribal Affairs requested the readers of the policy documents for their critical observations and comments.... We do not know the kind of response which have so far come to the government, since this information is not available to the public. Barring one short article by B. K. Roy Burman, which appeared in the *Economic and Political Weekly*

(26 August 2006), there are virtually no comments available on the Draft, although it is in circulation for the last six years” (p. 154-155).

Important differences exist between the two versions of the Draft, released at different points of time by different central governments. Professor Vinay Kumar Srivastava in his lengthy article in this volume (pp. 153-202) discusses and analyzes critically the Draft of the two versions on the tribal policy. He finds the second Draft, impressively written, is at least five times larger than the first. He has examined every aspect of the Drafts critically, and elaborates his observations from anthropological point of view, which to some extent differs from government observations and planning.

In Part-II of this volume there are nine articles based on empirical studies. The articles touch upon topics like — Development of PTG community; Displacement; Tradition and change; Health and illness; Educational system; and on Understanding deprivation and poverty among tribals etc. These are general articles but very informative about specific tribes.

This edited volume on ‘Tribes in India’ is an excellent book dealing on the concepts of tribe and tribalism, and the tribal policy of the government. A must read for graduate and research students of anthropology of Indian universities.

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I, Suresh Kumar Jha, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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