

to fill the gap as per the analysis. The author's survey found a big information gap on the modern agricultural practices and policies, programmes and extension services in the State. Nonetheless, one should remember that the researchers, extension specialists, and policy makers are already working for the same from time to time for the agricultural growth.

Overall, the book is unique by studying the dynamics of agriculture with the reforms in the State. The study is highly useful for the researchers and policy makers to make similar analysis to understand the constraints and available opportunities. The future researcher can focus on the incorporation of the benefits on new technologies and how this would improve the agricultural performance in the State and country.

Dr. Krishna Reddy Kakumanu

Socio-Economic Profile of Rural India: Series-III, Volume - 2, Edited by Sucha Singh Gill and Varunendra Vikram Singh, Price : ₹ 1000

The book which is reviewed is a part of a larger series on Socio-Economic Profile of Rural India, which runs into three series, each series comprising volumes focusing on rural development issues of different regions in India. This volume in the series edited by Sucha Singh Gill and Varunendra Vikram Singh focuses on rural development issues of six States; Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana (together) and Bihar. It puts into perspective, the status and achievements of the State in the arena of rural development and identifies potential areas of improvement. An interesting feature of

the book is that, the facts and analysis presented in the book are a combined effort of the authors of individual chapters pertaining to each State and IAS trainee officers who prepared socio-economic assignments. The analytical framework of the contributions to this volume is firmly anchored on the macro and micro level empirical analysis for a decade from 2003 to 2013. The macro level perspective originates from the analysis of official statistics on key indicators of rural development, which is empirically verified at the micro level though data and information collected by field work of IAS trainees.

The book consists of six Chapters, with an introductory Chapter by Sucha Singh Gill that puts into perspective the trajectory of rural development in India over the last seven decades, and reflects the status of that of five States. The introductory Chapter gives a macro view of the various facets of rural development and sketches the regional variations in development achievements of the States under focus. India started its journey as a young nation grappling with the problem of more than fifty per cent of its population in poverty, majority of them living in the rural areas. The efforts towards rural reconstruction of the country were laid on the four pillars of i) land reforms ii) community development programmes iii) co-operative credit societies and iv) public investment in irrigation, flood control and power generation. India's rural development pursuit which began with community development programmes in the 1950s, progressed with intensive agricultural development programmes which resulted in achieving food self-sufficiency through Green Revolution during 1970s. A conscious multipronged strategy to reduce poverty, addressing concerns on health and nutrition, improving rural infrastructure and housing

occupied the development agenda during the 1980s. As the author points out, the last three and half decades witnessed dramatic changes with the economic liberalisation in the 1990s, and the standard of living in rural areas witnessed significant improvement.

The remaining five Chapters focus on the status of rural development and socio-economic status of rural households in individual States, and analyses the social and economic progress in the background of the developments at the national level. The choice of States (Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Kerala and Bihar) for this volume is done in such a manner that it represents various levels and patterns in terms of its development achievements and economic performance. The analytical framework revolves around the performance of various States in terms of achievements in poverty reduction, nature of agrarian relations, employment generation, inequalities in income and asset distribution, social exclusion, issues with respect to financial inclusion, literacy levels, status of sanitation, nutritional levels, health achievements and issues related to gender.

The States of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Kerala and Bihar represent a wide spectrum of socio-economic and developmental achievements in the country. On the one end of the spectrum is the State of Kerala with its high human development achievements comparable with Nordic countries, but facing challenges with respect to its production sector and questions about sustainability of this model in the long run. The other end of the spectrum is the State of Bihar which grapples with long term structural problems reflected in its poor literacy levels, low economic growth, and high levels of malnutrition,

low health status, poor rural infrastructure and weak Panchayati Raj Institutions. The States of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana fall in between, with Maharashtra having high economic growth but facing challenges of regional disparity in economic growth and gender disparities with respect to health and nutritional status; Karnataka also is facing similar challenges but of a lesser degree, the major constraint being poor functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions; Andhra Pradesh and Telangana represent regions with high agricultural growth along with economic growth, but have challenges with respect to addressing issues related to small and marginal farmers, regional disparities and low levels of human development indices. Individual Chapters on each State give a detailed analysis of the achievements, constraints and challenges in the socio-economic development, particularly focusing on rural development.

The Chapter on Maharashtra by S.N. Tripathy brings out the progress of the State in terms of economic growth focused around two or three districts in the State. He also brings out the issue of disparities in economic development between different regions in the State. The districts of Nandurbar, Gadchiroli and Dhule, which have higher share of the deprived groups of the population in the State are lagging behind the rest in terms of literacy levels, nutritional status and health facilities. The most important concern which the author brings out in his analysis is the gender disparity in infant mortality rates and literacy levels in the State, which have implications in the development outcomes. This demands serious attention by administrators and policy makers. A major limitation is the absence of a detailed analysis of the agrarian question

underlying the development pathway of the State, which is crucial to address the challenges of regional disparities and growing inequality. The Chapter on Socio-Economic conditions in Rural Karnataka by Tamanna Maqbool Shah sketches the status and levels of rural development in Karnataka. The author points to the regional disparity in development with respect to Northern and Southern parts of the State, the gender gap in literacy levels with very low female literacy levels, salient features of the performance of agricultural sector and the issue of differential wage rates for men and women. The Chapter on Andhra Pradesh and Telangana by T. Prabhakara Reddy is notable for its analysis of the nature of agrarian relations in the State and its linkages with the development outcomes and the challenges. He brings out the regional differentiations in the nature and pattern of tenancy, skewed access to credit among various categories of cultivators, land alienation among tribals and the development of capitalist farming in different parts of the State. The analysis points out that Self-Help Groups (SHGs) has come out as a potential option towards achieving sustainable development in the rural areas.

Kerala stands apart from the rest of the country in terms of its high human development achievements. C.E. Ajith Kumar analyses how historical efforts in effectively addressing the agrarian question through legislations, policies and programmes and public investment in social and health sectors have made the State achieve such high levels of human development. The analysis also puts forth the challenges that the State is facing in terms of increasing inequality reflecting the national trend, poor performance in agricultural production with implications for food security. There are certain lessons on development pathways which we can learn from

the Kerala experience for achieving sustainable rural development in the rest of the country. However, in a country like India with various types and forms of diversities and regional specificities, each region has to chalk out its own development pathways. Qamar Ahsan gives an incisive analysis of the socio-economic profile of Bihar, clearly identifying its present status with respect to major developmental indicators, areas of backwardness, problems with respect to implementation of programmes and suggested strategies for interventions. The State lags behind the rest of India in terms of rural infrastructure, particularly in terms of road connectivity, electrification, functioning of PRIs, better sanitation and hygiene, health and nutritional status of rural population. Regional disparity in development status between northern part of the State and disparities between Seemanchal, West and Central regions of Bihar is revealing. Equally alarming is the observation about high dropout rates, low literacy levels and poor performance of SHGs in the State. The State needs much more concentrated efforts in rural development to catch up with the rest of the country.

The concluding Chapter by Sucha Singh Gill gives a brilliant summary of the analysis about the rural development scenario of these States, their constraints, challenges and strategies for intervention. They also come up with the elements of a broad strategy that needs to be adopted for bringing rural transformation, and each State and region has to have its own specificities and development concerns integrated to this. The most important element of this strategy is the role of strengthening of PRIs, addressing the agrarian question specific to each region and the necessity of improving rural infrastructure.

This volume of scholarship is a valuable contribution to the understanding of various nuances of socio-economic problems that rural India face, and the strategies to address this through policies and programmes. Students, researchers, policy makers and administrators will find this a useful reference material on macro and micro level perspectives on rural India.

Dr. Surjit Vikraman

Socio-Economic Profile of Rural India (Series – III), Edited by C. Ashokvardhan and Varunendra Vikram Singh, Concept Publishing Company (P) Ltd., New Delhi, Price ₹ 1,600.

This volume is a compilation of State profiles of socio-economic development of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Rajasthan and Punjab by trainee IAS officers as part of their field exposure towards socio-economic development for different sectors focused on education, poverty, food security, unemployment, housing, sanitation, nutrition and health.

The authors have discussed wide scope of the rural socio-economic scenario and have studied growth profile of above said States in various sectors such as agriculture, horticulture, livestock, rural development, employment & skill development, education and health in introduction part of this book. Firstly, from the State paper on Haryana the village reports are in conformity with the overall picture that emerges from the overall analysis of the socio-economic profile of the State. Based on secondary data, Haryana achieved a very impressive growth rate since its formation in 1966. The State government has adopted a number of schemes to develop and strengthen its rural infrastructure. Also, the

State government has claimed to make consistent endeavours to improve the health indicators of the people by implementing & strengthening HBPNC, ASHA and ANM.

Rural society in Punjab is in the process of fast rate of transition. It is showing a fast rate of structural change both in terms of income generation and employment pattern. Punjab economy has been very well integrated into Indian economy both through backward and forward linkages and the process of planned development resulted into a remarkable development in agriculture by becoming pioneer on initiating green revolution. The authors also explained farmers' marketing co-operation issues and challenges in this Punjab State. As far as J&K State profiling, authors studied all aspects of rural development, however the data compiled could have been recent, may be up to 2016.

Socio-economic profile of Rural Rajasthan village study also provided detailed rural development parameters and their impacts followed by various case studies. It was concluded that during last fifty years, Rajasthan rural and agriculture development has credited suitable infrastructure for its development on various plans and programmes. Rural poverty in Rajasthan has been increasing over the time due to population explosion, also witnessed visible betterment in people's standard of living. There have been resource scarcity and natural calamities, but the State is moving towards rural upliftment. Himachal Pradesh profile is well compiled data on rural development aspects by various scheme-utilisation and followed by 10 village case studies.

Finally, the book got summarised on various development aspects such as human and institutional capabilities, agriculture growth core indicators: education, health, gender concerns,