

unusual for Sage Publications) makes it difficult to take a glance and read. Certainly, however, the readers stand to gain from this splendid work.

*Dr. R. Ramesh*

**Rural Livelihoods in India – Issues, Measurement and Policies**, Edited by Biswajit Chatterjee and Asim K. Karmakar, Concept Publishing Company, Price : ₹ 1356.

This book is a basket of collection of 19 different selective articles/chapters by reputed economists of the country as well as by young scholars. These selective articles are distributed into three major sections, viz Conceptual issues, Determinants of Livelihoods and Case Studies with relation to glimpse about the progress and problems of rural livelihoods in India. This edited book is an attempt to capture the various issues of rural livelihoods in India, and the State of West Bengal in particular.

**Section-I : The Conceptual Issues**– Both the editors brought different chapters prepared by various authors mainly focusing on conceptual issues for rural livelihood programmes. The State-specific effects are not robust for all types of relationship postulated as classified into push as well as pull factors. In second chapter author clearly explained that understanding the livelihood system of the poor is crucial to effective poverty reduction. Livelihood of the poor can never be understood in any one-track logic – be it economic, social, technical, cultural and political. An integrated, multi-dimensional and holistic approach to poverty eradication efforts is crucial to preserve and enhance the livelihoods of the poor. Under the chapter “Globalisation and Rural Livelihoods” – the

authors tried to explain through three-sector model (Industrial sector, a non-traded traditional agricultural sector and export-oriented agricultural sector) by adopting General Equilibrium Model to examine effects of globalisation on factor price, income distribution and sectoral composition of output which have profound bearing on rural livelihoods. The fourth chapter of the first section is an assessment of rural development efforts that have been incited in past, recent years in India. However, poverty persists because of limited and equitable access to productive resources. The papers focused on Ninth to Eleventh Plan-wise rural poverty alleviation programmes. In the last chapter under conceptual issues section, the authors attempted to compile information relating to the overall context in which livelihoods, particularly rural livelihoods in India, need to be understood.

**Section-II : Determinants of Livelihoods** - In the first chapter under this section, through field level survey the authors suggested that the organised sector is not employment intensive and organised, self-employment through the formation of sustainable SHGs is the only opportunity to provide for multiple livelihood opportunities in the rural sector especially among the socially and economically disadvantaged groups. The author Debasis Mukopadhyay in his chapter examined the changing faces of rural livelihoods in India and the role of the SHGs which come to the rescue of the poor. In the chapter “Impact of MGNREGA on the Rural Livelihood of West Bengal”, the authors explained through district level study that MGNREGA is the world’s biggest welfare

project that has helped to create community assets and increase income of the rural people and articulates the MGNREGA has a special significance for improvement of rural livelihood in the State of West Bengal. The author Uttam Halder through his study found that the development of rural infrastructure like water harvesting structures through community participation with strong leadership using government development programmes will lead to sustainable cultivation and hence food and livelihood security in drought prone area like Bankur district of West Bengal State. Empowerment of women breaks the vicious circle of food and livelihood insecurity. In the following chapters, the authors argue that the dichotomy of high growth rates and persisting hunger among the Indian population has become an important area of concern to the policy makers. Poulomi Bhattacharya in her chapter explained that India's economic growth includes the rural poor and despite an impressive economic growth, the rural livelihoods persist in poverty and hunger. In this chapter, the author presents a comparative overview of past and present scenarios of rural livelihoods which highlights significance of certain factors required to be focused on. The author delves deep into the fact that not just Growth but Growth with Development-Inclusive Growth-is what should be focused on.

**Section –III: Case Studies** – In this section, seven different authors has brought different case studies in relation to rural livelihoods issues, measurement and policies. The author Mriduchhanda viewed from the perspective of women in connection with rural livelihoods in

India and found that though women play a pivotal role in agriculture, women still dominated both socially and economically even at household level especially in villages. Shipi Majumder in her chapter explored the concept of caste system especially Dalits. Piyali Chartergee explored the existing avenue for generating employment and income in rural area, and also evaluated the rural livelihood scenario in India. In "Disaster- A Menace to Rural Livelihoods via Environmental Hazards" chapter, the author unfolded the monstrous sides of the disaster as a whole with special reference to rural livelihoods and threw some policy framework as it is poor and underprivileged who are worst affected by the calamities and disasters. In the next chapter, the factors responsible for the challenges facing the rural van-rickshaw pullers in earning their livelihoods and possible remedies were captured by the author. As a case study, in the chapter of "Impact of Microfinance through SHG on the livelihoods of rural poor" analysed the socio-economic impact of microfinance through SHG on the livelihood of the rural poor in Nadia district. A case study of Santipur by the authors is an endeavour to assess how far the traditional handloom oriented activities in the district of Nadia, West Bengal have become more effective in reducing poverty and income inequality among the people who are associated with handloom trade. The final case study of "Forest Dependence of Households: A study on Joint Forest Management in the districts of Bankur and Paschim Medinipur in West Bengal" revealed that households in forest fringe area are still very much dependent on forest for their livelihoods and the factors behind such dependence were also analysed.

This edited book argues the need for identifying issues in rural livelihoods, measurement of the progress of different livelihood programmes and required changes in policies for further improvement. It brings out through discussing different case studies for different rural livelihood programmes namely MGNREGA, NRLM, JFM, etc., by gender and class of the rural society on what actually is impacting on rural livelihood issues and determinants for rural poor. This book addresses a series of exceedingly important rural livelihoods issues in India as well as other complicated issues associated with employment and social development and these together provide useful clues towards a critical understanding of the contemporary rural Indian economy.

*Dr. K. Prabhakar*

**Saving Capitalism from the Capitalists-World Capitalism and Global History**

by Hartmut Elsenhans, SAGE Publications, Price : ₹ 995.

This book argues that a lack in perception of the progressive aspects of capitalism has resulted in policy measures that have frequently been defeated. It brings out the importance of capitalism as the promise of being able to attain socialism. Based on modern economics of a post-Keynesian nature, it rejects mechanistic marxism and the civilisational process of cultural turn thinking.

Capitalism is often recognised as a realisation of the bourgeois revolution-war to the castles and peace to the huts. The book is a comprehensive analysis of the origins of

capitalism, its contradictions, the dynamics of non-capitalist societies and the challenges of globalisation (including theories of imperialism).

In the introduction chapter itself the author clearly explained the difference between globalisation and capitalisation. The author tried to explain three different types of capitalist threats like weak capitalist impact, the results of success of capitalism and rise of collective needs on capitalism. The authors touched about serious doubts about capitalism's capacity to have achieved a fundamental transformation in the direction of economic and social equality in non-economic spheres. He made a point that in a fiat money economy, additional savings do not trigger additional employment by fact of increase in demand for it.

The author explained that socialism approach is different to capitalist approach by explaining in economic and social terms. He explained that socialism approach is the appropriation of society by society, the management of each of the different realms of social existence by democratic governance. Under socialism, the market regulation is relativised and consciously embedded. Socialism as the democratic management of society would then be the political complement of capital in the non-economic spheres of collective goods.

The book presents a new approach to utilising Keynesian insights, explaining the social embeddedness of capitalism. Exploring its proneness to periodic cyclical booms and imbalances, it portrays its attendant impact on