

The third section of the book was devoted to "Techno-Political Responses" in regard to controlling the environmental damage and effectiveness of different category of measures.

The fourth section of the publication is devoted to the issues related to Indore city. There were three papers under the section.

The lone paper under the last section on "Environment, Social Concern and Initiative : A Bird's Eye View" by Saroj Yadav basically deals with the components of environment care. The paper points out that emphasis on poverty alleviation, diffusion of information on environment awareness in the society is quite essential.

The last section of the publication consists of gist of papers submitted during the Conference.

In all, the publication provides an opportunity to understand the issues related to environment and social concerns. Though the book has the issue of social concerns, most of the papers published are mostly with the environment issues and emphasis on social concern was quite imbalanced. However, for those who are interested in environment concerns, the book provides new insights.

Dr. G. Rajani Kanth

Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation, Edited by M.J.Chandre Gowda, Concept Publishing Company PVT LTD, New Delhi, ₹ 500.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E) are the two closely associated terms in any project implementation process. Participation is increasingly being recognised as an integral part of the M & E process, since it offers new ways of assessing and learning from change that are more inclusive and more responsive to the needs and aspirations of those most directly affected. Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E) is geared towards not only

measuring the effectiveness of a project, but also towards building ownership and empowering beneficiaries; building accountability and transparency; and taking corrective actions to improve performance and outcomes. Participatory monitoring and evaluation enables the stakeholders to engage in M&E, exchange the contents, the process and the results to take up corrective actions if found any deviations in the implementation process. The four principles of PM&E are Participation, Negotiation, Learning and Flexibility which are very important for realising the expected results of a project. If the monitors and evaluators thoroughly know about these principles and process will help to achieve the objectives of the projects. These elements are properly dealt in this book and it is very much useful for the beginners or first time readers on the topics of PM&E. This book provides a complete package for monitoring and evaluation, covering concepts, tools and methods and case studies to demonstrate the practising of monitoring and evaluation in everyday scenario. The book is a detailed reference material of concepts, approaches and methods related to PME as well as impact assessment. More emphasis is given to Impact Assessment in this publication for importance in understanding why programmes do not reach the people for whom these programmes are meant and fail to achieve the changes aimed at the planning and designing stage. It is also required to know the significance of the changes that have happened amidst the quagmire development scenario projected in most situations.

The suggested tools are for both qualitative i.e. to know 'how and why' of the project implementation and quantitative methods i.e. to know what, who, where, how many, how much of a phenomenon, to test the internal and external validity of the evaluation process. Participatory approaches like Participatory Impact Monitoring and Assessment (PIMA) and Logical Framework

Approach (LFA) have great value for academicians, practitioners and administrators which are systematically dealt in this book. Step-by-step detailing of planning and implementation of Farmers Field School (FFS) and Participatory Technology Development (PTD) is just the right reference material for agricultural development agencies, researchers and students.

The chapter "Monitoring, Evaluation and Impact Assessment" describes the concept of evaluation in great detail. Enumeration of types and stages of evaluation is followed by a brief clarification on levels and degrees of evaluation. Chapter on 'Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA)' delves at length on the widespread anomalies in the poverty impact measurement methodologies and the significance of the new approach introduced by the World Bank, which uses both quantitative and qualitative methods. The chapter containing a case study on impact evaluation using participatory tools like matrix analysis, time-line analysis and spider web diagrams reiterates the simple yet tremendous utility of such tools for both ordinary audiences and first-time evaluators.

The Participatory Impact Monitoring and Assessment (PIMA) elaborates the need for emphasising impact assessment and the same to be done on a participatory basis. It also insists that, despite the increasing number and sophistication of management tools and methodologies, monitoring the impacts of development efforts continue to be a complex and neglected task. The possible reasons for such neglect, the operation definition of PIMA, its objectives, and clearly identifying the indicators for impact assessment, with appropriate examples, provide enough safeguards for a beginner. The difference between log frame and Logical Framework Approach and the details on the basic principles – a concise and a stand-alone log frame designed with the participation of

beneficiaries and its use in monitoring and evaluation – set the tone for further elaboration of the approach. The chapter on Farmers Field School (FFS), an established participatory method for effective learning, explains FFS as a non-formal and learner-centred educational process. The chapter on grounded theory tries to score a point for the less-used, but highly potential theory-based evaluation, particularly for the people involved in programme implementation but are perplexed to know what is or is not working and why. It not only distinguishes between substantive and formal theories, but also tells the readers the way the grounded theory benefits from both the theories. The book provides a complete package for monitoring and evaluation for the programme implementers who are perplexed to know what is or is not working and why, the Grounded theory may show the way.

Dr. R.Chinnadurai

Economic Analysis of Institutions : A Practical Guide, by V. Santhakumar, Sage Publishers, New Delhi.

The book claims to provide case studies based tool kit to help readers analyse institutional changes, reforms and efforts to improve governance in India. The author applies the concepts of new institutional economics to a number of real world problems and public policy relevant derived from eight case studies involving issues of environment and natural resources, higher education, international migration, agricultural research, reformation of electricity and water supply institutional framework, etc., for developing economies like India.

The first part of the book provides succinct summary of the relevant theoretical insights of 'New Institutional Economics' which was popular in the nineties. The author concerned about the functioning of the various institutions based on practical