

influence each other. However the three components can be independent of each other. In the garb of the understanding the major revelations of the study are that in the long run, demand gains least importance in the fixed investment decisions and financial considerations outweigh demand factors. The results thus indicate that investment and external financing decisions are not influenced by and at the same time do not influence dividend policies. Thus, in the disbursement of profits, decisions on dividend remain autonomous and therefore, business savings are residual in character. In short demand for external finance is inversely related to internal source of financing. Fixed and inventory investment expenditures have significantly influenced external financing. The inference of the study is that firms do not follow stable dividend policies and external finance is preferred to internal finance in the long run in Indian sugar industry. The book has thus presented some interesting conclusions which may come handy to the industrialists in the field.

On the contrary, the sketch of the book however does not delineate a model for an enterprise which is non-governmental in nature. The book by and large gives the contours of investment behaviour, dividend policy and external financing grouping data from few of the Non-Governmental based Sugar Industries. A draft of an optimal model based on the mathematical simulations applicable for a small time entrepreneur was an expectation of the reader which would have gone a long way by offering a model through policy suggestions.

Though a small study, the book establishes the objectives of the study comprehensively and a must read for an entrepreneur in the field as it provides insights into the investment patterns that will be followed, the demand factors, dividend policies and investment and required outlays on external finance on a scientific platform in the enterprise.

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**Agrarian Distress and Farmers' Suicides in India** by M. Yadagira Charyulu, Serials Publication, 2013, Pages 312, Price ₹ 1295.

Agriculture is a tradition, pride and a way of life for many rural households in India. It is the core sector providing basic livelihood to a significant proportion of the population, particularly of rural areas. The art of agriculture has shaped the thought, the outlook and the process of socio-economic development of the country. It is still the backbone to the Indian economy on many fronts. Its impact on overall GDP, poverty eradication and particularly food security is very vital. The agriculture sector in India embodied with changing agrarian relations from time to time with political and economic structure of the country.

The British rule in India through the agency of the East India Company led to the most vibrant changes in the way of life of Indian society. The most striking of these changes was the disintegration of the older structure of the rural community partly as a result of new land revenue system introduced by the British and partly as a result of spurt of the commercialisation of agriculture in the nineteenth century.

To feed over a 120 million population with 232 million tonnes of foodgrains from 178 million hectares of potential irrigation area (for that matter not of this entirely irrigated) is a herculean task. The excess dependency on agriculture on one side and a sharp shrink in growth of productive employment along with overall employment is adding more and more pressure on existing landholdings.

The impact of climate change will be one of the major deciding factors influencing the future food security of mankind. Agriculture is not only sensitive to climate change but, at the same time, is one of the promoters of climate change. Understanding the weather changes over a period of time and adjusting the agricultural practices towards higher yield and growth rate is a bigger challenge to the agrarian economies across the world.

Yadagira Charyulu's book is an attempt to probe with a strong theoretical framework propounded by great scholars with grassroot perspective but ill-planned field study. The book is divided into six chapters. The first chapter introduces the conceptual framework and genesis of the agrarian issues and methodology adopted for the study and profile of the study area. The second chapter deals with Agrarian Situation in India. It is highly based on both theoretical and statistical strengths. It elaborates on how the Indian Agriculture has shaped into present context with many parameters like land use pattern, irrigation, input usage and costs, minimum support price and related issues, public investment in agriculture and Gross capital formation in agriculture and indebtedness.

The third chapter is an attempt to discuss the status of agriculture in Andhra Pradesh, which led the State into crisis prone farmers' suicides. The land use pattern, monsoon impacts, drought effects, cropping pattern scenario, input use related problems, challenges in irrigation, capital formation and investment trends in agriculture, incidence of indebtedness were partially analysed.

The fourth chapter deals with conceptual presentation of suicidal behaviour in general and among farmers in particular. He tried to present the farmer suicide phenomena across the world with special focus on India with State-wise suicide patterns with particular reference to Andhra Pradesh based on NCRB reports.

The fifth chapter, based on probably his so called field study results failed to encompass the grassroot situation prevailing in the State in agriculture sector. The suicide behaviours, the socio-economic conditions of the deceased farm families, their previous and present living conditions were examined and assessed with a number of parameters which may not be significant.

The sixth and final chapter presents policy perspectives to address farmers' suicides by trying to focus arbitrarily on corrective measures and interventions to set right the various factors that have caused the agrarian crisis based on recommendations of National Commission on Farmers, Expert Group on Agricultural Indebtedness, IGIDR study team, Centre for Human Rights and Global Justice, Commission on Farmers' Welfare and so on.

The author claims that the book is the outcome of the final report of field study results of his Major Research Project and that structured questionnaire was administered for eliciting the information. However, the findings are very generic and are like statements. It would have been more appropriate if a copy of the questionnaires have been appended for more easy understanding of the findings. Overall the explanations are superficial and the language is poor with so many grammatical mistakes.

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