

BOOK REVIEWS

Irrigated Agriculture and Social Change: Evidence from Village Studies by Prof. Bishnu C. Barik, Vikas Publishing House Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, 2013, Price : ₹ 295.

During India's Green Revolution period, few selected States showed keen interest in adopting seeds of High Yielding Varieties (HYV), modern tools and technology for improving the productivity and production of foodgrains. First few Five Year Plans focused on agriculture development by creating irrigation facilities such as construction of large and medium irrigation dams, construction of canals to reach water to the villages through which farmers cultivate crops and protect food security. In this process, certain villages enjoyed irrigation facilities through canal irrigation and some villages started exploiting groundwater by digging wells and bore wells. Another category of villages wholly depended on monsoons only. To capture the village dynamics across these broad typologies, several village studies have been carried out in India.

The book under review has been divided into eight chapters such as (i) Review of Literature: Towards a Theoretical Framework, (ii) Political Economy of Nanded District, (iii) Method and Formulation of the Study, (iv) Development of Irrigation, (v) Studied Villages, (vi) Production Process, (vii) Political Structure, and (viii) Irrigation and Poverty. One of the special features of this book is the exhaustive review of literature on "village studies" and "impact of irrigation and social change".

The author who is an eminent social scientist drafted the chapters very systematically which depicts theory intermingled with field reality (survey results). Though there are several studies on impact of irrigation and social change, this study stands out unique because of the variety of variables chosen for examination. The uniqueness of this book is to compile studies as

many as possible to highlight the importance of this subject. To mention few (i) S.C. Dube (Indian village), D.N. Majumdar (Rural Profiles), Mc Kim Marriott (Village India), M.N. Srinivas (India's Villages), Oscar Lewis (Village Life in Northern India), V. Dandekar (Study of Sugaon Village in Satara District of Maharashtra), A.B. Hiramani (Social Change in Rural India), T. Epstein (Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow), Krishna Murthy (Influence of Mettur Irrigation), Gurjeet Singh & Swaran Singh (Impact of Bhakranangal Dam on Irrigation), V.V. Borkar and M.D. Padhye (Socio-Economic conditions in command area of Purna Project in Marathwada), Divakar Jha (Direct and Indirect Benefits of Irrigation under Tribeni canal on Gandak river in Chaparam district of Bihar), Khan and Tripathy (West Godavari district of AP), Abdul Aziz (Hurisikote of Kolar district of Karnataka), G.P. Misra (Bellary district of Karnataka), R. Patil (Socio-economic conditions of farmers in the Ghod command area in Maharashtra), M. Bhattarai and N. Moorthy (Impact of Irrigation in India at regional and national level), Anand Chakravarti (Agrarian class relations), G.R. Sahay (Nature of Social formation in rural Bihar), Singh and Kaur (Study in Amritsar, Jalandhar and Sangrur districts in Punjab) to mention a few.

Interesting issues such as (i) Modes of Production Relations; (ii) Political Economy of the Area (Nanded); (iii) Development of Irrigation in Marathwada; (iv) Caste and Spatial Segregation; (v) Caste and Class Interrelations; (vi) Caste, Class and Land Ownership; (vii) Caste, Class and Sharecropping; (viii) Use of Agricultural Inputs; (ix) Class and Hiring services; (x) Caste, Class and Exchange of Labour; (xi) Women and Agricultural Production; (xii) Caste, Class and Income; and (xiii) In-and-out Migration, have been dealt in great detail.

The author tried to prove time and again tested hypothesis that irrigated areas have facilitated for better socio-economic

development, better education, better communication, better income, better exposure, less out-migration than unirrigated areas. It is also proved that better irrigation facilities tend to dominate certain segments of the farming community in the village political issues and discriminate lower castes on purity and pollution aspects.

The book is very useful to the scholars particularly young scholars as to how to carry out research study, prepare review of literature and present data and findings. The author has shown skills of social science discipline and showed excellent academic pursuit.

Dr. K. Suman Chandra

Issues and Perspectives in Anthropology Today, Edited by R.Siva Prasad and Eswarappa Kasi, Serials Publications, 2013, Price : ₹ 995 pp.264.

Anthropology is multi-dimensional in its approach and embraces the multiplex human events centralised on the bio-genetic as well as socio-cultural perspectives. 'Anthropology Today' is a conglomeration of different notions and ideas, which are inherent in the changing nature of the disciplines across the places.

The theme of the special issue of 'Man in India' (January-June 2009) was 'Issues and Perspectives in Anthropology Today'. The special issue covers broad themes from theory to empirical understandings of the discipline. This book is an extension of the special issue of 'Man in India' on 'Anthropological Perspectives'. Those papers which could not be included in the special issue are brought together and they became part of the current book.

In this book, diversified socio-economic, religio-cultural, ethno-political, eco-environmental as well as bio-psychical pattern and perspectives that have influenced the human society as a whole and which have molded the thought-patterns and action

orientation of the people in the different cultural levels have been explored. Altogether nineteen papers have been included in the book. Different papers emphasise on various trends of human behaviour in the different geo-environmental, socio-political and ritualistic settings. Some of the papers focus on the nutritional problems, health culture, human group identity formation, ageing and globalisation.

The paper on migration brings out how migrants make place in host communities by inscribing these places with parts of their culture. Data are drawn from fieldwork carried out among migrants from Karnataka. The paper on health sector reform policy discusses about the cultural issue of health care seeking behaviour in Bangladesh. It discusses how social structures particularly people's beliefs, perceptions and attitudes on illness influence the primary health care seeking behaviour.

In another paper, the concept of nutrition transition has been used to explain the shift away from a diet high in fibre and common carbohydrates towards more energy-dense diets that are high in sugars, refilled foods, and saturated animal fats as well as a move towards a more sedentary lifestyle. The paper on ageing brings out how the societal- familial and economic problems of older people vary from culture to culture, society to society. It discusses how as a result of different expectations, values, cultures and socio-economic background, the older members of a tribal group experience the life cycle in a different way than the mainstream culture.

In yet another paper, the impact of drought on the economy, ecology and culture in a tribal social setting is discussed by establishing the interrelationship among them and finds that drought not only affects the economic conditions of the people and causes degradation of natural resources but also vividly influences their socio-cultural practices. In another paper the