

expenditure) by using step-wise regression analysis. She found that the eight variables together influenced about 24 per cent of variation in the dependent variable (PARM) based on the value of coefficient of multiple determination (R^2).

In the eighth chapter, the author could find seven factors out of eighteen independent factors that influenced the women empowerment by using step-wise Regression Analysis. She also found that the seven variables together influenced about 30 per cent of variation in the dependent variable (PARM) based on the value of coefficient of multiple determination (R^2). Further, she found that influence of all seven independent variables is statistically significant by using F test and he identified the importance of the independent variables based on values of regression coefficients and their 't' values.

In the concluding chapter, the author summarised that women's income and PARM is higher than the women's income and GEDM using the chi-square value. According to the author, the relation between PARM and empowerment is relatively stronger than the relation between GEDM and empowerment and hence PARM excels over GEDM due to higher share in the total income of the family, the total expenditure of the family, total savings of the family. The author also found that the correlation between education and empowerment is relatively stronger than the correlation between employment and empowerment. The author also found by using the regression co-efficient and using its 't' value that levels of education are the more dominating factors in deciding the PARM and account holder decides the GEDM in the family.

This study will be of interest and also serve as model for policy framework on 'Women Empowerment' considering various aspects and parameters of GEDM and PARM. It is also very useful for giving more

concentration to spend the Government Expenditure especially on different levels of Education and Employment to achieve the women empowerment considering the other aspects which also influence the women empowerment. Except some continuous repetitions, the author had found the variables that influence the GEDM and PARM to achieve the Empowerment of Women with appropriate and suitable statistical tools.

– Dr. Y. Gangi Reddy

Socio-Economic Scenario of the North East India, by :R.K.Das Choudhury, Published in 2013 by Concept Publishing Company (P) Ltd. New Delhi, Pages 392, Price : ₹1200.

Creating or developing new knowledge is one of the primary goals of any research. At the same time, all knowledge development may not be the same but it has different stages that are typically generated by its ethnic nature. Most of the scholars and institutes, have discussed knowledge development stages relating to the types of (research) objectives and end outcome that grantees are expected to pursue. Generally, research begins with significant discoveries and moves through theory, measure, and method development, ultimately to enable the development of effective new and improved interventions, products and services, and environmental adaptations. In this context, this book is a new device or technique for improving the knowledge.

The stages of knowledge development are multi-dimensional phenomenon that are interrelated. Some of its major dimensions include : the level of economic growth, level of education, level of health services, degree of modernisation, status of women, level of nutrition, quality of housing, distribution of goods and services, and access to communication. In India, the progress of socio-economic development among major states

is not uniform. This book examines the existing variability of inter-state development thereby identifying the indicators responsible for the diversity in development. Instead of studying a particular variable across states, a composite index based on several indicators has been developed using principal component analysis and states are arranged according to indices derived using all accepted components/scenarios viz. (a) Geographical, (b) Demographic conditions, (c) Land use pattern (e) Communication (d) Education system (e) Health and Family welfare (f) Power and Energy situations (g) Industrial status and its progress (h) Tourism development (i) Employment scenario (j) Economic development and (k) Human Resource Development in the entire North Eastern Region of India.

The findings of the analysis support the general perception about the seven North Eastern States of India. These states are marked with wide disparity in socio-economic development. The factors, which are found out to be more important for overall development process, relate to basic needs like electricity, education, availability of food, minimum purchasing power, and facilities like drinking water, health care infrastructure etc. It is also found that enrolment ratio cannot be raised unless minimum needs of the common people are satisfied. Therefore, true development requires government action to improve elementary education, safe drinking water facilities and health care, and remove barriers against social minorities, especially women. The role of social development such as literacy, particularly female literacy, in promoting basic capabilities emerges as the prerequisite to overall economic development. These results clearly emphasise the role of well-functioning public actions in improving overall living conditions of the people.

The natural resources are considered as one of the most important pillars of sustainable development, providing raw material and energy inputs without which production and consumption would be highly impossible. The present discourse of this book elaborates the need for establishing the sustainable development process at the various considerations – social, economic, political and environmental etc. particularly, the authors viewed that Common Property Resources, which are by and large natural resources must be protected and enriched for overall growth of the rural areas.

There are fifteen chapters covering the aforementioned states in the North East India that stringed-up elaborately to discuss the basic concepts of sustainability and the evolutionary perspectives of sustainable development in every selected state. The author generally discusses about the overall history and tradition of the people, geography and demographic conditions, literacy and approaches, their economic profile, necessary conditions for sustainability, resource and culture, exquisite and industrious nature, natural resources, its relations and utility, principles of resource advocacy, resource and environmental accounting etc. pertaining to both rural and urban resource environments etc. He also analyses administrative set up, educational infrastructure, panchayat raj system, and role of rural development schemes based on the results of his data collected in all the seven states. While explaining the challenges for development, the author probes food security measures, and administrative reforms, role of governance in development administration and impact of new technology in environment management and so on.

In each and every chapter, the author, by covering various aspects of conserving the resource base through the elements involved in the whole gamut of those activities

encompass the role of an agronomist, irrigation engineer, a scientist, a cooperative expert, an economist and a social scientist. The strategy adopted in the book is to set up a self-sustained development authority with an area of jurisdiction equal to the mainland India and make it responsible for bringing about this transformation even to modern agriculture. The production and destruction of resources are the two extreme points and in between these two the second one takes several forms in order to serve mankind.

Overall, the history of forest dwellers, resources and approaches for ecosystem were analysed based on the problems and distribution of forest type and its products that necessitate the conservation of forest for both national as well as global context. The author stresses the need for prevention of water resources by elaborating the existing status and problems in the irrigation systems and reservoirs. The author has not forgotten to analyse the impacts of urbanisation and industrialisation that cause damage to sustainable development of the region in his book. He also cautions the distribution of industry which not only pollutes the environment but also carnage the rural livelihoods. The author also discusses road and transport infrastructure that includes railways, waterways and surface transport systems and prescribed some policy initiatives for future endeavour.

Though data used are obsolete, this book presents obvious ideas for conservation and management of resources and presenting analysis of the various elements involved in integrated development of resources and resource systems that subject specialist, researcher, planner and policy maker will find this book interesting and useful.

– Dr. R. Murugesan

Technology and Rural India, Edited by : S. V. Prabhath and P. Ch. Sita Devi, Published in 2012 by Global Research Publications, New Delhi, Pages 274, Price : ₹350.

Science and technology are often hyphenated and spoken of in the same breadth. One would, however, like to differentiate the two. Technology generally (though not always) derives and draws from science, and often manifests itself in physical form — for example, as a piece of hardware. Science, on the other hand, is knowledge. In rural India, there is a dire inadequacy of both. Agriculture is the backbone of the rural economy that provides marginal subsistence to most of the country's population. Crop yields are far lower than what they are in demonstration farms, where science and technology are more fully applied. The scope to apply technology to both farm and non-farm activities in rural areas are huge, as are the potential benefits. Hence, it is time for technology to play its role in transforming rural India.

It is an acceptable fact that rural India faces a severe technology deficit. While serious shortages persist towards subjects like education, electricity, water, health facilities, roads etc., these are known and recognised by the public. However, the role of technology in solving these and/or other problems is but barely acknowledged, and the actual availability of technology in rural areas, at best, is marginal. The so-called digital divide is widely spoken and written about; the technology divide is hardly mentioned. Yet, this disparity is arguably more important, as it has far greater impact.

The progress of technology and development, irrespective of whether rural or urban areas, among Indian states is not uniform. This book 'Technology and Rural India'