

examines the existing variability of rural technology and its path of development, thereby identifying the factors responsible for appropriate use and application of different technologies at the grassroots level. Keeping in view viability of technology across the fields, a composite index of appropriate technologies was discussed in the book based on five broadly accepted sections like a) Technology and Integrated Rural Development; b) Technology in improving rural Infrastructure; c) Technology for Service Industry vis-à-vis Rural Sector d) Transfer of Technology to the Rural Sector and e) Appropriate Rural Technology and Prototypes. The overall findings of the analysis support the general perception and application of resourceful technologies for rural development across the nation.

Rural technologies are considered as one of the most important pillars of sustainable development. The present discourse of this book, a compilation of articles written by technocrats, academicians, researchers and practitioners in their respective field of expertise, elaborates the need for establishing the sustainable technological development process at the various considerations – social, economic, political and environmental etc. Particularly, the authors viewed that access for technology and resources, which are by and large, must be ensured and protected for overall growth of the rural areas. Such effort will not only lead to optimum utilisation of resources but also generate more employment opportunities for the rural people.

The contributors of articles explained about the challenges for technology development, security measures, administrative reforms and role of governance in development administration, impact of appropriate and new technology in environment management and so on. They also provided suggestive measures to develop alternative, appropriate technologies for the

inclusive rural development. Further, the history of technology, resources and approaches for energy and ecosystem were also analysed based on the problems and distribution of type and its products necessitating the conservation of energy for both national as well as global context.

Obviously, this book presents brilliant ideas for all sections of stakeholders, users and institutions involved in transfer of technologies from lab to land. This also helps in focusing much better in tackling pertinent issues relating to conservation of technologies and management of resources and presenting analysis of various elements involved in integrated development of technology and resource systems that subject specialist, researcher, planner and policy maker will find this book interesting and useful.

– Dr. R. Murugesan

Empowerment of Indian Muslims: Perspectives, Planning and Road Ahead Ed. By Mirza Asmer Beg & A. R. Kidwai. Concept Publishing Company Pvt. Ltd., Pages – i– xvi and 173, Price ₹ 550.

The book is the outcome of the research papers presented at the Heads of Departments meet organised at UGC Academic Staff College of Aligarh Muslim University. Altogether 14 papers were included in this volume focusing on the development needs of the Muslims in India. Almost all the papers emphasised the need for development of education among the Muslims. Hamida Ahmad in her (first) chapter on 'Empowerment of Muslims through Quality Education' opines that Muslims being the largest minority community of the country lag behind pathetically in education so her suggestion is 'must set high targets in this sphere'. Rais Ahmed in his paper suggested that by setting up of Education Trust, poor Muslim children can be imparted quality

education. The third chapter by Aftab Alam citing verse from Quran has highlighted importance of education. While advocating development of Muslim community Mirza Asmer Beg *inter alia*, suggested that for higher education and professional courses interest-free loans may be extended to the students. C.P.S. Chauhan in his paper brought out a shocking finding which reveals that at elementary level enrolment percentage of Muslim boys is less than Muslim girls which should be addressed after doing a thorough research study. A.R. Kidwai suggested that urgent need is required to revitalise Degree Colleges managed by Muslims so that students get quality education. Mohd Muzammil in his paper extended few suggestions *inter alia* of which are in the 12th Plan for empowering Muslims, a national and sub-national Muslim Empowerment Measure (MEM) may be developed focusing on three criteria viz., economic empowerment, professional empowerment and political empowerment. Raashid Nehal in his paper focusing on Muslim concentrated districts of UP & Bihar argued that education in *Madarsas* has to be improved thoroughly. Further, quality education supported with essential teaching and learning resources/ facilities are *sine qua non*. Empowering of Muslims by extending opportunities like access to education, employment, representation in politics etc., are the main suggestions of Md. Zafar Mahfooz Nomani in his chapter. However while analysing his statements in many contexts he refereed old data so in future he may look into this. M. Shabbir argues that holistic vision is *sine qua non* for the development of Muslims in the 12th Plan. According to the author, the word "Minority" has to be defined by the Parliament by amending Article 29 to end conflicting decisions of judiciary. He further opines that in army, paramilitary and police forces proportionate representation of Muslims may be made mandatory.

While discussing issues related to education of Muslims, Parvaiz Talib argues that with education *vis-a-vis* with skill development, economic condition for all Muslims can be improved. In this context his experience towards development of children by setting up of community colleges in Tamil Nadu has been referred which he feels may be replicated in other parts of the country. Abdul Waheed in his paper 'Educational Empowerment of Minorities in Twelfth Five Year Plan' although used the word 'Minorities' has specifically suggested to promote Urdu in the country. He argues that this can be attained by appointing quality teachers in different schools as laid down in POA 1992 as well as Prime Minister's 15-Point Programme and further recommendations of PM's High Level Committee for promotion of Urdu. The chapter-13 based on micro level study carried out by Abdul Haleem Kidwai at Govandi in Mumbai areas has come to the conclusion that by considering indicators like housing, health, water, sewage system and garbage disposal, empowerment, education, economic status and access to credit, Muslims in the study area are deprived of. In view of this, steps should be taken to invigorate their development by extending these facilities. Maulana Mohammad Fazlur Rahim Mujaddidi while discussing Muslims' expectations from the 12th Plan' in chapter-14 opines that for the total development of Muslims 'top most' priority should be given for their educational development and to achieve the same, of the total budget (meant for minorities) minimum 75 per cent should be earmarked for education.

The volume will be useful to academicians, planners, policy makers and also those who are interested to get an idea about the issues related to minorities in general and Muslims in particular.

– Dr. Shankar Chatterjee