

Since SHGs have improved their status in household matters and also financially, an equal number of respondent beneficiaries expressed their satisfaction with the implementation of SHG but on the other hand, it is also seen that equal number of respondent women were not satisfied with the training imparted to them.

Seventh chapter provides summary of findings and conclusions of the empirical study. Besides, it also puts forward some suggestions for the effective role that SHG programme can play in the economic empowerment and improvement of the quality of life of the poor/low-income rural women.

*Dr. Gyanmudra*

**Socio-economic Profile Of Rural India : Series-II; Volume Two; North-East India**, Edited by Prof. S C Patra and Ashish Vachani, IAS, Concept Publishing Company (P) Ltd. New Delhi, Pages 309, Price : ₹800.

Development is a multi-dimensional phenomenon. 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, access to communication etc. The progress of socio-economic development among all the states in India is not uniform. This book examines the existing socio-economic conditions of selected States of North East India development and thereby identifying the indicators responsible for the diversity in development.

By using several indicators, the authors derived good indices for broadly accepted components such as social, cultural, economic condition, resource management, and heritage system of the people. The findings of the analysis in the book support the general perception about the North Eastern States in India that 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 education, availability of food, minimum purchasing power, and facilities like drinking water, health care infrastructure etc.

Sustainable Development is nothing but management and conservation of natural resource base along with the orientation of technological and institutional changes in such a manner as to ensure the attainment and continued satisfaction of number of people's needs for present and future generation. 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 selected States. Such efforts will not only lead to optimum utilisation of resources but also generate more employment opportunities for the rural people.

In the introductory chapter, authors briefed about the overview on the entire north eastern region. The authors by covering various aspects of conserving the natural 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.

This book throws light on the forest and agricultural resources in the four major States viz., Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura. The production and destruction of resources are the two extreme points and in between these two the cultivation takes several forms in order to serve tribal mankind. This publication highlights some of the natural resources and their systems in relation to a tribe who plays a vital role in shaping and utilising different kinds of resources, as spatial linkages on economic, social and political grounds.

There are four status papers covering the said states in the north east India, and stringed-up elaborately to discuss the basic concepts of sustainability and the evolutionary perspectives of sustainable development in the selected states.

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 necessitating the conservation of forest in the context of North East India. The portion of the book explains the agricultural resources and process of land utilisation, agricultural holdings and its situation, cropping pattern and product marketing of both agro and agri-based product cycles. The authors stress the need for prevention of water resources by elaborating the existing status and problems in the irrigation systems and reservoirs too.

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

*Dr. R. Murugesan*

**Environment and Social Concerns,**  
Edited by Venu Trivedi and VK Shrivastava,  
Concept Publishing Company Pvt. Ltd. New  
Delhi – 110059, 2011.

Environment and issues associated with it are garnering tremendous amount of attention in the recent past. The global concern for environment was emanated due to destructive path of development processes without caring for future generations and greed for present day development. As a result, the environment issues were totally neglected leading to severe depletion of natural resources causing alarm throughout the world.

However, the publication assumes greater attention since it also deals with the social concerns while caring for the environment. As the social concerns do play vital role in ensuring environment, the book devoted much on social concerns related to environment. In fact, the publication was an outcome of Conference on "Environment Problems and Initiatives" held at Indore in the year 2007.

The book is a compilation of 22 papers presented in the Conference spread over five sections. The first section on Social Concerns consists of four papers, the second section on Dimensions of Environmental Problems 11 papers, the third section on Techno-political Responses consists of 3 papers, the fourth section was devoted to Focus on Indore City and Its Environment consists of 3 papers and the last section on Public Image consists of only one paper. Thus, the bulk of the papers were devoted to environmental concerns, perhaps due to the very prime issue of environment. The book also consists of English version of abstracts of 15 papers submitted in Hindi and recommendations thereof.

The papers submitted on different themes were preceded by write-up by the authors in the form of Introduction chapter dealing with various issues associated with environment and social concerns at national and global perspectives.

Though the four papers presented under the section may not deal with wide gamut of issues, yet the section provides a bird's eye view of importance of social issues in protecting the environment.

To sum up, all the papers under the section dealt micro-level issues that are directly related to causes of environmental pollution. Most of the papers in the section were good sources of micro-level issues but they are not exhaustive in nature to capture the comprehensive issues.