

Approach (LFA) have great value for academicians, practitioners and administrators which are systematically dealt in this book. Step-by-step detailing of planning and implementation of Farmers Field School (FFS) and Participatory Technology Development (PTD) is just the right reference material for agricultural development agencies, researchers and students.

The chapter "Monitoring, Evaluation and Impact Assessment" describes the concept of evaluation in great detail. Enumeration of types and stages of evaluation is followed by a brief clarification on levels and degrees of evaluation. Chapter on 'Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA)' delves at length on the widespread anomalies in the poverty impact measurement methodologies and the significance of the new approach introduced by the World Bank, which uses both quantitative and qualitative methods. The chapter containing a case study on impact evaluation using participatory tools like matrix analysis, time-line analysis and spider web diagrams reiterates the simple yet tremendous utility of such tools for both ordinary audiences and first-time evaluators.

The Participatory Impact Monitoring and Assessment (PIMA) elaborates the need for emphasising impact assessment and the same to be done on a participatory basis. It also insists that, despite the increasing number and sophistication of management tools and methodologies, monitoring the impacts of development efforts continue to be a complex and neglected task. The possible reasons for such neglect, the operation definition of PIMA, its objectives, and clearly identifying the indicators for impact assessment, with appropriate examples, provide enough safeguards for a beginner. The difference between log frame and Logical Framework Approach and the details on the basic principles – a concise and a stand-alone log frame designed with the participation of

beneficiaries and its use in monitoring and evaluation – set the tone for further elaboration of the approach. The chapter on Farmers Field School (FFS), an established participatory method for effective learning, explains FFS as a non-formal and learner-centred educational process. The chapter on grounded theory tries to score a point for the less-used, but highly potential theory-based evaluation, particularly for the people involved in programme implementation but are perplexed to know what is or is not working and why. It not only distinguishes between substantive and formal theories, but also tells the readers the way the grounded theory benefits from both the theories. The book provides a complete package for monitoring and evaluation for the programme implementers who are perplexed to know what is or is not working and why, the Grounded theory may show the way.

Dr. R.Chinnadurai

Economic Analysis of Institutions : A Practical Guide, by V. Santhakumar, Sage Publishers, New Delhi.

The book claims to provide case studies based tool kit to help readers analyse institutional changes, reforms and efforts to improve governance in India. The author applies the concepts of new institutional economics to a number of real world problems and public policy relevant derived from eight case studies involving issues of environment and natural resources, higher education, international migration, agricultural research, reformation of electricity and water supply institutional framework, etc., for developing economies like India.

The first part of the book provides succinct summary of the relevant theoretical insights of 'New Institutional Economics' which was popular in the nineties. The author concerned about the functioning of the various institutions based on practical

experiences and as policy analysis and addresses basics of institutions like their need, nature, rules and efficiency and inefficiency. The second part is the application of these basics to eight institutions as cases to emphasise that institutional economics merits strong base in public economics.

The chapter on self-financing colleges deals with the whole gamut of issues from quality of higher education, accessibility to the poor students, use of public resources and government intervention in terms of policy and resource allocation. The author feels that greater part of the problems in higher education lies in the inability of the government to sustain quality education and at the same time making it possible for poor students to have access to these institutions.

Decentralisation of services like drinking water has been the concern of both national and sub-national governments. The chapter on public water supply deals with desirability of transferring the responsibility of water supply to city governments though constitution mandates it. After analysing the role of different actors, the author demarcates most of the activities to city governments except water-charge collection to private firms and planning and design to state governments.

The chapter on the management of forests deals with the different aspects of public ownership and its impact on society. In India, the institutional inability to enforce more flexible rules encourages the adoption of restrictive practices.

The appropriateness of institutions, private or public, that support agricultural research has been debated based on the historical experiences. While dealing with market failures of production research, public institutions are set up and in turn they were affected by problems of ineffectiveness. This is addressed by bringing in citizen participation. However, in recent times private players are

interested in areas like bio-technology and the rest of areas are left to public agencies only.

In the present situation of increasing globalisation, it is bound to emerge issues of emigration and immigration. The advantages and disadvantages of emigration and immigration depend on issues related to the interest of governments and citizens. The basic concern is for jobs in other countries which may constitute brain drain or earning money for the country. Different instruments are evolved for regulating emigration and migration depends on the situation. The author feels that there is an economic rationale for not allowing many immigrants even though their entry can be beneficial for the citizens of the developed world.

Many regulatory commissions have been in existence including in India, to deal with electricity distribution and efficient recovery of its costs. Despite regulators fixing tariff which are to meet the cost of production and distribution, government intervention in this matter based on social demand make the independent regulation ineffective.

The basic issues of fisheries in India are related to fishing by traditional fishermen and mechanised trawlers. Excessive fishing in shallow or territorial waters lead to depletion in common resources which in turn ultimately affects not only the traditional fishermen immediately but also mechanised trawlers in the long run. While traditional fishermen argue for community rights for long term sustainable use of commons and other section is against regulations and cite the plight of their employees and their contribution to the economy. The author suggests for alternative institutional framework which is to address contesting concerns and calls for approach of community based transferrable quota system to address the problems of traditional fishery.

Recent times witnessed many environmental movements in India for

implementing regulation and policies prescribed by the governments. Citizen action against pollution in India, the author feels that it may not resolve the problem in a socially efficient manner as court intervention in some cases may delay the solution and some may take advantage in stopping the establishment industry which wants to establish pollution control systems.

These case studies make good reading for understanding how institutions evolve and

function in the current times. The book would have done better had it dealt with impact of these institutions on use of public goods by ordinary citizens. However, the book is very much relevant in the context of raising awareness among citizens, increasing assertiveness based on the rights of different stakeholders and emphasising on private investments and their role in operating public resources.

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