

where the writer gave detailed description of the only one SEZ presently in principal approved in tourism sector at Himachal Pradesh.

By reading the articles in the book, an individual develops knowledge on the issues related to the SEZs. But there is lot of repetition in the content of the papers as most of the authors analysed the secondary data available in the website of the Ministry of Commerce and Industries. There are very few articles based on empirical studies. In many articles authors focused on problems of land acquisition, challenges that the SEZs face and the benefits that the SEZs get from the Government etc. The editor of the book should have ensured that there is no repetition in the content. Overall it is informative and readability and presentation is good. However, in the overall assessment, this is a good resource book on various aspects pertaining to SEZ and their impact on people. The present volume has great relevance of time to the rural development too.

– Dr. C. Dheeraja

Bureaucracy and Rural Development in Mizoram, by Harendra Sinha, Concept Publishing Company Pvt Ltd, New Delhi-110059, Published 2012, ₹ 700.

The book on Bureaucracy and Rural Development in Mizoram has been a fine addition to the process of governance and related problems in implementation of rural development programmes and schemes.

Though the methodology adopted and the findings recorded do not speak anything new, not revealed till date by other authors, empirical research findings of this kind are very rare these days. Any empirical research per se, based on primary questionnaires and the analysis of data give credence to the subject researched upon.

The book is divided into eight chapters with appendices as addendum. The first six

chapters' viz. (1) Introduction (2) Bureaucracy and Rural Development (3) Democratic Decentralisation in Mizoram (4) Bureaucracy and Rural Development in Mizoram (5) Problems and Prospects of Rural Development in Mizoram (6) Block Level Bureaucracy: Their Role and Responsibilities — are at best a good compilation and collation of existing literature - a typical characteristic of many publications on Indian Research Studies. Herein the reader has the benefits of glancing at a large number of references of books, general articles, web based information on the theme of bureaucracy and rural development. The dichotomous views of writers have hardly been analysed to give credence to the writer's own understanding of the relevance of quoting them.

The cream of the book is placed at chapter eight i.e. "Findings and Suggestions" constituting a meagre thirteen pages, followed by a preparatory ground work in chapter seven i.e. "Assessment of Block Level Bureaucracy". Necessarily these two readings constitute the real interests of any kind to the discernible subject specialist on grassroots governance and related problems in India.

Though the chapter seven is named as "Assessment of Block Level Bureaucracy", there are very few earmarked sentences which make any judgement about the bureaucracy of four blocks (constituting the study area) mentioned above. In a span of nearly four pages (P 182-186), there is hardly a sentence which makes a critical judgement of Lunglei bureaucracy. The author has failed to understand the difference between compilation of facts and figures and making judgement out of the same data. While assessing on bureaucracy of Hanhthial block, statements like development of transport and communication as the most important means in achieving development of this mountainous block-serve no specific purpose when the cause of absence of this is not analysed. Stereotype facts like absence of Extension

Officer at the block level in the districts which are most backward in India serve no purpose without analysing why political will and public pressure at large could not be raised to mitigate the same issue. Specific spatial analysis could have brought out some meaning to the research findings. While assessing about Bunglei block the stereotype sentences like "Rural artisans should be encouraged with marketing facilities" (P.190-191) do not elicit any interest to a genuine researcher. Absence of any banking facility—highlighted by the writer as the only block (i.e. Bunglei) of this type in the country definitely raises the eyebrow of the reader, but cause of the same could have been elicited from the lead district manager Mr. S.K. Bhattacharjee, State Bank of India, Bunglei and could have been recorded in the research findings.

'Neither the snake be killed nor the stick be broken' — the crux of a non-committal bureaucracy has been highlighted again in the data analysis elaborated in Page 196 to 205. Without being answerable or accountable to the omission and commission of one's work as a government servant, it hardly matters whether the villages benefited from the rural development programmes or not, the method of selection of beneficiaries, information dissemination about rural development programmes to the villages, whether or not the grassroots bureaucracy visit the villages. Non-availability of block functionaries in the service of people in motivating and assisting the rural folk is nothing new, though the respondents' percentage may vary from block to block. Role of village level worker (VLW) is equally disheartening in Mizoram which is not a significant departure from the national scenario.

One of the most important findings is about the role of village councils as described in P. 207. In the absence of PR institutions of the all India types, the village councils are held

supreme against the all India guidelines' dictum of putting Gram Sabha as supreme in programmes like IAY. With the personal interviews by the writer of Mr. K. Lalthlamuna, village council president, Thualthu, Bunglei block, it is revealed that in the absence of PRI, people from the urban area frequently made attempts to produce rural residential certificates bribing the Presidents of Village Councils.

The last chapter (i.e. chapter eight—"Findings and Suggestions") speaks about continuous assessment and evaluations of rural development programmes by the independent bodies. The writer also suggests about five per cent out of the rural development funds for research and documentation to provide feedback to decision makers for better implementation, identification of reasons for success and failures and possible modifications. The scant electronic and print media coverage for the issues, problems and prospects for rural development programmes in India by the writer is not true, though this might be of some relevance to Mizoram. After the implementation of MGNREGS, hardly a single day has been missed out when an inquisitive reader didn't find the coverage of a story in any vernacular print media.

The study by the writer reveals that the village councils do not enjoy decision making power as in the case of PR institutions. The absence of an intermediary body at the block level (between the two extremes of district council and village council), makes the block level bureaucracy overriding the council thereby creating a huge gap between district councils and village council.

Lastly with all the limitations as pointed out above, the book by Harendra Sinha is a valuable addition to the understanding of grassroots development functionaries. In infrastructurally backward states like Mizoram, doing a research work of this kind demands

extraordinary labour and patience which makes the reader enthusiastic to read the whole book. The language is very lucid and can be grasped by any common reader. The book will definitely guide the future development functionaries in carrying out assigned tasks more effectively provided they care to take a leaf out of this book.

– Pradip Kumar Nath

Rural Development Administration in India, by N.Sreeramulu, Serials Publications, New Delhi, 2011, pp. 411, ₹ 1495.

The book under review is based on outcome of the doctoral study aimed to investigate rural development administration in India, particularly of the dynamics of development administration in Andhra Pradesh. The author, at large, concentrates on existing development administration system in Andhra Pradesh, PRIs' role in planning and implementation of various rural development programmes, organisation and working pattern of administrative system under the PR at the District, Mandal Parishad and Gram Panchayat levels before and after the introduction of 73rd Constitutional (Amendment) Act in Andhra Pradesh; role of the development functionaries and the procedures for most effective administration etc. The author has chosen three districts viz. East Godavari, Chittoor and Nalgonda of which one development Mandal each was taken as sample for his study that covers all three regions of Andhra Pradesh. The collected data were analysed in the light of the objectives using suitable classifications and the available data were arranged under different heads and sub-heads meaningfully.

The researcher has organised this book into Six Chapters. In the first chapter, he provided the background, need and importance of rural development, presented the brief evolution of the present institutional arrangements for rural development administration. Also, in general, he provided a

review of literature on rural development administration in the country as a whole and Andhra Pradesh in particular. In the second chapter, the author discussed the evolution of rural development administration in Andhra Pradesh, starting with the administrative arrangements under Firka Development Scheme and Community Development Programmes. This chapter also highlighted the democratic decentralisation phase – the Panchayati Raj, discussed the changes in the administrative set-up at three levels – Zilla Parishads, Panchayati Samitis and Gram Panchayats and the steps taken to strengthen the PR system after introduction of the Andhra Pradesh Mandal Praja Parishads, Zilla Praja Parishads, and Zilla Pranalika Abhivruddi Mandals Act 1987.

By discussing the provisions of the 73rd Constitutional (Amendments) Act and Andhra Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, the third chapter examined the Gram Sabha at GP level, Mandal Maha Sabha at MP level, Zilla Maha Sabha at the district level, the composition and reservation of seats for the members as well as office bearers of GP, MP and ZP etc. This chapter also analysed various approaches to rural development and indicated the programmes undertaken in each of the approaches and analysed the performance of various rural development programmes.

The author devoted the fourth chapter solely to study the organisational aspects of existing arrangements for rural development administration at various levels and also explained the powers and functions of PRIs, elected representatives and other official functionaries relating to PRIs at different levels specifically to Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh.

In the fifth chapter, the author analysed the responses of officials and non-officials on various aspects relating to the organisation and working of the rural development administration, the relations between officials