

and non-officials in the implementation of rural development programmes at the district, mandal and gram panchayat levels. This chapter also provided the views of officials and non-officials about the need for coordination, the need for finances and their resource mobilisation, role of PRIs in the development of agriculture, education, role in providing rural water supply, role in laying new roads and maintaining old roads etc. In the sixth chapter, the author presented a summary of findings and conclusions, thus drawn, to suggest remedial measures for strengthening rural development administration in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The author also analysed the view of the respondents about the importance of people's participation and the need for training to all the stakeholders of rural development.

Obviously, this book covers various aspects of rural development and administration particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh. This volume is very useful for research scholars, especially those engaged in political science and development administration arena, social workers, non-governmental organisations, and other social scientists who look forward to impact of rural development administration not merely confined up to reducing the poverty but also reducing the regional imbalances of the country.

– Dr. R. Murugesan

**Land Policies for Inclusive Growth,**

Edited by T. Haque, Published by Concept Publishing Company Pvt Ltd Pages : 495, Price: ₹ 1200.

Among the four factors of production, land is the only factor which is finite and limited. Therefore, it is always subjected to special treatment in the history of agrarian economy in India. Land policies adopted by the government have been playing a role in providing equitable justice as well as

enhancing the income of the rural poor. However, there have been many controversies surrounding the land in the context of its distribution as well as acquisition. Tenancy is another aspect of land, the case for legalisation of which is gaining momentum in the context of its potentiality to enhance the production base of landless, marginal and small farmers. The book under review is a compilation of various papers presented in a National Seminar jointly organised by Council for Social Development and Rural Development Institute, New Delhi. There are about nineteen papers in the book which made an in depth analysis on i) Redistributive Land Reforms: Old and New Approaches ii) Tenancy Reforms iii) Land Rights for Women and Tribals V) Land Acquisition and Inclusive Development.

There are seven papers which made an indepth discussion in the section on 'Redistributive Land Reforms'. The paper on "Land Reform in the 21st Century: New Challenges and New Responses" by Roy L. Porsterman and Tim Hanstad discussed about the potential benefits of land reforms on increased crop production and economic growth. The paper by T. Haque on "Land Policies for Social Inclusion in India" discussed at length on the three different phases in the evolution of land policy in India and championed the need to have an appropriate land use policy for the country. The paper by Robert Mitchell and Tim Hanstad on "Small Home Garden Plots and Sustainable Livelihoods for the Poor" examined the ways in which the poor can use small extent of land to establish home gardens to advance their livelihood objectives. In his paper on "Access to Land: Some Issues", Srijit Mishra presented a matrix of issues confronted by the tillers of the soil and suggested some measures such as provision of some land for kitchen garden while providing homestead plots which may need some serious thinking under Indira Aawas Yojana. Shri. K.N. Nair and Shri Arindam

Banerjee in their paper on "Structural Changes in Land Distribution and its Implications for Improving Access to Land" provided some insights into the changes in the pattern of land distribution and the factors shaping it. Perceiving Land Bank as a logical Extension to the SHG movement in the country, B.K.Sinha in his paper on "Land Bank : An Institutional Mechanism for Improving Access to Land by the Rural Poor" presented the concept, objectives and the instrumentalities of the Land Bank.

There are eight papers in the section on 'Tenancy Reforms' all of which have strongly vouched for institutionalisation of tenancy. The Paper by T.Haque on "Agricultural Tenancy Reform in India : Policy, Practice and Impact" analysed the positive and negative aspects of post-Independence tenancy reform policy in India and presented a case for legalisation and liberalisation of land leasing. Sankar Kumar Bhaumik in his paper on "Legalising Agricultural Land Leasing in India : An Assessment of Possible Consequences and Some Suggestions" conducted an extensive state-wise study on land tenancy based on secondary data. In the paper "Equity and Efficiency Impacts of Land Leasing Restrictions : Evidence in India" Klaus Deininger et al assessed the ability of different groups of producers to gain access to land through market mechanism and explored the impact of rural rental restrictions as a factor that increases the costs of market participation on land market functioning and outcomes. In the paper on "Changing Tenancy Relations in Rural India : A Case for Legalizing Tenancy" the author H.R. Sharma strongly advocated for separating the ownership rights of the land with user rights, the policy of which has taken its roots in Andhra Pradesh now. In the paper on "Land Leasing, Poverty and Inequality", Naresh Sharma addressed the problem of influence of the institution of tenancy on the rural poor and concluded that prohibiting or

severely restricting the land lease market is counter-productive both by equity and productivity criteria. The paper on "Legalising Agricultural Tenancy : A Study in Odisha" examined the tenancy practices and its impact on agriculture and observed the implications for sustainable productivity and equity. The paper on "Land Leasing by Women in Andhra Pradesh" by Vakati et al examined the actual leasing practices of poor women- cultivating leased land in groups or as households and recommended that improving credit access for women tenant farmers by organising them into RMGs or SHGs can make this livelihood option to many more women.

The only paper on land rights of women by Hina Haque in the third section highlighted the constraints to women's land rights such as legal, institutional, socio-economic and suggested an action plan for achieving gender equality in land rights. Fernandez's paper on "Tribal customary and formal law interface in North – Eastern India" revealed the role that the formal individual based law plays in causing shortages, impoverishing the communities and thus causing ethnic conflicts in the north east.

The LA act being the chief instrument of land acquisition has come in for a sharp attack on grounds of the large scale displacement it has unleashed in the name of public purpose in the recent past and on the grounds of its inconsistency with democratic governance and principles of equity and social justice. K.B. Saxena in his paper on "Land Acquisition and Peasant Resistance : Critique of Policy Interventions" presented the salient features of the land acquisition acts in the country in a comparative setting. P.V. Indiresan in his paper on "Land Acquisition : Compensation and Inclusive Development" concluded that the aim of compensation for Land Acquisition should not be mere financial compensation for the displaced but the development of entire population.

Land issues are coming to the fore again. In the context of stronger dissent against exploitative methods with which fertile agriculture land is being acquired in the country and the building up of the case for a

land use policy, the book has come up at a right time which will be useful for the policy makers, academicians, civil society and the students who are working in this area.

– *Dr. Ch. Radhika Rani*