

Journal of Social and Economic Development

Vol. 11

January-June 2009

No. 1

Articles

- Illegal (Labour) Migration: Trends and Policies**
— *Ayhan Gençler and Sudi Apak* 1
- Microfinance-Based Disaster Mitigation: A Study of Two Donor-Supported Projects in Kutch, Gujarat**
— *H S Shylendra and Kishore Bhirdikar* 46
- Agricultural Revival Strategies: An Appraisal of the Nigerian Experience** — *Anthony I Monye-Emina* 68
- Economics of Air Pollution in Chennai City, India** — *J Sacratees* 84

Review Article

- Contours of Women's Development: A Synthesis of Thoughts, Efforts and Challenges** — *K G Gayathridevi* 97

Book Reviews

- Local Governance in India: Ideas, Challenges and Strategies.*
T M Joseph (ed) — *N Sivanna* 120
- Managing Cities in Developing Countries: The Theory and Practice of Urban Management.* **Meine Pieter Van Dijk**
— *M Mahadeva* 127
- Adoption - Global Perspective and Ethical Issues.*
Jagannath Pati (ed) — *Manisha Rao* 132
- Social and Gender Analysis in Natural Resource Management: Learning Studies and Lessons from Asia.* **Roonie Vernooy (ed)**
— *T S Jeena* 135

Books at a Glance

138-141

Muslim Samuday Mein Chhuaachhoot: Hela Biradari ke Sandarbh Mein (Hindi). [Untouchability among Muslims in the Context of Hela Community] Shabanam Beg

Economic Empowerment of Women in India. M Ramanjaneyulu.

Securing Health for All: Dimensions and Challenges. Sujata Prasad and C Sathyamala (eds).

Illegal (Labour) Migration: Trends and Policies

Ayhan Gençler and Sudi Apak*

Abstract

The migration phenomenon has as deep roots as the history of mankind. Human beings had the right to change their places of domicile without any restrictions till the beginning of the nineteenth century. The regulations enforced in the developed countries against the entry of citizens of developing countries opened up illegal channels of migration. In this study, illegal (labour) migration has been evaluated within the boundaries of the migration aspect. Historical developments and the increasing density of migration have been taken as the starting points to evaluate the reasons, theories and motivation of illegal migration. The outcome of illegal migration, its concepts and its methods have been analysed to determine its volume and impact on different countries. The study examines the additional factors of the labour force in the emigrating countries. Illegal (labour) migration is the shadow working power in the developed economies. Illegal migration's flexibility and its economic impact hamper implementation of solutions against it.

Microfinance-Based Disaster Mitigation: A Study of Two Donor-Supported Projects in Kutch, Gujarat

H S Shylendra and Kishore Bhirdikar*

Abstract

The rehabilitation efforts in the earthquake-hit Kutch district of Gujarat were aimed at restoring the livelihood of the affected people and enhancing their capacity to face future disasters, if any. Financial Access for Improved Rehabilitation (FAIR) and Disaster Mitigation Fund (DMF) were the two donor-supported projects that were implemented using microfinance as an instrument to ensure security of livelihood. This paper tries to examine, critically, the design and working of the two projects and draw lessons for improving the possible role of microfinance-based interventions in disaster mitigation.

The paper reveals that microfinance, though a novel idea, is faced with many challenges when disaster strikes. Limitations in the project design, operational constraints faced by implementing agencies and adverse socio-economic conditions have been identified as the key factors hampering the performance of microfinance interventions. Building the capacity of community-based organisations and adopting flexible mechanisms suitable for disaster-prone conditions are some of the measures suggested for improving the performance of such interventions.

Agricultural Revival Strategies: An Appraisal of the Nigerian Experience

Anthony I Monye-Emina*

Abstract

This paper examines agricultural revival efforts in Nigeria over the years. This is against the backdrop of the declining performance of the sector given the country's potential and the important role agriculture plays in economic development. The study observes that the sector hitherto dominated the economy especially as a source of development capital but soon gave way to crude oil. This development adversely affected agricultural production. In recognition of the implications of this for the macro-economy, several revival efforts/strategies targeting key areas, including infrastructures provision, extension services, input supply, credit and marketing, were put in place. The revival efforts were influenced by the agricultural policy objectives and the macroeconomic management framework in existence. However, the efforts were constrained by various factors ranging from socio-economic to institutional and structural. Problems thus persist in the sector, which militate against the attainment of its potential. In other words, the sector is still fraught with problems and the revival strategies and efforts have only marginally affected activities in the sector. Thus the sector's performance has remained dismal vis-à-vis the country's potential.

Economics of Air Pollution in Chennai City, India

J Sacratees*

Abstract

This paper estimates welfare loss due to the hazardous air quality of Chennai City, a fast developing metropolitan city in South India. The loss of welfare was estimated using econometric methods like Logit and Tobit Models in order to introduce Willingness To Pay (WTP) to improve urban air quality. The primary data collected through household surveys were used in the estimation model. Measuring and valuing the health impact of air pollution is very complex and the available methods of economic valuation are often rudimentary. We analysed how the monetary value of health benefits could be increased by reducing air pollution, which will be useful to policymakers to reduce the incidence of respiratory illness in the urban population of Chennai City. The economic costs associated with these health risks were then evaluated using available economic information. It enabled us to measure the cost of illness and man-days loss, wage loss, cost of medicine and cost of hospitalisation due to air pollution. Thus, this study addresses the current status and consequences of air quality, which causes concern in developing countries.