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# **Individuals, Values, Inequality and Governance Brickbats and Bouquets for Developments in Mainstream Economics**

**N S S Narayana**

This paper surveys some of the controversial issues with regard to the treatment of the individual in economic theory. The discussion also includes personal and social values, inequality and incentive payments. It also discusses corruption and social costs as (un)ethical aspects of governance. Drawing attention to the divide made between orthodox mainstream economics and heterodox economics, the paper argues that mainstream economics too with the aid of the "representative individual" has been increasingly concerned with adequate treatment of real individuals. Methodologies such as aggregation over individuals pose the same problems for both schools of thought. When the social issues such as inequalities are to be analysed, neither framework may be adequate; and while specific modelling of individuals' psychological actions, which have economic relevance, is important, it is equally important to model the economic consequences of governments' actions.

## **Children's Working World through the Lens of Class**

**Anjan Chakrabarti and Anup Kumar Dhar**

In mainstream approaches, children's labour is either to be banned or is not recognised. As a result, their association with the process of wealth creation and its distribution is occulted. In this paper, taking a class-focused Marxian approach, we question and critique the premise of this supposition on children's working world. As against the received rendition of children's working world, we offer an alternative method of locating and analysing the relation of children with the process of wealth creation and its distribution. Rehabilitating the children as an economic actor in the class-focused terrain opens up new avenues to ask and offer questions including policy-related ones that have hitherto been put aside from the discussion on children's working world.

## **Educational Challenges and the Role of Teachers in Andhra Pradesh: A Case for Institutional Initiatives**

**K Vidyasagar**

All is not well with the elementary education system in the state of Andhra Pradesh, and this research paper is an attempt to understand the current status of the system and the ills that plague it. Although the problems in the educational system are multi-dimensional, in recent times, the issue of teacher performance has assumed significance. Educational inequality, quality and teacher performance seem to have challenged not only governments at all levels, but the people at large. Official records speak volumes on this predicament that affects the marginalised far more than others. In this context, this paper attempts to discuss all such developments that impinge upon the prevailing educational scenario in the State. As policies and programmes of the Union Government also impact the status of education at the state level, an attempt is made to delineate some national interventions. While presenting a critical review of certain institutional

initiatives at various levels, this paper analyses immediate concerns that deserve the attention of State and non-State agencies. As part of assessing the contribution of several stakeholders towards strengthening school management, which is a major challenge, this study also explores other related issues.

## **Competing Demand for Water in Tamil Nadu: Urbanisation, Industrialisation and Environmental Damages in the Bhavani and Noyyal Basins (1880s-2000s)**

**Velayutham Saravanan**

This article attempts to analyse, in a historical perspective (1881-2002), the emergence of competing demand for water caused by the diversion of river basin water to meet the demand of the urban domestic use and industrial needs and its consequential damage to the ecology and environment, which further aggravated the problem, in the Bhavani and Noyyal river basins of Tamil Nadu. It examines the diversion of water for the domestic and industrial sectors that caused a great threat to the ecology, environment and health of the people and to the flora and fauna of these regions, which further aggravated the competing demand situation leading to 'water market' in the basin areas. Further, it also analyses the role of the state, how it further motivated the competing demand for water, thereby neglecting the ecology and environment of these river basins. On the one hand, it provides water to the pollution-causing industries by diverting water from the river basins, where there is already an acute scarcity of water. On the other hand, the diverted water is getting polluted due to the ineffective pollution control measures of the state, further aggravating the situation for competing demand for water and worsening the environmental conditions in the river basins. In short, this article examines the proliferation factors for water demand creating competition in the basin areas and the consequence of environmental damages that not only created 'water market' but also posed great threat to the ecology, environment and people in the Bhavani and Noyyal river basins of Tamil Nadu since the late 19th century up till the early years of the 21st century (1881-2002).

## **An Environmental Study of Land Tenure, Land Use and Input Intensity: A Case of Orissa**

**Jyotirmayee Kar**

Land degradation due to intensive and extensive cultivation and over use of chemical inputs has become a cause of concern. But land use pattern is observed to have a strong co-relation with land tenurial practices. Present study attempts to assess this relationship in the context of the agriculture-dependent state of Orissa. It has measured land use intensity, cropping intensity and input intensity to examine land use pattern of the farmers under different categories of land tenancy. Then it has assessed empirical significance of the same under varied socio-economic backdrop.