

Journal of Social and Economic Development

Vol. 8

July - December 2006

No. 2

Articles

- Spatial Inequality in Nigeria: The Imperative of Geographic Perspectives in the Development Process** — *Ignatius A Madu* 105
- Financial Sector Reforms and Rural Credit in India** — *Susmita Chatterjee* 121
- Promoting Sustainable Agriculture: Experiences from India and Canada** — *Puttaswamaiah S, Ian Manns and Amita Shah* 147
- India's Trade with SAARC in the Age of Globalisation**
— *Dilip Kumar Chanda* 177
- Socio-Economic Mobility through Sericulture** — *S Gregory* 193
- Inter-state Growth Inequalities in India: Pre- and Post-reform Period** — *R V Dadibhavi, S T Bagalkoti and Sahana Joshi* 207

Book Reviews

- H S Shylendra and Uma Rani (eds). *Diversification and Sustainable Rural Livelihood*** — *V M Rao* 222
- Kartik C Roy and Jorn Sideras (eds). *Institutions, Globalisation and Empowerment*** — *P S Jayaramu* 224
- Mohan Rao. *From Population Control to Reproductive Health***
— *Malthusian Arithmetic* — *K S James* 226
- Ranjita Mohanty and Rajesh Tandon (eds). *Participatory Citizenship: Identity, Exclusion, Inclusion*** — *Muzzaffar Assadi* 229

- Femida Handy, Meenaz Kassam, Suzanne Feeney and Bhagyashree Ranade.**
Grass-roots NGOs by Women for Women — Indira M 231
- Govinda Chandra Rath.** *Tribal Development in India: The Contemporary Debate* — P N Sankaran 235
- Books at a Glance** 239-243
- R Govinda and Rashmi Diwan (eds).** *Community Participation and Empowerment in Primary Education.*
- Premilla D’Cruz.** *In Sickness and in Health: The Family Experience of HIV/AIDS in India.*
- Renana Jhabwala, Ratna M Sudarshan and Jeemol Unni (eds).**
Informal Economy Centrestage: New Structure of Employment.
- Jog K P (ed).** *Perceptions on Kautilya Arthasastra.*
- Malcolm Harper.** *Public Services through Private Enterprise: Micro-privatisation for Improved Delivery.*

Spatial Inequality in Nigeria: The Imperative of Geographic Perspectives in the Development Process

Ignatius A Madu

The focus of this paper is on regional inequality in socio-economic standards in Nigeria. The inequality in the country is not only known to have persisted and widened over the years, but is also known to have a spatial dimension. In this study, the magnitude of the inequality has been determined by the mean logarithmic deviation index using data from the Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey of 2003, while the influence of geography has been assessed through regression analysis. The results show total inequality indices of 0.260 and 0.321 for rural-urban and regional decompositions respectively and indicate that geography is a significant determinant of socio-economic conditions in the country. The southern regions, which are more favoured geographically, have advanced more than the northern. Therefore, a geographic perspective in development policies and planning is required in order to reduce or eliminate inequality in Nigeria. Accordingly, recommendations have been made to redress the adverse effects of geography so as to achieve even development in the country.

Financial Sector Reforms and Rural Credit in India

Susmita Chatterjee

This study examines the performances of the rural institutional credit agencies in India in the pre- and post-reforms periods. Another question addressed here is: Do the institutional credit agencies perform in a discriminatory manner while lending to the rural/agricultural sector in various states of India?

The study involving 15 major states of the country shows that financial sector reforms actually weakened the link between the financial institutions and rural areas; this development is in complete contrast with that observed prior to the 1990s. The rural areas were affected adversely as a result of economic policies in all the 15 states. Furthermore, the credit institutions showed discriminatory attitude while lending to the rural areas. The prevailing situation in the rural credit market of India calls for a decisive change in the banking policy to ensure increased geographical and functional reach of the rural credit institutions and unbiased distribution of rural credit across the states.

Promoting Sustainable Agriculture: Experiences from India and Canada

Puttaswamaiah S, Ian Manns and Amita Shah

Agriculture growth, driven by Green Revolution, has increased the foodgrains supply, ensuring food security. The next stage, however, faces a serious challenge in terms of sustainability. While developing countries face the problem of sustainability of resource use, the challenge for developed economies is overuse of chemical inputs. These problems have increased awareness about sustainable farming and emphasised the need for moving towards it. Policies have since stressed promoting sustainable agriculture. Organic farming is a variant that is receiving special thrust under these policies. This paper examines the policy initiatives and experiences of

promoting organic farming in India and Canada. In fact, the policy initiatives, if any, have emanated mainly from the viewpoint of trade concerns. There are very few studies that have gone into examining the issues of economic viability, institutional support, and market access for organic farming in India and Canada. This paper tries to fill this critical gap by examining these issues in a comparative framework. The analysis, mainly exploratory in nature, is based on the existing literature.

India's Trade with SAARC in the Age of Globalisation

Dilip Kumar Chanda

It is believed that the main objective of SAARC is to develop economic cooperation among member-countries through expanding intra-regional trade. India is one of the biggest partners of SAARC. This paper focuses on the magnitude of trade between India and the other member-countries of SAARC, and the factors obstructing trade flows in the South-Asian region during the 'post-liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation (LPG)' period.

Socio-Economic Mobility through Sericulture

S Gregory

Sericulture being a labour-intensive and income-generative agro-industry, it has been instrumental in bringing about socio-economic mobility among different sections of society and assuming increasing significance in the rural development paradigm in the past few decades. The present paper, based on intensive studies in some of the sericulture villages in Tamil Nadu, looks into the concept of socio-economic mobility and identifies the groups undergoing mobility in the context of sericulture. The paper also specifically examines the extent of socio-economic mobility among the three disadvantaged categories in the rural context, based on class, caste and gender, exploring the social relevance of sericulture in the process of rural development, with an emphasis on the need to identify the appropriate interventions and strategic approaches in making sericulture one of the sustainable forces of rural development in India.

Inter-state Growth Inequalities in India: Pre- and Post-reform Period

R V Dadibhavi, S T Bagalkoti and Sahana Joshi

Regional disparities continue to haunt the policy makers worldwide as well as India. In fact, at certain times, the issue has become explosive warranting immediate attention from the policy makers. A number of attempts have been made by the government as well as individual researchers to understand the study of regional dynamics. The present study is another such attempt that tries to analyse the regional disparities in India before and after the reforms. The investment pattern – governments, financial institutions and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has been found to be perpetuating regional disparities. This has influenced and been influenced by the level of infrastructure development across the state, which in turn follows the general development pattern. Given such a scenario, the study recommends for a continued additional support to the backward regions to bring them on par with, at least, the average rate of growth.