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unemployment in proportion to the shortfall in the size of their holdings as compared to the standard unit.

Plainly, the standard unit thus fixed would reflect a subjective judgment of those whom Mujumdar happened to consult. (How much care he exercised in this he does not disclose). Thus when he uses the work-norm (*i.e.*, the standard unit) what Mujumdar really does is to get round the problem and not solve it. And yet, one may concede that owing to numerous difficulties involved in fixing a time-norm, Mujumdar's method would be more suitable from the *operational* point of view, if not the theoretical—and if properly used would broadly indicate the extent of underemployment. The second step in his procedure involves an oversimplification because employment need not vary exactly in proportion to the size of the farm, but Mujumdar is quite conscious of this deficiency.

But there are further difficulties. (1) It is not clear how Mujumdar makes adjustments for families which are not of the normal size and/or do not possess the normal work-equipment. (2) The extent of fragmentation of a holding has not been taken into account and thus no allowance has been made for this factor.

Part III deals with surplus labour, savings potential and development planning in the context of underemployment. Mujumdar is inclined to believe that the saving potential of disguised unemployment is largely notional. This is rather an extreme view, though a healthy antidote to the too optimistic theories of Multipliers. He has put together much useful data on the standard of life and consumption of the small farmers. Then he examines the employment impact of various kinds of development projects, agricultural and non-agricultural and makes a number of useful suggestions.

S. H. DESHPANDE

Caste Ranking and Community Structure in Five Regions of India and Pakistan, McKim Marriott, Deccan College of Postgraduate and Research Institute, Poona, 1960. Pp. 75. Rs. 5.00.

While the whole of the India-Pakistan sub-continent is characterised by caste stratification, the rigidity of the caste system varies from region to region. Marriott's is the first systematic attempt to account for these differences in terms of general variables. He has located the relevant variables in certain features of the community structure.

Central to his analysis is the definition of "elaboration" of caste ranking. "Caste ranking may be called more elaborate when a given number of ethnic groups is placed by public opinion in a relatively large number of discrete corporate ranks; it may be called relatively simple or less elaborate when the same given number of ethnic groups is placed by general agreement in a relatively small number of discrete corporate ranks." Thus more elaborate caste ranking represents greater rigidity in the caste system.

The degree of elaboration of caste ranking has been hypothesised to be correlated to four variables of community structure. Caste ranking is more elaborate

in communities where there are relatively greater number of ethnic groups, in which the ethnic groups interact as wholes to a greater degree in relationship of superiority and inferiority, in which the behaviour of individual members approximates to a greater degree to that of the ethnic groups to which they belong, and which are relatively isolated in their social relations from other communities. It is less elaborate in communities in which these variables are accentuated in their opposite directions.

Marriott has tested his hypotheses by an inductive analysis of caste ranking in two villages of Uttar Pradesh. The merit of this analysis lies in the fact that unlike most other studies of caste ranking in which authors themselves have arbitrarily graded the various castes, in this case the author has solely relied upon the opinion of the villagers themselves and has drawn his conclusions on the basis of objective statistical indices. However, the sample of the investigation is too small (14 persons from one village and 8 from the other) and non-representative in character, being drawn irrespective of caste composition of the village communities.

For a comparative study of caste ranking patterns in the larger regions of India and Pakistan, *viz.*, Kerala, Coromandel, the Upper Ganges, the Middle Indus and the Bengal Delta the author has made use of the available published data. From a macroscopic and descriptive analysis in which he has skilfully pieced together scattered bits of evidence, the regions have been arranged in the order of the degree of elaborateness in caste ranking as above, and it has been brought out that in every case the correlates of caste ranking are found combined in proportions consistent with the author's hypotheses.

As the author himself has rightly pointed out the evidence adduced only proves the concomitant variation of the factors considered. It is not sufficient to establish the causal connection between the degree of elaboration of caste ranking and its correlates. Nevertheless, the findings are useful in studies of caste origins and in understanding the current trends of social change in caste societies. They undoubtedly provide a plausible explanation for the variation in caste rigidity in different regions.

While the study lacks precision both on account of the limitations of the data analysed and the non-refinement of the techniques used in the field investigation, the approach of the author is quite novel in studies on caste. It promises to be very fruitful in gaining analytical insight into the subject and is therefore highly commendable.

VICTOR S. D'SOUZA

Social Economy of a Polyandrous People, R. N. Saksena, Second Edition (Revised), Asia Publishing House, Bombay, 1962. Pp. xv + 143. Rs. 15.00.

The Jaunsar-Bawar subdivision of Dehra Doon district in Uttar Pradesh is inhabited by a tribal community in which the system of polyandry is prevalent. The book provides a detailed description of the different social and economic aspects of this community's life. The region is composed of a succession of hills