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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

and mountains and because of heavy rainfall, there is heavy soil erosion in the high hills. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood but because of the physical and geographical factors, eking out a bare subsistence from land involves very hard struggle, right from terracing of mountain slopes and the maintenance and repairs of these terraces to harvesting and processing of agricultural produce. Thus joint family life becomes almost a necessity. But the returns for these efforts being meagre, the community cannot afford the 'luxury' of monogamous families. This is the reason for origin and continuation of the system of polyandry. The author states that "In regions where nature is extremely hard to exploit, it is not possible for a single man to earn subsistence for a family, and the woman is also anxious to have a large number of supporters. A Jaunsari woman can thus be conveniently looked after by a group of brothers who own her as their common wife".

The system has some socio-economic implications. The obligations of a polyandrous life have placed a serious check on emigration, perpetuating social isolation of this region resulting in economic stagnation. Another aspect is the declining rate of growth of population, which is stated to be the consequence of a kind of sexual atrophy resulting from polyandry. But another more serious effect is the spread of venereal diseases on a very large scale. The housewives have to bear a very heavy strain of work both at home and in fields.

The community is divided into different social strata. The Brahmins and Rajputs who are at the top of the social hierarchy enjoy certain rights and privileges; on the other hand the *Doms* and other groups who are at the bottom of this hierarchy suffer from some disabilities. Economic serfdom in its worst form is prevalent in this area. The land reform, tenancy and moneylending legislation for removal of this serfdom and amelioration of the social and economic conditions of tenants and agricultural labourers has not proved effective.

The mountainous terrain makes transport very difficult. In this region, some cash crops like potatoes, onions, turmeric, ginger and chillies are cultivated. But the cultivators are not able to transport and sell their products themselves in the markets in the plains. The trade in agricultural commodities has, therefore, gone into the hands of traders who own mules and other means of transport and naturally they receive a lion's share in the consumer's rupee.

The study has been mainly based on the secondary sources of data like the district gazetteer and the other published books and reports. On page 74, a mention has been made of an investigation of 276 families. The reader is, therefore, curious to learn the findings of this investigation, which might throw light on economic and social conditions of these families. Unfortunately, the book does not give anywhere the plan and scope of this inquiry, the sampling procedure, the method of investigation, etc. Moreover the findings of this investigation have not been presented anywhere in the report except on page 72 where a table on purpose-wise classification of indebtedness is given. (This is "self-borrowing (?) indebtedness", a term quite unfamiliar to the students of agricultural credit). The table does not make it clear whether it presents classification of loans or indebted families; in the latter case, how the loans for more than one purposes are classified etc. Further, the total is 169, which does not tally with the number of indebted

families given on page 74. Besides the broad description of socio-economic conditions available in already published works, the students of agricultural economics would have liked to know more about the size and composition of families, pattern of land ownership and cultivation, size and distribution of incomes, patterns of expenditures, assets and liabilities, the problems arising out of the laws of inheritance, etc.; collection of primary data for this purpose would have added to the research value of the book under review.

The main problem of this region is economic backwardness and poverty. The plans for economic development have been in operation in the country for the last ten years. Efforts are being made at agricultural development through the community development projects and other schemes. A socio-economic study of the rural population should have been directed more to the study of attitudes and behaviour patterns, incentives, motivations in this new context, so as to help in policy formation for economic betterment of this region.

Incidentally it may also be mentioned that this is the second (*revised*) edition of the book. But data on agricultural conditions presented are for 1951-53. Moreover the repetition of ideas and thoughts in the very same words, phrases and sentences in the same book could have been avoided with proper editing.

V. M. JAKHADE

The Evolution of Agricultural Co-operation, Louis P. F. Smith (with an introduction by Margaret Digby), Basil Blackwell, Oxford, 1961. Pp. xii + 216 25s.

In response to growing interest in co-operation large volumes of literature have, of late, been written—some mainly in the realm of theory to deal with its economic, social or moral aspects and others only to describe the organisation and functioning of various types of co-operative institutions, their advantages and limitations. Dr. Smith's treatment of the subject between the two covers of this book excludes hardly anything. In his "Introduction" to the book the author states that he took up writing of this book as a means of clarifying his own mind in his work of organising and assisting co-operatives and expects that it may help other workers in co-operatives, and the many students of the subject, to clarify their own ideas—whether by agreement or controversy.

The book is divided into three parts: I, The Work of Co-operatives; II, The Place of Co-operation in the Society; and III, Some Analyses of Co-operation. The first part of the book deals with the development of and the work done by the agricultural co-operatives in processing, marketing and buying, provision of credit and other services and in farming. The second part contains the presentation of such aspects as the place of farm co-operative in the society; its relation with other types of co-operatives, farmers' unions, and the State; and the need of education. In the third part, the author makes a few observations in regard to co-operative aims, co-operative capital, co-operative entrepreneur, and the co-operative and monopoly.