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Vol XXXIV
No. 1

ISSN 0019-5014

JANUARY-
MARCH
1979

INDIAN JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS



INDIAN SOCIETY OF
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,
BOMBAY

REVIEWS IN BRIEF

Principles of Economics, P. N. Chopra, Revised and Enlarged Edition, Kalyani Publishers, Ludhiana, 1978. Pp. xii+(526). Rs. 14.40.

Advanced Economic Theory (Micro and Macro Analysis), P. N. Chopra, Fourth Revised and Enlarged Edition, Kalyani Publishers, Ludhiana, 1978. Pp. xvii+(902). Rs. 32.00.

Economics of Development and Planning (with special reference to India) M. L. Taneja and P. N. Chopra, S. Nagin & Co., Jullundur, 1978. Pp. vii+752. Rs. 25.00.

With a view to strengthening the study of Economics at the graduate and post-graduate levels, all major universities in India have revised their syllabi for the teaching of economics. With the revision of the syllabi, the need has been felt for a good textbook in economic theory with practical application to Indian conditions. The three textbooks under review are designed to meet the needs of the students at higher levels of education. The first textbook covers the syllabi for B. Com. students while the latter two textbooks have in view the post-graduate students in economics. While the authors do not claim any originality for their works, they have however given due acknowledgement to the diverse sources from which the ideas presented in these three textbooks are drawn.

The first book is divided into 39 chapters grouped under seven sections. The first section describes the nature, scope, laws and methods of economics and deals with the micro and macro economics, and partial and general equilibrium analysis. A critical exposition of the theory of consumer's demand is presented in the second section while the nature, characteristics and importance of the factors of production are considered in the third section. The fourth section discusses supply elasticity, the theory of production and internal and external economies, and analyses cost and revenue functions. The theory of price determination is covered in the fifth section. It discusses the theory of the firm, price theory, Marshall's contribution to the theory of value and further extensions and refinements in the received theory and pricing under perfect and imperfect competition. The sixth section on factor pricing and distribution traces the development of thought on the theory of distribution, critically evaluates the marginal productivity theory and the modern theory of factor pricing, and theories of rent, wages, interest and profits. The last section is devoted to a discussion of national income accounting, capitalism and socialism, and principles of public revenue and public expenditure.

The second book is more comprehensive in its scope and "attempts to survey systematically the development of ideas in micro and macro analysis, explaining how ideas were born, popularised, challenged, attacked and rehabilitated". It is composed of seven sections sub-divided into 64 chapters. With few exceptions, it wholly incorporates six of the seven sections included in the first book. The sectional headings and the contents in the second book are the same as those in the first book except for the following changes. The

third section which dealt with the factors of production in the first book is entirely omitted from the second book which has incorporated a new section on welfare economics. The first section, in addition to describing the basic concepts of economics and the methods and approaches followed in its study, incorporates a chapter on the scientific method in economics. This chapter discusses the nature of scientific economic theories, methodological prescriptions and use of models in economics. The second section on the theory of consumer's demand is expanded to include a critical appraisal of the comparative formulations of the demand curve, modern utility analysis and other revisions in demand theory. The third section on the theory of production contains two additional chapters, one each dealing with the isoquant approach to production theory and linear programming analysis. The fourth section on the theory of price determination is enlarged to cover ten more chapters. These new chapters deal with the determinateness of perfectly competitive equilibrium, relevance of the concept of supply curve, Chamberlin's contribution to the theory of value and excess capacity under imperfect contribution. Other topics discussed in this section include a critique on imperfect competition theories, oligopoly pricing analysis and collusion models, the Kinked demand curve hypothesis, modern developments in oligopoly theory and bilateral monopoly. The fifth section on factor pricing and distribution extends the discussion to encompass product-exhaustion theorem, technical progress and relative factor shares, labour supply curve and exploitation of labour, wage determination under collective bargaining, recent developments in the theories of wages and profit, and macro distribution theories. The sixth section examines the nature and scope of welfare economics, the 'new' welfare economics and recent developments in this field. Macro economics is discussed in the last section. It retains only the chapter on national income accounting from the corresponding section of the first book, adding a brief note on the contribution of Keynes to national income analysis. The scope of this section is however enlarged to include discussions on Keynes' General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money, his criticism of the classical micro theory and policy, consumption function and multiplier, investment-demand function and under-employment equilibrium, accelerator-multiplier interaction, Hick's theory of the trade cycle, wages and employment, and integration of monetary and value theory.

The third book presents a comprehensive review of the theoretical and empirical problems of economic development and planning with special reference to India. It consists of six parts divided into 57 chapters. The first part deals with the nature, features and importance of economic development, causes of under-development and pre-requisites and determinants for economic development. The second part discusses the various theories of economic growth, as propounded by the classical economists, Karl Marx, Schumpeter, Keynes and contemporary thinkers. The third part contains critical evaluation of the theories of economic development including in its scope Rostow's growth theory, Lewis' model of development, dualistic development theories, international trade theories of under-development,

balanced and unbalanced growth theories, the big-push theory and critical minimum effort thesis. The fourth part discusses the problems of economic development of under-developed countries and the measures that could be adopted for promoting the economic development of India. The fifth part considers the international measures for economic development. It examines the roles of foreign capital, private and public foreign investment, foreign trade, and commercial policy in the economic development of under-developed countries. An exhaustive and critical review of development planning in India is presented in the last part. It deals with the content, approaches and limitations of planning, the functioning of the price mechanism in a planned economy, planning concepts and models, investment criteria in development planning, choice of techniques, project evaluation, input-output models, optimization of planning models, planning devices, planning theory and practice in India, manpower planning, agricultural and industrial development since the initiation of planning in India, poverty and income inequality, integrated rural development and the system of the rolling plan.

The chief merit of these three books is that the discussions on topics covered in them are well organized and the materials culled from different sources are sifted into a coherent whole, rendering them intelligible to the students. As pointed out by the author in his Preface to the second book, "the student is nowhere given an impression of the finality of economic theory as it is; rather he is brought to the frontiers of the subject where unsettled issues still continue to be debated". A list of select references given at the end of each chapter in all the three books and a brief resume of the main ideas presented in each chapter in the second and third books enhance their utility. Discrete page numbering of each section in the first two books is irksome to the reader in locating the topics. It is hoped that this defect will be removed in future editions of these two books. A few printing errors have marred these otherwise well-got up publications. Notwithstanding these shortcomings, each book is self-contained and will prove useful to the students of economics at the under-graduate and post-graduate levels. The publishers need to be congratulated for bringing out these low-priced books.

Integrated Approach to Rural Development with Social Justice, Edited by K. D. Gangrade, NSS Publication No. 11, National Service Scheme Unit, Delhi School of Social Work, Delhi-7, 1977. Pp. 78.

This brochure contains the proceedings of and two background papers submitted to a conference which was organized by the National Service Scheme Unit of the Delhi School of Social Work in January 1977 to discuss the concept and implications of integrated rural development. The introductory section reviews the earlier experiments in rural development and the efforts being made through the National Service Scheme to involve the student youth and educational institutions in the task of rural development. It also includes a summary of discussions at the conference. The following four major issues were discussed at the conference: (a) to attempt a clari-

fication of the concept of integrated approach to rural development with social justice, (b) to examine how the student community and educational institutions could contribute in the task of rural development, (c) to examine how the rural institutions could be strengthened so that they could play an effective role in the process of rural development and (d) to find ways and means to increase effective participation by the voluntary organizations in the effort of rural development. Tarlok Singh in his keynote paper on "Meaning of integration in rural development and instruments for achieving it" briefly traces the evolution of rural development strategies leading upto the search in the recent past, from several directions, for integrated approaches. The point is stressed that even if the concept of integrated rural development were to achieve a mature formulation, its scope, modes of implementation and impact would yet differ according to the stage of development and the condition and requirements of the rural economy and of rural society in each successive phase. It is pointed out that the concept of integrated rural development should remain flexible, dynamic and capable of continuous growth and adaptation to new demands and changing conditions. A scheme of national and state planning priorities is outlined in terms of which integrated rural development could be undertaken successfully. Against this background, it is argued that it should be both possible and necessary to provide for certain vital, unifying elements in the scheme of development adopted in a rural region for it to be described as 'integrated'. These are briefly an area approach, a community approach, with special emphasis on the weaker sections of society, maximum reliance on local resources, co-ordinated support on the part of all institutions working in the region, and, as objectives of development, the primacy of agriculture, of human resources development and work for all and of equality and social justice, side by side with a multi-pronged drive for higher productivity of land and labour. This is followed by a discussion on the priorities in integrated rural development and the phasing of development schemes, the organization of planning, both in formulation and in execution of integrated rural development and the role of the rural community in integrated rural development. In the second paper on the role of voluntary agencies in rural development, Ram Das briefly describes the working of these agencies, evaluates the contribution made by them to the socio-economic development of the country, outlines the problems faced by them in promoting rural development and stresses the need for continuous evaluation of the work done by them.

Training for Agriculture and Rural Development, FAO Economic and Social Development Series No. 7, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and International Labour Organisation, Rome, Italy, 1977. Pp. vi + 122.

This brochure reviews the current opinions and experience in agricultural education and training and extension as well as their contribution

to agricultural development in the developing countries of the world. It contains a collection of 14 papers dealing with various aspects of agricultural education and extension contributed by experts. In the paper on the development of agricultural universities in India, G. Rangaswami outlines the origin and objectives of agricultural universities in India and reviews their progress. Basil Hoare and Paul Hurly in their paper on simulation practical training for future extension agents reviews the role of Botswana agricultural college in agricultural extension work. Jean A. S. Ritchie in her paper deals briefly with the activities of the African Training and Research Centre for Women in promoting rural development. In his paper on public administration training for the relief of rural poverty, H. M. Mathur reviews the experience of the HCM State Institute of Public Administration, Jaipur in imparting development-focused training to administrators and draws a few lessons from the Institute's experience for designing better training programmes to match the specific needs of the development agencies. M. I. Hussain deals in his paper with some of the main aspects of the use of labour-based methods in constructing irrigation works, based on three ILO studies conducted in India (Sharavathi valley project in Karnataka State), the Philippines and Egypt. The role of the operational seminar and its usefulness in promoting functional literacy within the framework of agricultural extension or rural development enterprises are examined by Marcel de Clerck. While recognizing the major contribution formal government training for agriculture has made, Janice Jiggins suggests that current resources make it unlikely that such provision can be extended to release the full rural potential. Further, because of the nature of government provision (because it is a *government* service), it does not always reach the mass of rural poor or correspond very closely to the needs of small farmers and farm workers. It is suggested that part of the gap can be covered by supplementary and complementary (non-official) initiatives in rural development undertaken by charities or religiously inspired organizations, private industry, urban professionals moved to action by rural poverty and individuals with a particular commitment to helping the rural poor. These will provide alternative approaches to the organization of training for agriculture. The rest of the papers deal with the training of rural craftsmen for development, improved management in agricultural education, radio and television centres for agricultural education and training in Poland, the role of extension education in agricultural development, family life education, role of mass communication in disseminating agricultural information to small farmers in Afghanistan and training for wildlife management.