

Review of  
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**Dalit Studies as Pedagogical Practice: Claiming More Than Just a 'Little Place' in the Academia**

*Sharmila Rege*

**Abstract**

In putting together learning and teaching materials from dalit collective action for interpretative and political engagement with caste, I am making a case for dalit studies as Phule's *Tritya Ratna* (third eye) – a medium for interrogating misrecognition of the social world perpetuated by the dominant. The practices of such a dalit studies must move within and across disciplines, back and forth between assumptions of theory, institutional spaces in the academy and democratic struggles outside it. How may intellectuals in their pedagogical practices reinvent their relation to the dalit movement in ways that move beyond relations of instrumentality or fusion? How may scholars guard against a scholastic bias but also a bias of 'campus radicalism' that confuses the things of logic for the logic of things? Dalit studies as pedagogical practice has to encounter these questions in producing instruments both for defence against the symbolic domination of the academy as also for a merciless critique of its concepts, metaphors and modes of reasoning.

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**Land and Water Productivity in Tank Irrigation**

*K. Sivasubramaniyan, R. Sakthivadivel*

**Abstract**

Agriculture consumes the lion's share of available water which is becoming increasingly scarce. For proper management of agricultural water it is essential to understand how much water is currently used for crop production and for other uses; how much is needed in the coming decades; and to what extent and in what ways these needs can be met. In agricultural water management, efficiency of water use is considered important to understand the current levels of water use in surface and groundwater irrigation. Apart from water use efficiency, water productivity is also an important parameter to reckon with. Obviously, the volume of water used for irrigation is the basis to measure water productivity. In order to estimate the efficiency of farm level water use and its productivity, the Cheyyar river basin in Tamil Nadu is taken up for investigation. This paper presents the findings of a study based on fieldwork carried out in seven tanks in Tiruvannamalai district. The findings indicate that land and water productivity differ considerably with locations from the source of supply and in terms of access to well water. Either the tank supply alone or the well water alone does not help the farmer get more returns. Both sources should be used conjunctively to get maximum returns.

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## **Housing Policy in India: Challenges and Reform**

*Ramakrishna Nallathiga*

### **Abstract**

Housing is an important sector of the economy and its provision is largely determined by state policy and interventions. The economic importance of housing calls for a cautious policy framework, so that it does not hamper growth. After years of a housing policy dominated by provision by the state, with the advent of the new economic policy unveiled in the early 1990s, there was a shift towards enabling the provision of housing. Although the private sector now has a larger role to play, the state has to play the role of provider of social housing for the poor and ensure that the regulatory environment enables and ensures appropriate levels of housing. In this context, this paper analyses the changes in housing policy in India in the light of its changing economic, institutional and regulatory environment. It argues that, while continuing with the reforms already laid down on the demand side, it is necessary to focus on supply side reforms, particularly in land and housing regulations at the local level. Moreover, housing the poor needs to be addressed through well-targeted and subsidized programmes, in partnership with other stakeholders. The paper discusses the experience of housing policy and programmes and then identifies the reform agenda that surrounds outdated legislations, incompatible planning standards and regulatory policies contributing to the exacerbation of housing problems in cities. It notes, however, that the recent initiatives do spell out such intent, particularly with the programmes of overall renewal of cities.

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## **Taxing Powers and Developmental Role of the Indian States: A Study with Reference to Kerala**

*R. Mohan, D. Shyjan*

### **Abstract**

The study analyses whether the growing State Domestic Product (SDP) of Kerala has, since the latter half of the 1980s, acted as a larger resource base for the State and finds that it has not. While the inability to fully tap existing resource potential could be cited as a reason, the paper argues that the main constraint is the limited taxing powers of the States. The study concludes that the power to tax services should be devolved, from the Centre to the States, lest the fiscal dispossession should affect the sustainability of achievements which have made the development experience of Kerala unique.

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