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Political Responses to Religious Diversity in Ancient and Modern India

Rajeev Bhargava, Professor and Director, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi.

Abstract :

The fact of India's rich diversity is widely registered, as also the general evaluation that its historical record in managing religious diversity has not been bad. Less understood is how this was achieved in the past or reproduced now. Even lesser known is what this really means, what the extent and depth of such achievement are. Most societies are marked by religious diversity in each of the three forms specified above. Endemic to these diversities is intra- and inter-religious domination. A society deals well with religious diversity when it manages to continually reduce both these forms of domination. Its record in managing diversity is bad when it allows or fosters institutionalized religious domination. However, the reader may notice that though its success in handling religious diversity presupposes that it has the conceptual resources to do so, its failure does not automatically entail that it has no such resources. To be sure, without such resources, a society is destined to fail. But institutionalized religious domination might grow because such resources are neglected, ignored, deliberately suppressed and so on. I consider Indian secularism as principle distance from religion and politics; which is distinct from western notions and other forms of secularism existing in US and Europe. Hence, Indian secularism has potential to address inter and intra religious domain simultaneously. In this Malcolm Adiseshiah Memorial Lecture, I intend to discuss the pragmatic Indian secularism prevailing in its form, content and practices of the Indian Polity.

The first unit of consumption (And its Relevance to Poverty Eradication)

R. Santhosh, Freelance Writer, T3, Type IV, Vasanth Apartments, By Pass Road, Velachery, Chennai-600042,

Abstract :

The first (discrete) unit of consumption is analysed to be composite of fractional units. Hence the Marginal Utility (MU) curve is accepted to be present at quantities $< \text{'one'}$. In the case of consumption below the prescribed calorie intake by the poor there is a 'gap' between the Total Utility (TU) and the MU curves, which causes a 'permanent consumer deficit'. This deficit is more pronounced in the case of necessities than non-necessities. Thus the consumer has a disincentive in consuming necessities as such and also in preference for non-necessities – a case of fall in utility of consumption that leads to deprivation of the very same commodity that the poor have consumed in ample measure. Thus to tackle poverty, like 'eating the right quantity at the right time whether you are hungry or not', a more comprehensive eradication measure would be better than spurts of alleviation. During the course of analysis the article also attempts to find a precise location for the first unit of consumption on the X- and Y-axes.

Keywords: 'one', 'gap', 'permanent consumer deficit', eradication, alleviation

Fertilizer Prices, Subsidy and Agricultural Prices: The Case of India

Rajnarayan Gupta, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Presidency University, Kolkata – 700073

Prasenjit Ghosh, Research Scholar, Department of Economics, Jadavpur University, Kolkata - 700032.

Bipul Malakar, Professor, Department of Economics, Jadavpur University, Kolkata - 700032, India.

Abstract :

Fertilizer is an important input in agriculture. Fertilizer prices for that reason, should influence crop prices. The present study examines whether fertilizer prices affect agricultural prices in India. The standard time series techniques such as VAR (Vector Auto Regressive) modelling and F-tests are used for that purpose. The study period ranges from April 1994 to January 2010. The study reveals, however, that agricultural prices are not affected by fertilizer prices. The empirical result is striking and is justified partly on the grounds that the intensity of fertilizer use is remarkably low in the country and partly by the process of subsidization, which keeps fertilizer prices relatively stagnant.

Natural Resource Abundance in the Indian States: Curse or Boon?

Bhagirath Behera and Pulak Mishra, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur – 721 302

Abstract :

In the context of an ongoing debate the world over of an inverse relationship between the abundance of natural resources and economic development, the present paper makes an attempt to understand the situation in Indian states. It is observed that the hypothesis of the resource curse is valid in the Indian states possibly because of weak institutions and policies. Future research should, therefore, be guided towards providing new insights into the causes, consequences and remedies for the problem of resource curse. This can help in efficient and effective use of natural resources to achieve the development objectives of different state economies in the country.

Tourism, Nutrition and Women's Health in Goa

Shaila Desouza, Centre for Women's Studies, Goa University.

Abstract :

This paper studies the links between contemporary development practice and gender concerns, particularly, the impact of tourism related development on the nutritional entitlement of women, and the consequent impact on their health. This has public policy implications for Goa, as it raises questions about the role of the state in tourism promotion. By examining the intersection between development and nutrition in Goa, we question the effectiveness of

current development strategies in meeting women's fundamental right to health. The paper reveals that women living and working in tourism areas have a less-desirable nutritional status than those in non-tourism areas.

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Book Reviews :

P.M. MATHEW, S. SRIDHAR and RAM VENUPRASAD
India Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Report 2011
by M. Vijayabaskar

SUKHPAL SINGH and NARESH SINGLA
Fresh food retail chains in India: Organisation and Impacts
by Sowjanya R. Peddi

DEBAL DEB
Beyond Developmentality: Constructing Inclusive Freedom
by N. Rajasekaran