

Review of
Development & Change
Volume IV Number 2, July – December 1999

Inter-State disparities in levels of development and the implications of economic liberalization on regional economies of India

Rajkishor Meher

Abstract

Since early 1990s the country has taken recourse to Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), economic liberalization and globalization measures to solve the problem of low economic growth, surmounting external debt burden and balance of payment crisis. These measures popularly known as NEP (New Economic Policy) put emphasis on the primacy of the market economy and to that effect the role of the State in shaping the economy and society is progressively curtailed. However, whether such strategy of development will be helpful in reducing socio-economic disparities between place and people in a pluralistic and multi-ethnic society laden with particularistic and ascriptive values of the hierarchical caste system is doubtful. Thus, analyzing the trend of inter-State level development disparities in Post-Independent India and the flow of capital investment to different States during post liberalization years, the present paper apprehends that disparities between place and people will accentuate further, if necessary corrective measures are not taken by the State to eliminate market distortions.

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Financial liberalisation and stock market behaviour experiences of India and select Asian countries

M K Roy

Abstract

Equity markets of many Asian countries are suffering from the menace of over-speculation and excessive price fluctuation in the post liberalisation period. The phenomenon contradicts the assumption of financial liberalisation hypothesis that predicts a decrease in volatility following liberalisation and discounts its macro-economic effect. If the present unruly behaviour of markets continues, it might lead to frequent financial crisis, and misallocation of savings and investment to the detriment of real sector growth and stability. Policy makers must work out a plan to stop this menace, otherwise capital market would simply benefit unscrupulous speculators at the cost of the economy at large.

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Pressure on land, employment and migration: evidences from Sardar Sarovar Project

D C Sah

Abstract

About 4578 Sardar Sarovar Project Affected Persons (PAPs) from 19 submerging villages of Gujarat have been relocated in 120 new sites. This paper attempts to examine some of the second

generation problems faced by these PAP families. The paper examines the inadequacy of allotted land to provide sustenance to some oustees and the incapability of the economy to provide them with gainful employment. Pressures on land force the PAPs to augment their land resources by double cropping even the dry lands and attempt crop commercialisation. This, by and large, has a positive production impact on various farms except the cotton dominated farms where commercialisation has adversely affected food intake. But in the absence of a viable technology, the yield risks could not be reduced. Some of the PAP, located in drought prone areas face yield risks perpetually. Consequently, some of the members from these affected families have seasonally migrated to support consumption of the remaining members of the family. In the process, henceforth unknown institutional arrangements like share cropping, fixed tenancy and land mortgage have also developed.

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Impact of prohibition in Andhra Pradesh: some empirical results

V Reddappa Reddy, D Chenna Reddy and C Dheeraja

Abstract

Government of Andhra Pradesh introduced prohibition in January 1995. However, by May 1997 it was lifted. It is recognised that prohibition was lifted because it was a failure. It was neither the first Government nor the first State to introduce prohibition, and fail. This calls for an assessment about the factors that caused the failure. In spite of severe restrictions from various agencies of Government on alcohol production, transport, marketing and consumption, alcoholism continued unabated in Andhra Pradesh. This raises several issues such as: 1) how the demand and supply of alcohol react during prohibition; 2) system that helped the production, transport and marketing of alcohol; 3) changes in the consumption levels, prices and availability of alcohol; and 4) the scenario left after the lifting of prohibition. The present paper tries to answer these questions. Sample alcoholics (100), some illicit arrack brewers and personnel of law enforcing agencies are the main sources of data and information in the preparation of the paper.

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Commercial crops, alienation of common property resources and change in tribal economy in the Shervaroy hills of Madras Presidency during the colonial period

Velayutham Saravanan

Abstract

The article attempts to analyse in a historical perspective the changing mode of production in the hills of Madras Presidency due to the introduction of commercial crops and alienation of tribal common property resources. It concludes that the occupational status of the tribals had declined owing to the alienation of their common property rights and introduction of commercial crops. Further, it argues that the colonial administration had favoured the British settlers at the cost of tribals.

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Second-order creativity in research: exploring an action-oriented perspective

D P Dash

Abstract

Something is happening to the way we think about the way we think (Geertz 1983:20).

This paper introduces a distinction between first-order and second-order creativity with regard to research. First-order creativity in research refers to various innovations in research practice while leaving the underlying mould of thinking about research intact. However, second-order creativity involves a creative adaptation of the traditional mould of thinking about research. Two broad families of literature (i.e., those of management systems and action research) dealing with such creative adaptation have been discussed in the paper. Based on the insights from these families of literature, a particular type of research thinking, i.e., that of action-oriented research, has been introduced. Such a perspective aims at exploring what makes for stability and change in collective (interactive) phenomena. The contribution of such research in practical context would be to bring forth (and systematically improve) local configurations that prove to be a support in some domain of action. Some examples of such research have been provided.

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