

Review of
Development & Change
Volume V Number 1, January - June 2000

The wisdom and wit of Sen's contributions to capital theory: some sketches

K Velupillai

Abstract

An attempt is made, in this paper, to sketch Amartya Sen 's contributions to capital and growth theories during the heyday of the so-called 'Cambridge controversies in capital theories'. I try to emphasise Sen's remarkable ability to view current controversies in the light of the classics in capital and growth theories whilst, at the same time, widening the horizons of the frontiers and deepening the foundations of the subject in interesting ways. Sen's early devising of the 'isolation paradox' is also discussed. Some suggestions are provided for an alternative way of harnessing the ambiguities inherent in the 'Prisoner's Dilemma' which implies that the dynamical complexities of the 'isolation paradox' may need to be interpreted with more care.

* * *

Population projection and policy implications for education: a discussion with reference to Kerala

P K Michael Tharakan and K Navaneetham

Abstract

In the context of high levels of public expenditure, already committed to the educational sector in States like Kerala, it is often argued that there should be restrictions on further investment. Such arguments are apparently supported by the fact that the birth rate is declining and therefore it will result in lesser number of school age population. Since this trend directly affects the elementary education sector-the most sensitive- it is important to project the school age populations with realistic assumptions. This study uses the recent information on the trends in fertility and reproductive preferences to make a realistic future assumption on fertility. Since the total fertility rate (TFR) is distorted by the changes in the timing of child bearing, the initial level of TFR was adjusted in the projection assumption. Among the three assumptions used (high, medium and low) the medium variant shows that the fall in school going age population will be around 3.29 lakha between 1991 and 2001. However, there will be an increase in the school age population of around 2.37 lakha between 2001 and 2006 and 1.54 lakha between 2001 and 2011. Therefore, the fruits of fertility decline will be realized fully after the year 2011 only. In that context, built up school space should not be diverted for use other than schooling purposes; but should be used within the same sector for qualitative up-gradation. Decelerating birth rate and its expected impact upon primary school enrolment, by itself cannot be taken as cause enough to withdraw public investment. Such over-all impact will hide within it level-wise changes of demand for education, from lower to higher school classes, particularly within the relatively educationally 'backward' districts and communities. Therefore, the decelerating birth rate should be carefully monitored. Taking into account its trend and location, further public investment should be reoriented and rationalized. To close schools purely on the basis of decelerating demographic trends will be counterproductive to the nationally and internationally accepted objective of education for all.

Transnational capital and indebtedness of countries in the Third World: an analysis in the context of globalization

Bhaskar Majumder

Abstract

Almost all the countries in the post-Second World War developing world have depended for their development on borrowing capital from sources controlled by the Developed Market Economics (DMEs). This paper accepts the fact that economic indebtedness of countries is neither globalization-specific nor is it Third World-specific. What this paper emphasizes is that the huge influx of Multinational Banks (MNBs)-controlled money into the Third World Countries (TWCs) led to a mobility of money so much so that finance capital created its own route of expansion increasingly independent of the sphere of production. The excess liquidity collected all over the world and brought through the MNBs for the Transnational Corporations (TNCs) operating in the TWCs resulted in the Third World debt crisis. This paper examines the reasons. This paper makes it clear that the problem of indebtedness of the countries particularly in the Third World is not confined to repaying debt at a particular point or period of time. This paper claims that unless the broader structural questions related to the relevance of aid and loans received by the TWCs are analyzed, the real issues would continue to be brushed under the carpet. The paper accepts the difficulties for the indebted TWCs to be delinked from the existing international economic order. The paper argues for ensuring steps to strengthen the economic fundamentals of the TWCs through country-specific and inter-country collective self-reliance. The paper proposes the formation of a group of twelve indebted countries that can initiate steps to solve the problems of indebtedness of all.

* * *

Growth and structure of manufacture of textile products in India: an analysis of four major industrial states

L G Burange

Abstract

This paper examines the performance of the manufacture of textile products in industrially developed states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. Being export intensive, the new economic policy gave a strong impetus to the industry. From 1979-80 to 1994-95, the output of this industry in the country has grown by 13.90 per cent, fixed capital by 14.04 per cent, value-added by 14.56 per cent, and employment by 7.38 per cent per annum. This high growth industry is composed mainly of textile garments and knitted textile products. These two products largely influenced the performance of the industry in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. The growth of this industry during the post-liberalisation phase is phenomenal in Tamil Nadu. Maharashtra also experienced high growth. However, it is below the national average. Localization of the industry in Tamil Nadu continuously increased while in the other three states it declined perceptibly. In the manufacture of textile products Tamil Nadu has emerged as the dominant state in India. Tamil Nadu certainly has a comparative advantage in this industry.

* * *

Rethinking civil society

Ananta Kumar Giri

Abstract

Civil society today is globally valorized discourse but its contemporary valorization makes it an ally of the market, the liberated and liberalized non-state public sphere where there exists rule of law so that people can exercise their 'freedom of choice'. Thus propagation of civil society through the package of market gains currency in popular consciousness when the agents of market capitalism such as the World Bank today are also the votaries of civil society. They are vocal in their disenchantment with State and turn to the NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations) as actors of civil society for service delivery and other functions. But the contemporary reduction of civil society to the space of market exchange needs to be interrogated especially as such a reduction is part of the contemporary valorization of capital which gives primacy to profit over human need, intimacy and the intersubjective foundations of a dignified society. In this context, civil society needs to be rethought as a terrain of socio-political revolution and spiritual transformations for realizing human freedom and a dignified social order which gives an appropriate institutional form to market and State but are not governed by these. The present article is an attempt to rethink civil society as a space of critical reflection and creative transformations and strives to widen its universe of discourse from its modernist over-determination of politics towards self-transformation of individuals and spiritual transformation of societies.

* * *