

Review of  
**Development & Change**  
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**Suicides of farmers in Maharashtra: A socio-economic analysis**

*B. B. Mohanty*

**Abstract**

Based on analysis both at the micro and macro levels, linking historical with contemporary data and economic with social phenomena, the present paper provides a comprehensive account of suicides of the farmers in Maharashtra with reference to Amravati and Yavatmal districts. The findings of the study indicate that the suicides of the farmers were the results of complex process of interaction of historical as well as contemporary forces. The lower and the medium caste farmers who were mostly the small farmers had aspired for a better socio-economic position through agriculture in the planning era in the wake of land reforms and other allied measures. When they failed to realise it owing to crop loss they found their life not worth living. Their suicidal tendency was strengthened by egoistic factors. On the contrary, the suicides of the large and medium farmers who mostly belong to higher castes can be attributed mainly to anomic forces generated by failure in business, trade and politics. The socio-cultural factors such as old age, illness, family tension, etc., further added to their urge to take their own lives.

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**Marketed surplus of food: relevant concepts and roles**

*Kamal Nayan Kabra*

**Abstract**

The paper has two objectives. First, it seeks to examine the concept of marketed surplus in the important contexts in which it is generally used, viz; theories of development and industrialisation, debates over mode of production in agriculture, and food policy, particularly in the context of the Indian economy. It attempts to show that instead of the generally accepted connotation of the concept of surplus these discussions seem to define it as 'availability to the rest of the economy' and postulate the market as the means for transferring it. Using the generally accepted meaning of the term surplus, it is argued that all the marketed output need not be surplus, while all the surplus need not be marketed. Hence the concept of marketed surplus consists of two components which are basically independent of each other. This makes the concept shorn of an empirical counterpart. Making explicit the criteria tacit in various definitions of marketed surplus, the paper concludes by suggesting three different concepts, 'food surplus', 'gross annual sales of and demand for foodgrains', and market sales of food along with market dependence for food, according to the three contexts, mentioned above. Second, is the related issue of the role of agricultural surplus in financing industrial development, particularly in the form of shortcomings in agriculture, and bring out the fallacious nature of this proposition.

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**Internal to external - transformation of the ecology and the body system: conceptions of ecology, health and development in South Indian villages**

*V. Sujatha*

**Abstract**

It is more than evident that development cannot be discussed without reference to its impact on ecology. This seems to be the case not only with academics, but also the people whose development is sought. This paper is a representation of the conceptualisations of a certain village folk on the kind of development that is taking place in their region and its impact on their health and their ecology.

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**Where are the poor households of the villages of North Bihar in the programmes of rural development?**

*D.M. Diwakar*

**Abstract**

North Bihar villages selected for this study represent agriculturally backward and flood prone regions where almost all the efforts and investment have turned ineffective because of the recurrence of floods amidst syndromes of dependence. This paper examines the impacts of development schemes in forty villages of Sitamarhi district of North Bihar during 1996-97 to 1998-99. It emerged from the study that while the developmental schemes have contributed in creating infrastructure and eradication of poverty, the quality of assets created has invited serious criticism. Leakage of funds remained as a matter of concern as no grass root organisation like PRI has been in existence for the last twenty years. Consequently people's participation in developmental activities remained far from the reality. Bureaucracy enjoyed power in collusion with local leaders. People of the area are of the view that unless effective measures for flood control and water management are taken no amount of investment in rural development can produce desirable results.

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**Doctoral Work**

**Impact of housing policy: sites and services schemes in Chennai city**

*M. Vijayalakshmi*

**Abstract**

This article attempts to analyse the impact of housing policy in general and the sites and services schemes (SSS) in Chennai city in particular. It argues that the occupancy rate was determined by the availability of basic infrastructure facilities than that of housing. It claims that social obligations take precedence over that of housing in the scheme areas. It concludes that the housing moves have led to improvement in the mover's living conditions in Chennai city.

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