

Review of Development & Change

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Abstracts

The Problem of Inequality
S. Mahendra Dev

Malcolm Adiseshiah Award lecture for 2016.

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***Women Writing in India* Reconsidered**
Susie Tharu

MIDS Founder's Day lecture 2017.

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**How the Federal Reserve Caused the Great Inflation and Stagflation:
A Political Economic Approach**
Edwin Dickens

From 1966 to 1979 the United States suffered the worst inflation in its history. During this Great Inflation, recessions occurred in 1969–70 and 1973–75, thereby constituting the phenomenon of stagflation, or simultaneous inflation and recession. The purpose of this paper is to explain how the Federal Reserve, the US central bank, caused both the Great Inflation and stagflation by raising interest rates, which contradicts the more typical assignment of culpability to it for allowing excessive growth of money supply.

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Transition in Agrarian Structure in Odisha
Mamata Swain

This paper analyses the trends in land ownership and operation patterns in Odisha in eastern India over a period of five decades (1961–2013) with data from various rounds of the National Sample Survey (NSS). The average size of landholdings has decreased substantially and there has been growing marginalisation of landholdings. The proportion of medium and large holdings has steadily declined. There is a need to control further sub-division of holdings to ensure economic viability of small-scale agriculture. However, inequality in landownership and operation shows a declining trend. Odisha is considered a high tenancy state in India with prevalence of subsistence tenancy and sharecropping. Both lessors and lessees predominantly hail from the marginal and small farmer categories. Tenancy contracts are oral, unrecorded, insecure with high rent and characterised by an absence of input-cost sharing. Though tenancy is legally prohibited in the state, its prevalence suggests that in the specific socio-economic context of labour abundance, land scarcity and dire hunger for land, tenancy seems to play a useful role by providing a means of livelihood to the landless and land-poor peasants in the absence of any dependable alternative livelihood opportunity. In the neoliberal policy regime, tenancy contracts instead of being banned need to be legalised and regulated.

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**Who Participates in MGNREGA?
Analyses from Longitudinal Data
Omkar Joshi, Sonalde Desai,
Reeve Vanneman and Amaresh Dubey**

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was enacted in 2005 and has completed a little over a decade in India. It is the largest public employment programme in the world and has promoted a wider participation from rural households across the country. This paper examines the issue of programme participation in MGNREGA holistically by looking at household and individual-level participation and controlling for regional heterogeneity, using a unique panel data from the nationally representative India Human Development Survey. Using a binary logistic model and fixed effects models at the state and village level, the paper finds that poor households with a low asset base and those belonging to the Scheduled Caste (SC)/Scheduled Tribe (ST) categories are more likely to participate in the programme, but the support base of MGNREGA is not just limited to these groups and is rather broad-based. It also shows that as compared to other types of work, women suffer less disadvantage than men, thereby providing empowerment opportunities to women.

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**Globalisation, Energy Efficiency and Material Consumption in
India's Pulp and Paper Industry (1980–81 to 2009–10)
Sandeep Kumar Kujur**

This study measures the extent to which India's pulp and paper industry has been integrated with the rest of the world, especially after economic reforms were initiated in the country in the 1990s. It analyses the effect of increasing globalisation on two important dimensions of the industry: energy use and material consumption. Data from secondary sources point to considerable improvements in energy efficiency and a gradual shift towards the use of sustainable raw material.

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**The Hybrid State and Regulation of Land and
Real Estate: A Case Study of Gurugram, Haryana
Aseem Prakash**

How are neoliberal reforms in land development and real estate markets in Gurugram (India) operationalised? How are market-promoting and market-creating policies shaped and implemented in the specific land and real estate markets of Gurugram? In order to engage with these questions, this paper invokes the concept of the hybrid state, which helps us understand the formal and informal dynamics of the state's endeavour to regulate economic activities in the interest of economic growth and revenue while also adhering to path-dependent informal socio-political norms and reshaping newer forms of informality.

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