

Book Review

Disaster, Vulnerability and Rehabilitation: A Study of Uttarakhand

By Bindeshwar Pathak and Satyendra Tripathi

Rawat Publications, New Delhi, Published 2019, PP 216 Hardback, Price
Rs. 760/

The book under review deals with disaster, vulnerability and rehabilitation of witticism and disaster affected areas of Uttarakhand state. The book is based on a case study of Devali Bhanigram, Rudra Prayag of Uttarakhand which was worstly affected by flush flood in 2013. The village was adopted by Sulabh International for rehabilitation India is one of the world's biggest hotspots for natural and man-made disasters. India's geoclimatic circumstances, along with its high socioeconomic susceptibility, make it one of the world's most disaster-prone countries. Over the last three decades, there have been 431 big catastrophes in the country, resulting in massive loss of life and property. Floods, droughts, cyclones, earthquakes, landslides, avalanches, and forest fires are all common occurrences in the country. The Himalayan ecology, which is prone to earthquakes, flash floods, landslides, forest fires, and traffic accidents, covers a substantial portion of the newly constituted state of Uttarakhand. The flash flood in June 2013, which was followed by land slides, wreaked havoc on the state's economy. In the face of rampant urbanisation, deforestation, unregulated tourism activities, hydropower project building, and increased demand for scarce resources, the report emphasises the critical need for sustainable and socially responsible development. In order to prevent and mitigate natural disasters in the state, policymakers must address these critical challenges. In the context of Uttarakhand, the study presents theoretical perspectives on catastrophes, their prevention and mitigation, as well as assessments of susceptibility and risks. Sulabh International Social Service Organization's commitment to the rehabilitation and restoration of disaster-affected areas in Dewali village panchayat in Rudraprayag district is also highlighted. It also includes a detailed investigation of the profile and rehabilitation of widows affected by the natural disaster of 2013. The book is believed to be extremely helpful in comprehending the dynamics of development and natural disasters. It highlights the critical need of long-term development in maintaining a healthy balance between the three pillars of ecology, environment, and development.

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**Free Coaching Scheme For Scheduled Castes And Other Backward
Classes : An Evaluation Study Of Selected States In India**

By Awadhesh Kumar Singh, Satya Prakeash Pandey

Published By Serials Publications Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, 2021, HB, PP136,
Price' Rs. 695/

The book under review deals with impact of Free Coaching Scheme for Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classless. The study was conducted in 15 states of India under the auspices of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, New Delhi. The administration has made educational empowerment of the poorer groups a priority in order to mainstream them in development and governance. The weakest parts of society include Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, and Minorities. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment of the Government of India has introduced the Tutoring and Allied Services Scheme to provide coaching for competitive examinations to the disadvantaged sectors of society, particularly students from Scheduled Castes and OBCs. The scheme has had an impact on the educational empowerment of students from underrepresented groups, as well as their general preparation and success in competitive exams. In light of the foregoing, the current study was conducted in 15 states across India, covering all geographical zones, under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, New Delhi, to examine the functioning and performance of the central sector scheme and to propose a roadmap for its effective operation and achievement of desired results. The book is likely to be extremely valuable in gaining a better knowledge of how the Free Coaching and Allied Services Scheme works and developing a roadmap for enhancing the scheme's performance and achieving the targeted outcomes.

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