

BOOK REVIEWS

DIVISION OF LABOUR: THE ENGENDERED LABOUR DYNAMICS by Suguna Pathy. New Delhi: Serials, 2011, p. 81, price ₹ 450/-

The book under review deals with sexual division of labour keeping in view various factors affecting women. Women constitute almost one third of total world labour force but get only ten percent of world's income. Further, women are not seen as objects of change, rather viewed as subjects of change and as imitators than initiators. The author says that "in the wider politico-economic context in India disenchantment with the social order and the establishment is increasing; the legitimacy of protest and organised violence is being concealed and the repressive and persuasive role of the state is growing (p.xv)."

In light of globalisation both middle class and a section of lower strata are facing the real crisis because of nepotism, corruption, casteism, communalism, fundamentalism and sexism and women are no exception to these facts. Women's position in a society has to be viewed in relation to the basic social production and power and this varies from class to class. Gender permeates social, political and economic structures, thus gender inequalities become integral constituents of social organisation.

In every society sexual division of labour is clearly marked, out of which women constitute an important part. However, they are continuously exploited for example, the author argues that women from agricultural productions are exploited at three levels: (i) as women they are oppressed by their men belonging to same caste and class and through marriage transactions, (ii) as women belonging to a specific class by the landlords, rich peasants and money lenders of exploiting class; and (iii) as women are sexually abused by the appropriated class (xxii).

The author has given an appraisal of sexual division of labour and in a study she has taken three hypotheses concerning social relations of production, patriarchy, potential of women and capitalism. She studied among a sample size of 500 Telugu women engaged in *Jari* textiles and domestic labour. These workers were migrant workers to Surat. The author says that the female migration to Surat was coordinated by the social arrangements of marriage.

The findings of the study present an interesting scenario concerning women. Women as domestic labourers perform the double task of reproduction, both social and biological. However, this production is not necessarily oppressive uniformly. The structuring of social relations inhibit or slow or blurr the collective consciousness and finally contribute to the oppression of women. In an oppressive and class hidden society objective consciousness of domestic labour does not necessarily transform into subjective consciousness; because domestic labour is not specific to the reproduction of one class but to the reproduction of opposing classes (p.60).

Finally, the author says that women have to struggle at two levels, i.e., alongwith other disadvantaged sections of the society for social transformation and separately as women's movements is to redefine their identities which is a continuous process (p.68). Overall, it is a small but heavy reading in the sense that it is a meaningful integration of theory and empirical data.

INTERROGATING SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES AND LOCAL INITIATIVES edited by Debal K. SinghaRoy, New Delhi: Manohar Publishers and Distributors, 2010, pp 474, price ₹ 1250/-

The volume under review is the outcome upon International Conference on Social Development, Social Movement and the Marginalized, organized by Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi. It has four sections having 18 articles besides an introduction by the editor. In his introduction, Debal K. Singha Roy says that globalization has on one hand brought unprecedented economic growth and varieties of social economic and political deprivation and exclusion on the other. The fast process of economic globalization, that has widely contributed to the extraordinary expansion of information and communication technologies, proliferation of knowledge, economy, global and local connectivity, phenomenal economic growth and material prosperity, have seldom facilitated the eradication of poverty, livelihood insecurity, malnutrition, unemployment, illiteracy, ill-health, social inequalities, divides and exclusion and disempowerment of the largest segment of the population. It has been widely realized by now that economic development does not necessarily lead to social development; and that the growing imbalances not only threaten social cohesion but also cause retrogression to the development of a society as a whole (p.11).

The first section deals with Social Development: Changing Context and Emerging Perspectives. T. K. Oommen in his paper has dealt with the interconnections between social development, social policy and social movement. He says that there are three broad perspectives on development: the mainstream perspective, the alternative perspective and the post development perspective. Parallel to these, he says, there are three models of social policies: the residual model, achievement-performance model and the institutional redistributed model. These models of social policies crystallized as responses to social movements. He has tried to analyze the interlinkage between the above three on all the three worlds – First, Second and Third. S.L. Sharma in his paper on globalization and social transformations in India makes a thorough theoretical review of the situation in India. He says that globalization has generated an overall climate of prosperity in India. However, it has led to growing disparity in the sense poverty has not reduced. There is a rise of a new middle class, it is getting bigger, richer, younger, and spendthrift by the day. It has grown to an estimated 300 million, roughly 22 per cent as against 12 per cent elsewhere in the world. This class is different from traditional middle class in its composition, age group, income level, life style and social outlook, it is composed of company executives, IT specialists, finance and management consultants, media professionals and the neo-rich, including the 'bullock capitalists' from the countryside (p. 54). However, peasantry has been marginalized. Discussing civil society, Alka Dhamija says that globalization scenario has opened up new avenues for growth of civil societies. The new development in the form of World Civil Society Forum, World Social Forum and Asian Social Forum are trying to build the capacity of civil society, expand its involvement, enhance its diversity, and increase its vigilance potential.

The second section is on Straight and Legal Intervention. Sujata Dutta Hazarika has analysed social development, conflict and participatory governance in North East India. There is a growing conflict situation in Assam which has led to mobilization of various movements. Almost all the states of North East India have, at some time or the other, experienced political mobilization and organized violence against migrants (anti-outsider movements), leading to victimization and expulsion of community of migrant origin. It is a really a complex phenomena today. P.K. Biswas in his paper has analyzed Dalit's Forest Rights. These people are totally dependent on the forest for their livelihood. However, in most of the areas they have lost their

forest rights causing a detrimental situation among them. Raj Kumar Khosala deals with forest rights among the tribals. He has examined the forest policies aimed at conserving forest resources in the Koraput District of Orissa. He says that though the government is spending a huge amount to eradicate poverty in the tribal societies, the tribals continued to follow the traditional economic system based on forest. Jagannath Ambagudia's paper entitled "Development or Destitution: Rethinking Tribal-State Relationship in Orissa" looks at the cohesion, conflict and contradictions prevailing in development practice in Orissa. However, he is critical of the State in the sense he says that the government has dealt with the social crises among the tribals with authoritarian interventions which can lead to social anarchy.

The third section analyzes civil society, local and corporate initiatives. Damayanti Mukhopadhyay and S.A.H. Moinuddin in their paper entitled 'Social Development and the Empowerment of Marginalized Women: A Study of SHGs' have analyzed the programme in Paschim Medinipur district of West Bengal. Their study reveals that overall there is a positive change in the lives of the SHG members. Most members have reported that after membership their economic independence has increased and social status has enhanced.

The fourth section deals with ICT, Education, and Social Development. Suditi Naskar analyses the feasibility of using ICT as tool for sustainable development and recommends its implementation. She cautions that the stakeholders need to be careful as there is immense scope for experimentation and research. Rigorous monitoring and evaluation are needed to determine if the benefits of ICT projects are worth the project's costs, especially when they are aimed at social inclusion of the disadvantaged communities.

Overall the book provides conceptual analysis on globalization, development, and social transformation in India. It will be of great help to the students, researchers, as well as teachers dealing with the impact of globalization on various aspects of social life.

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MALAYALI DIASPORA: FROM KERALA TO THE END OF THE WORLD, edited by Sam George and T. V. Thomas. New Delhi: Serials Publications, ₹ 750. Pp 227 + xvii

The present volume brings as a testimony of the Malayalis, the people of Indian origin from the state of Kerala, having a rich heritage of cultural and religious traditions from Hindu, Muslim or Christian background dispersing across India and the world that one claim the Sun never sets on the Malayali diaspora. Because of their very fertile and conducive socio-cultural environment and mentality, they adapt anywhere at nook and corner of the world.

The book is a valuable resource for information regarding works and interests on this research area especially for universities and institutions of higher education. It covers important issues depicting their personal experiences, Malayali immigrants' contemporary saga, their immigrant journeys and their experiences in working in different parts of the world. One can explore their historical, social, cultural, professional and religious life from wide range of professionals by capturing insights of divergent issues, the struggles as an overseas ethnic community.

The book has eighteen articles which are thematically organised into three main sections i.e. Part A, Part B and Part C. The first section (Part A: Migration from Kerala) consists of six

articles that bring out the global Malayali diaspora scenario in the present world. George Commen's paper on 'Re-imagining a Migratory Self: A History of Malayali Migration' made an attempt to explore the historical account of the Malayalis' migration out of Kerala. The articles contributed by T.V. Thomas, O.M. Panicker, Stanley John, Lina Samuel, Mathew T.Thomas highlight the important aspect of adapting process and their vulnerabilities and also opportunities faced by many of the Malayalis migrants. It also pictures out the shift in Malayali attitude towards migration as the result a century's worth of complex social, economic and cultural change at different phases in their society.

The second section (Part B: Personal Narratives of Kerala Migrants) comes out with four articles which are more in personal narratives of Malayali migrant voyage, starting with Ipe Mavunka's article 'Migratory Malayali Expatriates of Africa' and followed by Roshan Varughese's 'New Horizons for Malayalis in Australia', Prabhu Guptara's 'The Oldest Malayali in Continental Europe: The Story of a Quest' and Roy P. Thomas's 'Blossoming of Indian Immigrants in America'. It is interesting to see the kind of paradigm shift which the present generation is having as countries are relatively new historical constructs that their boundaries have changed and it will continue to change. Besides these, we also notice the importance of technological innovation in communication which also enhances to make the world grow smaller and closer.

The third and final section (Part C: Malayali Life in the Diaspora) consists of eight articles. This section of the book traces the life of the Malayalis from divergent vantage points. T. M. Thomas's article, 'Malayali Educators in Diaspora: Reflections of a College Professor in America' highlights about the distinctive changing pattern of the Malayalis profession, starting from their home town in Kerala and ended at different parts of the world. Sara Gabriel's 'Malayali Nurses in America: Caring for Others' gives a remarkable journey of nurses and their struggle, venture to a new professional. She also highlights the new role of "house-husbands" who are not able to find jobs to commensurate with their education or experience and their agony of loneliness staying at home while their wives worked extra hours to meet the added living expenses. Prema Kurien's article pictures out the religious life of Malayalis in the diaspora, mainly focusing on Hindus and Christians with some kind of changes in developing a separate religious institution that brings cordial relationship through their common participation in the Kerala association.

Thomas Kulanjiyil's 'Malayali Family Life in the Diaspora' analyses the present household changes facing the overseas Malayalis families. It is also mentioned that in spite of all odds they continued with employment opportunities in those countries but the unique problem of family separation, especially, the father absenteeism have serious impact on their children. Sam George's article 'Malayalis Without Malayalam: Language Proficiency of Children of Kerala Immigrants' commented that language issues are more complicated for diasporic families than generally assumed. Enas A. Enas's 'Major Health Challenges of Malayali Diaspora' brings out the state of Malayali health in the diaspora, also outlined the health literacy and adapt themselves by adopting new strategies. P.T. Thomas's 'Aging Malayali Diaspora in America: Triumphs and Struggles' explores retirement options before Malayalis in the diaspora. The article of Jesudas M. Athyal on 'Malayalam Media in the Diaspora' comes to an end in this section. T.V. Thomas gives the concluding portion of the book with the striking reflection that concludes a discourse and some important remarks on Malayali Diaspora.

The book is a fairly rich assortment of the useful and essential source of in-depth information on the Malayalis diaspora who dispersed at different parts of the globe. It also gives

a clear picture on the understanding of their historical, social, cultural, professional life of the people and their socio-cultural barrier in adapting the new environment too.

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