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Rural credit in Jharkhand A Study of Recent Trends and Issues Anupam Sarkar

Abstract

Financial inclusion has been one of the focus areas of banking sector reforms in post liberalization period. This paper is an exploratory analysis of rural credit in Jharkhand, a state which is lagging behind rest of India in terms of major socio-economic indicators and which has seen several uprisings in British era and after independence against exploitation by outsiders especially diku moneylenders. Struggle against moneylenders/mahajans had been an important constituent part of adivasi movement for a separate state comprising of tribal dominated districts of united Bihar. In such scenario expansion of formal banking system and inclusion of marginalized sections in banking network have an important role to play for development of the newly formed state. We draw from secondary databases to analyse the trajectory of rural credit and progress in social and developmental banking in Jharkhand after 2000.

Keywords: financial inclusion, rural banking, informal credit, moneylenders, social and developmental banking.

The Sociology of Religion in contemporary India a Gramscian Critique Satya Swaroop Panda and Nibedita Priyadarsini

Abstract

The Indian society is at crossroads. The intersections of caste, religion and gender have put forward a sociological challenge before the prospects of the Indian nation-state in the present day Indian society. The paper attempts a critical analysis of the multiple points of influence associated with the socio-cultural contexts vis-à-vis the dynamics of the political systems with reference to the question of religion in contemporary India while using the Gramscian perspective to delineate the socio-historical relevance of religion and politics in the context of the power dynamics in contemporary India. The paper can be divided into three different phases. Firstly, it attempts to trace the location of Gramsci in front of the politics of the left and his ideas and formulations of religion intertwined with politics referring directly to his writings particularly the prison Note books along with the sociological foundations proposed by thinkers who have contributed to the sociology of religion. In the Second phase, it explores the relevance of Gramscian moral and intellectual reformation to the contemporary Indian context and the issues of the subalterns by using the key concepts of Gramscian work mainly the common sense, philosophy with relation to his concept of religion of the people. Thirdly, the author concludes with the sociological questions to be handled in the present day Indian context with reference to the religion of the subalterns while finding its relevance in Gramscian work.

Keywords: Common Sense, hegemony, oppression, Religion of the people, subalterns

Land Reforms in Bihar in 21st century Rhetoric versus Reality

Abstract

The roots of current trend of violence and unsecured land right on one hand and agrarian unrest on the other must be located in the state's dismal record on land reforms. After six decades, the rural masses are not highly organized, politicized and capable of fighting for their rights due to collusion among intermediaries. The mainstream development literature tries to understand the changes in land relations through the lens of land reforms alone. Bihar provides an appropriate setting to understand how the bulk of land reforms acts and rules could not fulfil aims of land reforms. Our findings based on macro level data compiled from Government of Bihar sources and micro level data through case study show that the much acclaimed land reforms have failed to provide land rights to actual tillers or actual beneficiaries. The land reform process in Bihar could not deal with the role of intermediaries due to the 'new class nexus'. At present, Government of Bihar comes to restore the land rights to the state. Such a situation is explained not only through land reforms but also by a set of interlocking historical factors including current initiative of concerned revenue and land reforms department.

Keywords: Land Reforms, Surplus Land, Landlessness, Land Eviction, Land Settlement

Participation of Tribal Women in Decision Making Processes of Panchayats A Study of two Districts Bishnu Prasad Mohapatra

Abstract

This paper reflects the form and extent of participation of Women, particularly women from the Tribal communities in the decision, making processes of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in Odisha in the post PESA period. It tries to unfold the relationship between PRIs and Women's participation with regard to participation in elections, meetings, raising voices and in the implementation of development programmes. The key research questions of the paper are (i) Why the women are participating and How are they participating? (Process of Participation), (ii) what are the challenges they have faced in the course of participation? And (iii) what are the effects of such participation on the process of Gender Mainstreaming, Women Empowerment and Development?.

The paper argues that, empowerment of tribal women in study area has received a new direction, which is influenced by the wave of "Awareness and Mobilisation and has contributed towards the effective participation and proxy leadership have hampered the process of participation. These issues need to be addressed through the framework of appropriate policy formulation and implementation.

Keywords: Democratic Governance, Women Participation, Tribal Area, PESA Act, Odisha

South China Sea Dispute Perspective from India Sonika Sharma

Abstract

South China Sea Dispute is a territorial dispute between seven littoral countries. This region is geo-strategically very important because of the treasure of oil and natural gas. China is one of the largest claimants' of these resources along with a major portion of territory in the South China Sea. Other littoral countries named Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand are also claiming the area. The dispute is not new but in by 2009 this dispute furthered for global attention when a joint submission to the United Nations by Vietnam and Malaysia of a section of their extended continental shelves in the area.

External powers like the United States of America and India have taken keen interest in the South China Sea in view of its geo-strategic location that is important from military and economic perspectives. The United States has been advocating its presence as a peacemaker because the United Nations has declared this region a Free Zone. India has also paid due attention towards the region to promote maritime security. In this backdrop, the dissertation aims to focus on India's foreign policy strategy towards the South China Sea Within the neo-realist framework.

Keywords: India, china, Foreign Policy, International Laws, ASEAN etc.

Impact of Educational Policies Assessment of Elementary Education in Bihar Mohammad Alauddin

Abstract

The paper attempts to assess the status of elementary education in Bihar in terms of opportunities and achievements at present, especially from 2005 onwards. It has been analysed through historical context and recent state initiatives. The government of Bihar since 2005 onwards has undertaken many initiatives in order to improve the status of elementary education in the state. The paper tries to indicate the changes, both positive as well as negative, which have come out as a result of the recent state initiatives undertaken since 2005 onwards. Finally, it will mention certain problems and challenges that still exist with elementary schooling system in the state which need to be addressed in order to make it more effective and equitable.

Keywords: Elementary education; educational opportunity; educational achievement; and challenges of elementary education.