



KNOWLEDGE, THEORIZATIÖN AND RIGHTS:

RENEGOTIATING THE CONNECTIVES

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Marginalisation, Vulnerability And Rights: An Economic Perspective

Sagarika Dey

The last decade of the past century has seen a convergence in thinking regarding the two seemingly disparate movements viz. human development and human rights. Although, in its modern incarnation the concept of human development appears to be relatively nascent when compared to the movement of human rights which greatly influenced the political discourse of 1960s and 70s, the philosophical foundation of human development can be traced in the writings of Aristotle, Adam Smith, David Ricardo, Robert Malthus, Karl Marx and John Stuart Mill¹. However, it was only in the last quarter of the 20th century that human development evolved as a pedagogical discipline in the writings of Amartya Sen, Mehboob-Ul-Haq, Paul Streeten and Francis Stewart, to name a few. As the clamour for focussing on 'ends' rather than 'means' grew with international agencies battling for development with a human face, at the same time significant affinities came to be noticed between the human development movement and the human rights movement. It came to be increasingly held that both approaches served to complement each other and the term 'right based development' came to be coined. Right to secure livelihoods emerged as a forerunner in any discussion on the right based approach. In India too, the focus shifted from growth centric approaches to people centric approaches. However, despite the paradigm shift in development strategy, vast sections of the Indian population especially in rural areas continue to subsist under multiple deprivations with unsustainable livelihoods posing the most serious challenge. The objective of this chapter is to highlight that livelihood security is a dynamic concept and comprehensive policies for guaranteeing right to secure livelihoods should not only focus on smoothing current consumption but also providing a safety net which serve to hedge against future poverty. We argue that such forward looking anti-poverty programs

Development Strategies : Issues and Challenges in North-East India

Editors

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Sources of Economic Growth in Assam in the Post-Reform Period

Sagarika Dey
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Introduction

Attaining balanced regional development has been a much sought after goal of economic policy in India. However, even after more than six decades of planned development, one finds significant disparities in the levels of economic growth across states. The North eastern part of the country has been particularly lagging behind the rest of India both in terms of agricultural and industrial development. But this is not tantamount to saying that the North east has not experienced any growth whatsoever. The fact of the matter is that although the process of economic development in the North east has been supported by huge Central transfers, the realized rate of growth in various states has been much slower. Against this backdrop, this paper examines the sources of economic growth in Assam which happens to be the largest economy of the North East both in terms of the size of GDP as well as the population with particular reference to the post reform period. Using a standard neo-classical growth accounting framework, the paper takes a deeper look at the growth process in the state which is expected to explain, at least partly, why the state has performed poorly on the growth aspect. The paper is organized in 5 sections. Section 2 gives a brief review of the theoretical and conceptual framework of the growth accounting process. Section 3 introduces the data set and outlines the methodology adopted in the study. Section 4 presents the main analytical findings while the conclusions and policy suggestions drawn from the study are contained in Section-5.