

Abstract

Vol. XVII No. 1, 2003

Social security for the Elderly in Goa , India

Ganesha Somayaji, Reader in Sociology, Goa University, Taleigao Plateau, Goa- 403 206, India, comparing the demographic transition in India and Goa notices that the Goan society is greying at a faster rate than the Indian society. The author poses the question: whether the public, the government or the elderly have taken note of this demographic transition? If so, what preparations are made to ensure a better quality of life for the elderly? While answering these questions he attempts to provide an understanding of the implications of demographic transition and social transformation for the category of elderly in Goa. The author takes into account three types of conscious efforts at enabling the elderly to live a better life namely, the political and administrative, the interventionist, and the voluntaristic. He argues that pluralism, the perspective that any socio-cultural or demographic situation is because of multiple causation and, in turn, leads to both anticipated and unanticipated situations, should guide the philosophy and practice of social security for the elderly.

Environmental Destruction and Population Pressure on Rural Recourses in West Cameroon

Balgah Sounders Nguh, Department of Geography, University of Buea, and Ndenecho Emmanuel Neba, Department of Geography (Ens Bambili), University of Yaounde, assess the opportunities and threats of migration and emphasise that such exodus are both a cause and effect of change in the agriculture and rural life of developing countries. Migration is a symptom full of surprises for development. Such benefits need to be better identified and included in strengthened efforts by developing countries to better prepare for migrations. Migration is sometimes a calculated opportunity for a better life or an escape from fields whose carrying capacities have been exceeded. As food production becomes ever more intensive, there is a growing pressure to expand land use into marginal productive land. Even in land-rich Africa such pressures are already boiling over into conflicts. In West Cameroon such scenarios in the mid-1990s intersected explosively with differences between political factions.

Sociology and the Challenge of Globalisation: Issues and Concerns

Manish Kumar Takur, Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Goa University, Goa-403206, India, in this paper postulated that the changes wrought by globalisation and the increasing importance of transnational processes call for new approaches from the discipline of Sociology in particular and Social Sciences in general. While privileging a sociological reading of the phenomenon, it proposes to outline the ways and means through which sociologists can contribute to societal wherewithal to cope with the emerging configuration of power relations that globalisation necessarily entails. In the particular context of the growth and development of Indian Sociology, the paper attempts to find out whether the conceptual and methodological apparatuses of sociology have responded to deal with emergent realities. A plea is made in this paper to re-position the sociological enterprise in the light of complex encounters obtaining between the forces of globalisation and the impulses of the nation state.

Street Children in Eritrea , Africa

Suma Narain Reddy, Research Expert, MLHW, P.O.Box 5252 , Asmara, Eritrea, N.E.Africa, presents the findings of a national survey of children of streets in Eritrea which has several things in common with India in terms of its culture, family systems and problem-solution. This sharing is intended to help researchers to locate the common link between the problem within the country and outside. The survey highlights the profile of these children including the socio-demographic and educational background, type, nature and related factors of street work and problems faced by them. The study attempts to provide a glimpse of the parents' opinions, concerns and suggestions, and also the opinions and suggestions of the key informants. The paper offers sufficient data that could be used for effective plans and programmes of rehabilitation of the "children of the lesser god."

Other Papers

- 1. Participatory Research for Rural Development --MA Sudhir and Hilaria Soundari**
- 2. Human Rights Violation against Fisherwomen in Kerala , India- Charles Leon**
- 3. Rehabilitation of Leprosy Patients: Issues and Approaches-Anna Mathew**