

Abstract

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Managing the Community: Synergisation of Traditional panchayat with Formal Panchayati Raj System in Tamil Nadu , India

G. Palanithurai, Dean, faculty of Rural Social Sciences, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu – 624 302, India (email: gpgri_hung1@rediffmail.com), writes on how a traditional panchayat and a formal panchayat could work hand in hand to manage the affairs the whole community. Rarely does one find the blending of the two institutions of traditional and formal panchayat working in unison to meet the needs of the people. Even if it is a blending of two types of institutions, one could find that the traditional character is mentioned in formal panchayats. Community affairs have been managed over a period of time by the traditional panchayats under the leadership of a headman. This article presents a case wherein a traditional panchayat has transformed itself into a new form in alliance with the formal system and functioned to meet the needs of the community. In the present case both the traditional panchayat and formal panchayat work together and manage the affairs of the community including official panchayat activities.

Social Security in Kerala

Renjini D, 31 Eastacoombe, 9 Philip Avenue, Couth Ridge, Durban 4001, South Africa, reviews the system of social security as it exists today in one of the progressive states in India, namely Kerala. Social security means a sum of measures and activities designed to ensure the basic needs for the members of the society. In a way it is intended to protect the individuals from the falling levels in the standards of living and from deprivation; the arrangements for it cover employment schemes, public distribution and anti poverty programmes. The author argues that Kerala is credited with a number of social security measures such as the public distribution system, land reforms and other welfare measures particularly for the weaker sections. However, citing the example of the shrinking coverage of the public distribution system, some of the social security measures in the present day society are on their way out, the author concludes.

NGOs in the Disaster Context of India : Some Issues

BPC Bose, Associate Professor, Department of Political of Political Science and Public Administration, Nagarjuna University, Andhra Pradesh – 522 510, India(email: bpbose@yahoo.com), discuss the relevance of NGOs in the context of natural disasters in India, Super Cyclone in Orissa and Gujarat Earth Quake (2001), focussing on the attitude of the governmental authorities towards these disasters and the underlying political considerations of relief reflected in the nature of relations in the International arena. The author looks at the conflicting approaches and assumptions of the NGOs and the governmental authorities in dealing with these natural calamities. Voluntary efforts in the given context, as the author believes, provide lesson or two for both the governmental and non-governmental organisations. Instead of pointing an accusing finger at each other both the NGOs and governmental agencies have to carry out their respective roles as collaborators, co-mangers, and partners rather than as contenders.

Other Papers

Educational Backwardness among Marine Fishworkers of Kerala, India-MK George SJ .