

Book Reviews

BASAVESHWARA PHILOSOPHY (1140 AD-1196 AD) : Socio-Economic-Political Ideas and a New Social Order. By Jadi Musalaiah. pp. xiii+144, foreword, bibliography, 2019. Serials Publications Pvt. Ltd.: New Delhi. Hard bound. Price ₹ 525/-

I received this book for reviewing when I was busy in drafting a chapter on 'our cultural substratum' for a volume. So I felt much interested in reviewing this book about Basava, the great philosopher and social reformer of the medieval times. This book enlightened me on the economic and political philosophy of Basaveshwara who was born in an orthodox Brahmin family of Karnataka in 12th century. The author writes that his father (late Jadi Chokkaiah) was an ardent believer of Veerashaiva philosophy which immensely motivated him to write this small book on Basava philosophy (p. vii). The book carries a foreword by Dr Kancha Illaiah Shepherd, a retired political science professor, and he writes, "After Gautama Buddha, Basava becomes an important thinker who talked about equality of all human beings in the medieval times. He is linked between ancient Indian rational thought of Buddha and modern thought of Mahatma Phule, Periyar Ramaswamy Naiker and Ambedkar" (p. x).

The author writes in preface, that the present book deals with the medieval political thought as influenced by Basava, in the light of the socio-economic and religious conditions of the 12th century and its implications and applications to the present day. Professor Musalaiah also discusses about the current *Lingayat* movement in Karnataka by the followers of *Veerashaivism* who are stressing upon the government to recognize it as an independent religion.

The author presents the 'Basaveswara Philosophy' through the following chapters: 1. Introduction and Life Sketch of Basaveswara; 2. Veerashaiva Principles; 3. Social Philosophy; 4. Economic Philosophy, *Kayaka* and *Dasoha*"Production and

Distribution; 5. Political Philosophy; 6. Woman's Emancipation; 7. Concept of New Social Order; and lastly 8. Conclusion. Numbered superscript has been used for references and notes given at the end of chapters, and further bibliography at the end has been added. Citation of references using superscript, without foot note, and extensive use of *ibid* at the end of chapter do not provide a smooth reading.

The author has given a very sketchy account of the 'Life Sketch of Basaveswara'. The author writes "Basava.....left for Kudalasangama renouncing his relationship with Brahmanism and traditional society" (p.13). Nowhere the author has discussed about the location of Kudalasangama in the present day Karnataka. The ancient place names associated with Basava should have been presented through a location map of Karnataka. That would have been interesting.

The author writes (p. 23), "Shaivism is the most ancient living faith in the world". Was it beyond the borders of ancient India? This has not been mentioned. "This Shivalinga form of worship is the salient feature of Shaivism." In early Vedic literature there is no mention of 'Shiva'. How 'Shiva' as deity took its form in later periods has not been discussed by the author. The author should have mentioned about the Agamas in some detail while discussing Shaivism, this is missing. The author further writes, "The beginning of the 12th century saw the ascendancy of Jainism and Vaisnavam and the decadence of Shaivism. By the middle of the 12th century there appeared in Karnataka a great hero, named Basava, who arrested this deterioration of Saivism (*differently spelled elsewhere*) freed it from the shackles of Varna system and infused a new life into it. It is this revival, regenerated and revolutionary Saivism that goes by the name of Veerasaivism or Lingayata religion"(p. 23). The author discusses about the rise and principles of Veerasaivism and the contribution of Basava and his vision of a casteless and classless society.

The author writes, “The Hindu social organization was based on Varnashrama system. This broad division was originally associated with the colour conscious Aryans to distinguish themselves from non-Aryans” (p. 30). I wonder wherefrom the author got this information, no reference cited.

There are numerous *Vachanas* (prose-lyrics) presented by the author in chapter 3. But the original source of the *Vachanas* have not been mentioned by the author. The *Vachanas* have been presented as translations in English collected from secondary sources. The script and language in which the original *Vachanas* have been delivered, presented and preserved have not been mentioned. This is disappointing. The author could have presented a few original scripts of the *Vachanas* ahead of the English version. The authors who have transliterated the *Vachanas* into English have not been mentioned.

However, in spite of the observations made above, the reviewer finds that the book will be helpful to those who are initiating research at the introductory level on Basaveshwara philosophy and the present political situation *vis-à-vis* Lingayat movement in Karnataka.

P. Dash Sharma

AGRICULTURE, TECHNOLOGY AND GLOBALIZATION: A SOCIAL CAPITAL PERSPECTIVE. By Aditya Keshari Mishra. pp. xxiii+265, foreword, tables, diagrams, maps, charts, boxes, bibliography and index, 2019. Serials Publications Pvt. Ltd.: New Delhi. Hard bound. Price ₹ 895/-

This hard bound volume on agriculture, technology and globalization examines the issues of agricultural extension and transfer of technology in the context of globalization from a social capital perspective.

This volume carries a foreword by Jock R. Anderson, a former adviser, Agricultural Strategy and Policy, World Bank, who writes, “Dr. Mishra’s adoption of a social capital perspective provides an effective lens on the always difficult task of building the human capital of the farmers and their families who will drive the process of successful agricultural intensification. This will happen through their adoption of more productive methods and materials

(especially new cultivars) that will emerge from the agricultural innovation system (AIS), with its hopefully strengthened research elements, public (including universities) and, increasingly, private too, and through better decision making and access to better information, all ideally well facilitated by the diverse elements of increasingly pluralistic agricultural services” (p. xvi).

The author writes in preface, “The current volume, based on the theory of social capital, primarily focuses on the role of farmers’ interest group (FIGs) and women’s interest group (WIGs) formed under National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) in the process of development, dissemination and adoption of agricultural technology. I hope this book will serve as a reference for the participation of development studies, resource management, and agricultural research and extension” (p. xxiii).

The author presents in the initial chapters the conceptual understanding and the theoretical framework of the study. In the later chapters the author has tried to evolve a conceptual-cum-empirical understanding of social capital and its role in the dissemination and adoption of agricultural technology among farmers’ organizations. The author presents his theoretical and empirical studies through the following chapters: Introduction; Review of Literature; Social Capital: Theoretical Framework of the Study; Agricultural Extension in the Era of Globalization; Reforms in Agricultural Extension: Engaging National Agricultural Technology Project; Agrarian Scenario of Odisha; Social Capital and Agricultural Extension: Integrating Formation of Groups and Transfer of Technology; Social Capital and Institutional Reforms in Agricultural Extension: Failures and Achievements; The Final Word: Conclusions and Recommendations. Lastly bibliography and index presented.

The author has presented greatly the conceptual and theoretical framework of the study and little of empirical studies. There is no discussion on ‘methodology of study, sampling area, sample size, etc the conventional methods of study. Under chapter 6, ‘Agrarian Scenario of Odisha’, only general descriptive accounts of agrarian situation and population census have been presented from secondary sources. The author selected two blocks

of Khurda district for study namely, Tangi and Chilka. The information presented is based on District Statistical Handbook, Khurda, 1999. The author has given stress on descriptive account of land revenue administration, land holding pattern in post colonial period, operational holding among social categories, all based on statistical reports of government presented in 1999.

In chapter 7, 'Social Capital and Agricultural Extension', with a sub-title 'Interrogating Formation of Groups and Transfer of Technology', covering pages 150-193, the author gives *running page heading* — 'Agrarian Scenario of Odisha'. This big error could have been avoided if the author was careful at the proof editing stage. The author has given under Table 7.1, number of FIGs and WIGs under ATMA (Agricultural Technology Management Agency, which came into existence in April 1999), Khurda. The author has not mentioned in the two blocks (Chilka and Tangi) which he studied, how the FIGs and WIGs were formed at the village and the panchayat level. Does politics, money power, community politics play any role in the formation of groups. This has not been discussed and elaborated. I think what is happening at the grass root level is an interesting sociological study, which needs elaborate discussion. Are the poor, needy and deserving farmers really getting the benefits of ATMA which provide a cash incentive of ¹ 2000/-? This has not been highlighted. The author has discussed about mono-caste groups and multi-caste groups and the interaction among them, and their interaction with the officials and technical specialists. The author says that Khandayats are general agricultural caste group who are economically dominant and powerful group, and his "field observation shows that Khandayats are the major share holders in the category of TB (Total Beneficiaries). Members from category of GT, SC, ST in both the blocks do not have any share in TB" (p. 185). The Partial Beneficiaries (PB) and Non-Beneficiaries (NB) are largely represented by ST and SC members. Dr Mishra's study reveals that 52.83% are Non-Beneficiaries.

The author has not probed what the State government and the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) are doing or intend to do, to bring the Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe

members of FIGs and WIGs up to the level of Total Beneficiaries (TB). The study reveals inequality exists largely, and there is unequal distribution of developmental benefits among the farmers of Khurda district under ATMA project.

P. Dash Sharma

IMPACT OF INADEQUATE SANITATION ON TOURISM IN KARNATAKA. By Arunkumar R. Kulkarni. pp.xx+153, tables, charts, 2019. Serials Publications Pvt. Ltd.: New Delhi. Hard bound. Price ₹ 595/-

In this volume the author has tried to find out the 'Impact of Inadequate Sanitation on Tourism in Karnataka' who is presently working at the Centre for Multi-Disciplinary Development Research in Dharwad. The book carries a foreword from the Director of CMDR, Prof. B. V. Annigeri, who writes, "Our nation lacks basic facilities and amenities in general. This implies an impact on the sanitation facilities for the touring community both foreign and domestic. The overall state of cleanliness of the cities and the towns, especially tourism places seems to be like shambles. The attitude of people in treating the tourists would worsen the situation. ... The present book highlights the shortcomings as far as provisions of sanitation facilities in the select tourist places of the state of Karnataka" (p. xiii).

The author, Dr. A. R. Kulkarni writes in preface, "The book is the outcome of the recently completed study titled 'Impact of Inadequate Sanitation in Karnataka' sponsored by ICSSR, New Delhi." The volume presents 32 tables and 36 charts giving mostly statistical profile of tourists and experiences of public toilet users. Karnataka is the third most popular state in the country for tourism. Regarding methodology of the study the author writes, "the primary data from tourists have been collected in the month of February and March 2016. From each selected tourists spot, 50 tourists have been interviewed based on their willingness to share information and time availability." The author has listed the following 12 tourist spots for his study: Badami, Hampi, Yellammanagudda, Madikeri (Coorg), Yama, Nandi Hills, Gokarna, Murudeshwar, Dharmasthala, Belur, Srirangapatna and Shravanabelgola. The author has interviewed 600 individuals covering overnight tourists, day tourists

and foreign tourists who visited the 12 tourist centres during the study. The author has given percentage distribution (no absolute figures shown) of the occupation of tourists, annual income of tourists, average age and sex distribution of the tourists under 'Profile of Tourist Places and Sample Tourists' in chapter 4. A very sketchy presentation of 12 tourist places has been given without any photograph showing the ecological situation prevailing in the area. Who are the foreign tourists, wherefrom they have come, their nationality, etc nothing has been presented by the author. Even how many tourists are from outside the state of Karnataka who have visited the tourist places among the 600 tourists interviewed by the author have not been reported.

The expressed views about sanitation varies from region to region, depending upon the age, sex, economic status, educational status, socio-economic status of the tourists etc and their capacity to assess the hygienic condition of the areas they visited. The author should have discussed all these aspects too while discussing about sanitation.

The author has observed that most of the sanitation facilities, especially public toilets, are underutilized due to lack of maintenance, and the role of people/tourists is also important in maintaining good sanitation at the tourist place. The author has discussed about policy intervention and has suggested action programmes for its improvement, like maintenance of the sanitation facilities which should be given more importance, and the needs for supervision regularly by local governments and NGOs. The author has shown through chart (p. 16) coverage of sanitation from 2014 to 2018 in India. The coverage of sanitation increased from 38.70% in 2014, to 83.13% under the Swatch Bharat Mission. This indicates an encouraging coverage of sanitation programme than the earlier period.

This book will be helpful to policy makers, administrators and non-government organizations to better the sanitation facilities in tourist places.

Shampa Gangopadhyay

DYNAMICS OF ECOSYSTEM AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA. Edited by Abhishek Awasthi, A. K. Singh and Anshu Sharma. pp. xxxviii+370. tables, figures, index, 2019. Serials Publications Pvt. Ltd.: New Delhi. Hard bound. Price ₹ 1595/-

This hard bound volume covers nineteen articles dealing with varied dimensions, aspects and issues of ecology, environment and development, contributed by scholars researching in the varied topics of broad disciplines of botany, zoology, physics, chemistry, environmental science, molecular biology, biotechnology, economics and education. The article presented in this volume does not reflect proceedings of a seminar presentation, but just collection of articles under a common theme by the editors for understanding dynamics of environment, ecology and development.

However, the reviewer has organized the articles which fall under the broad categories as follows: importance of fungus in crop production; sugarcane productivity in changing climate; inland aquatic system and fisheries; participation of private sector in conservation and development of forestry and urban park; herbal medicine/ayurvedic medicine industry and marketing; and impact of climate change in India.

Climate change is one of the most important global challenges that have threatened with great implications on the food production, water supply, health, energy etc and some other human socio-economic aspects. A vast population in India is depending on climate sensitive sectors like agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and the increasing urbanization and population density in India have further increased the vulnerability of hazards and disasters, thus causing great additional stress on the people for economic development. The essays on the impact of climate change elaborately discusses all these.

Anshu Sharma and her colleagues have presented an article titled 'Ecological impacts on nanoparticles in environment'. The authors say, "Nanotechnology is a progressive technology with prospective to revolutionise the modern world that operates at atomic, molecular or macromolecular levels in between 1nm to 100nm." They further write, "the assessment of adverse effects of various nanomaterials with different physiochemical properties which are used for many applications is the major problem encountered with nanotechnology" (p. 217). This suggests that harmful impacts of nanoparticles on human health has not yet been established. The authors have not discussed whether

nanomaterials have a role to play in climate change. However, the article is interesting as a new dimension has been presented.

Students researching on climate change may find this book helpful at the introductory level.

Abhik Ghosh