

author goes on to provide evidence on the various counter-cyclical fiscal and expansionary monetary policies of the Chinese government in addition to housing reforms and a rapid expansion of private demand. It was found that given the high urban employment and biased income distribution towards businesses, promoting growth in employment and collecting dividends from state-owned enterprises to fund social safety nets would boost household consumption. To achieve sustainable growth in the long run, investment in technology innovation, environment protection and energy efficiency should be increased (p. 123).

The book ends with an excellent chapter by Aldaba and Pasadilla that brings together key scholarship on the ASEAN services sector and discusses how the growth model is being challenged and rebalanced to provide a sustainable and competitive growth strategy. The authors recognize the importance of the service sector in providing output and employment among the ASEAN countries. They find that a more efficient services sector would have an indirect impact on economic growth by improving efficiency in other sectors of the economy, leading to an increase in aggregate productivity (p. 365). The authors recognize the need for providing excellent infrastructure, and heavy investment into healthcare and education in particular, since skilled workers are of paramount importance not only to the growth of the services sector but also to other economic sectors. Broad policy suggestions such as promoting the green industry for low carbon growth and pursuing deregulation and liberalization in transportation, telecommunication and wholesale and retail sectors, are offered by the authors and are of significance to academics and policy practitioners.

This series provides a good assessment of analytical and theoretical issues concerning industrial restructuring in Asia. It calls for a deeper adoption of strategies for rebalancing economic and industrial development away from export-led dependence towards service sector contributions. This series is a timely collection of well-researched papers that revisit the regulatory and policy environment in order to consider prospects for a

sustainable economic and industrial future that has been constrained by global economic crises.

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Social Assistance in Developing Countries. By **Armando Barrientos**. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013. Pp. 256.

The World Bank reported in April 2013 that East Asia saw the most dramatic reduction in poverty when the region's US\$1.25 a day poverty rate (defined as extreme poverty) fell from 77 per cent in 1981 to 12 per cent in 2010. In South Asia, this dropped from 61 per cent to 31 per cent over the same period. Sub-Saharan Africa however only saw a fall from 52 in 1981 to 48 per cent in 2010. There were still about 1.2 billion people living in poverty in 2013, and sub-Saharan Africa accounts for more than one-third of the world's extreme poor. Poverty rates have declined but the issue will remain important for at least the next two decades. In Southeast Asia, growth has had an effect on poverty, although it has not been a sufficient condition for eradicating extreme poverty.

Clearly, a more targeted approach is needed and there should not be an over-reliance on economic growth alone to solve the problems of the poor. At the very least, growth is a necessary condition. However, growth must work in tandem with other social protection measures to make a sustained contribution to the long-term reduction in poverty. This is where this book by Armando Barrientos steps in and makes an important contribution to the general literature on poverty eradication.

The work by Barrientos is timely and examines the issue of poverty by focusing on direct transfers to households in cases of poverty and extreme poverty. Such transfers are labelled in the literature as anti-poverty transfer programmes. There are three ideal types of anti-poverty programmes: pure income transfers, transfers combined with asset accumulation (human, financial and physical

asset accumulation), and integrated poverty reduction programmes. These programmes allow for an understanding of poverty by identifying three different and important perspectives: poverty because of a lack of income, poverty because of a lack of income and assets, and poverty as a multidimensional issue (poverty can be reflected by a shortcoming of income, employment, health, nutrition, educational and other opportunities).

The book provides a conceptual framework for social assistance and links it to current practice in selected developing countries. Examining conceptual frameworks that eradicate poverty is useful as these determine the practical actions that will follow from these frameworks. Chapter 2 begins with the ethics of assistance and draws from the philosophical discussions of the institutions of social justice and cooperation. Here the author has addressed this fundamental issue by considering the basis of individual morality (assistance should be provided for those in need), and also the “political conception of justice”, which places the focus on social institutions, and the political notions of justice, where assistance is necessary to ensure commitment to economic cooperation and future political processes. Chapter 3 lays out a foundation for understanding concepts on poverty and poverty eradication; a firm grasp of these concepts is essential for understanding objectives, design and impact of anti-poverty programmes. Commonly used poverty indices are discussed along with the importance of panel data surveys to allow for observations to be made at given intervals over time.

Chapter 4 then links the discussion in the previous two chapters to an analysis of optimal transfer programmes. Transfers are optimal if they minimize poverty. This literature discussed in this chapter is highly technical but grounded in economic logic and reasoning. A comprehensive discussion of difficult material is presented and the author can be commended for attempting to make the exposition fairly accessible and clear to interested readers. Questions answered in this chapter include: how best to allocate an anti-poverty budget? What is the optimal form of the anti-poverty transfer programme in the presence

of information and incentive issues? What should be the size of the budget? Chapter 5 examines anti-poverty measures in practice. Studies on the typologies of social assistance are provided for selected countries including Africa, India, Brazil, Bangladesh, China, and Chile. Table 5.1 provided in this chapter is especially useful for readers wanting to have a quick grasp of the various types anti-poverty programmes presently in existence in selected developing countries. The key design features are identified in the table (pure transfers, transfers with asset accumulation, and integrated poverty reduction programmes) and linked to the conceptual framework provided by the author in earlier chapters. It is a pity, though no fault of the author, that a Southeast Asian country was not selected in the sample for discussion.

In Chapter 6, the core processes of incidence, implementation and impact are examined. The incidence factor provides information on the extent to which a programme reaches households experiencing extreme poverty; the implementation aspect highlights the importance of stable and long-lasting institutions and institution-building in eradicating poverty; while the impact factor places emphasis on developing monitoring and evaluation processes, which often require support from the government, partners and the public. The crucial aspect of financing social assistance and studying the financial constraints that exist in low-income countries is covered in Chapter 7. Financing social assistance involves more than just collecting additional resources; it also involves good public finance capabilities provided by the government. A majority of countries spend between 1 to 2 per cent of their GDP on anti-poverty transfer programmes while low-income countries generally tend to spend less than 1 per cent of their GDP on such programmes.

In a laudable publication, which is bound to be useful to social scientists, development economists, and policy-makers, Barrientos has developed an analysis of social assistance in developing countries that is systematic, comprehensive, and accessible. Barrientos has also justified why social assistance can emerge as one of the most poignant and pertinent tools for dealing with poverty in

developing countries. Researchers and students wanting to understand the complex issues involved in the eradication of poverty would benefit much from the breadth and depth of the discussion provided in this book.

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Markets and Indigenous Peoples in Asia: Lessons from Development Projects. By Dev Nathan, Ganesh Thapa, Govind Kelkar with Antonella Cordone. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2012. Pp. 220.

The development agenda of a country has to constantly strike equilibrium between economic growth and social well-being. This presents a daunting challenge for policy-makers to formulate a comprehensive developmental plan that allows the fruits of growth to reach every nook and corner of society. However, not all sections of society benefit from growth; there are marginalized sections on the “periphery”, which are excluded from the developmental chain. In this light, there is renewed focus on what has been termed “inclusive growth” with the aim of “including” the “excluded”.

Keeping this policy compulsion in mind, one can observe the workings of Polanyi’s “double movement” where, at a time when a laissez-faire free market was being propagated, a counter movement to protect the social rights of citizens from the dangers of a self-regulating market was also taking root (Polanyi 1944). “Indigenous people” are one such group often living in physical, social, economic, political and cultural isolation, excluded and marginalized from mainstream policy coverage. The authors of this book suggest that it is therefore necessary to engage with Polanyi’s second movement. The book covers varied cases from Asian countries including India, China, the Philippines, Indonesia, Laos and Vietnam. Divided into twelve chapters, it is organized thematically

around market-mediated interventions effecting the lives and well-being of tribal people. A wide array of topics ranging from identity, infrastructure and communication, production, the role of tourism value chains, settlement of tribal communities, changes in norms and property systems, gender relations, indigenous knowledge and technology, biodiversity and local governance form the book’s core agenda.

The authors try to make a meaningful intervention at the intersection of the challenges of “exclusion” and the state’s push for neo-liberal economic policies. The dominant narrative on “exclusion” suggests that market forces displace excluded indigenous communities and adversely affect their livelihoods and subsistence. The authors present an alternative narrative by exploring this central question: do “market-facilitating and market based interventions lead to an increase in well-being for the indigenous peoples?” (pp. 6–7). In the context of indigenous communities, the development continuum is represented on one end by “influential forms” of indigenous norms, and by market-oriented development on the other. While indigenous norms help in protecting traditional cultural forms and resources, they may also constrain well-being, emergent aspirations and new forms of economic practices. Market-oriented development, on the other end of the development continuum, can positively impact indigenous communities by increasing specialization, economies of scale and introducing new methods of production. However, market interventions may also lead to inequality, and the depletion and dilution of resources and traditional culture. The authors carefully locate their argument at a mid-point along the development continuum where the positive effects of indigenous norms and market based interventions meet. They argue that their proposed market intervention model for the well-being of indigenous peoples can recreate the positive aspects of traditional cultural forms within the “new structures of [the] market economy” (p. 10).

This is demonstrated by evidence from selected International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) projects in Asian countries. For instance,