

One need not deny the fact that multinational corporations do have important implications for economy and society and that there are dangers inherent in their uncontrolled operation in Third World countries. But the idea of the grand transnational conspiracy propounded above and in so many of the papers contained in "Unreal Growth" is pure nonsense.

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Missing Women: Development Planning in Asia and the Pacific. Edited by Noeleen Heyzer. Kuala Lumpur: Asian and Pacific Development Centre, 1985. Pp. 419.

This book is a compilation of five country papers prepared for the project on "Women and Development Planning" carried out by the Asian and Pacific Development Centre, Kuala Lumpur. The case-studies presented are representative of five countries from three sub-regions: South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, that is, Malaysia (Jomo Kwame Sundaram and Tan Pek Leng); Sri Lanka (Kumari Jayawardena and Swarna Jayaweera); Fiji (Suliana Siwatibau, Ruth Lechte, Janet Agar, Donita Simmons, and Carol Sofield); Bangladesh (Rushidan Islam Rahman); and the Philippines (Rosa Linda P. Tidalgo).

The editor of the work, Noeleen Heyzer, introduces development planning as a relatively new instrument of development in Asia and the Pacific, formulated only after the colonial period. By planning the course of economic development, governments endeavoured to bring about desired changes in society. With an expansion of the goals of development, development comes to be seen increasingly as people-oriented, and there is a shift in perspective from development of things to the de-

velopment of human potential. Development planning now includes a wide area of objectives and aims including besides economic growth, issues of equity and especially of eliminating poverty.

The papers presented identify the need for women to be recognized as central rather than marginal to these processes of development. All the authors agree that present development planning includes women only in their traditional roles. That is why women have always been subjected to the lower ranks and regarded as a protected group, rather like children, which results in a great loss of opportunities and a far smaller degree of participation than in the case of men.

In reality, development planning has become a political process of bargaining by different groups with regard to the distribution of development gains. In this process the interests of women have always been neglected since they are weak in their political influence.

Progress has been made in education, social, and economic spheres, and quite extensive data has been provided in this book on indicators of such progress. Yet despite this progress, women have not been integrated in the planning process of decision- and policy-making. One reason given by the authors is that women are always looked upon in their traditional roles. Discrimination of sex has been practised for centuries, so that it is difficult to ignore existing social structures and to change the conception of planners. In fact, additional participation in the development process only aggravates their already heavy domestic load.

In conclusion, the authors suggest changes in the social conception and the transformation of the self-perception of women. A lot of information about women is available, and mobilization of women as productive agents, for example, and making use of their capability and resourcefulness would go a long way towards more equitable development. What is lacking is not their capabilities, but organization. In planning for development, serious consideration must therefore be given not only

to the influencing of the consciousness of planners. Women themselves must work towards achieving this end and should not rely solely on the political will of the government alone.

This book covers a comprehensive study of women in all areas of a developing country, that is, agricultural development, urban economy, education, social and basic services. The papers all follow the same outline and framework which greatly helps the reader to

identify specific areas of interest. It makes interesting reading for the layperson, but basically it will appeal to women in general and to policy-makers in particular. The book must be commended for its well-organized presentation of text and tables and for its select bibliography, which is arranged according to country.

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Small and Medium Entrepreneurs in Southeast Asia

Ronald Clapham

This study investigates the activities of small and medium entrepreneurs in the manufacturing sector in South and Southeast Asia, with special reference to Indonesia and Malaysia, to examine their actual and potential contribution to social and economic development in their countries. The factors that encourage or hinder this contribution are also identified and suggestions are put forward on how the contribution towards development can be rendered more effective.

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