

In Part 2 of the book the author analyses selected areas of social development: social welfare, education, health, housing, population planning, social security and social development training. However, the discussion on urbanisation is misplaced and would have been more useful if it had been part of the Introductory Chapter. The author's conclusion is that these areas of social development were moulded on the experiences and value premises of the former colonial powers, hence their inability to respond appropriately to the needs of Africa. The author sums up his discussion by pointing out that development in Africa is unbalanced as it favours the urban elite - whilst the rural people who constitutes 70% of the population remain impoverished and marginalised.

Social development is a topical subject, particularly in developing countries, and this book makes a meaningful contribution towards an understanding of social development. Unfortunately the author spoiled the flow of discussion by dwelling on unnecessary and unfocused details and the issues raised in the discussion do not seem to link. However for the patient reader the book provides an interesting analytic framework for understanding the problem of underdevelopment in Africa.

Reviewed by E Kaseke, Principal, School of Social Work, Harare.

The Role of Community Participation in Development Planning and Project Management, Report of a Workshop in Washington DC Sept 22 - 25 1986, Michael Bamberger, Economic Development Institute/IBRD, Seminar Report No 13, World Bank, Washington DC, 1988 (361 + xpp, US\$5.95).

The concept of community participation has gained enormous popularity in social development circles. It pervades the literature and is a recurring topic for discussion at international gatherings. A large number of reports, studies and journal articles on the subject have been published, and it is an integral element of the philosophies of large development agencies such as UNICEF which has been an avid proponent in recent years. Non Government Organisations (NGOs) have also campaigned for enhanced community participation, particularly at the local level where many of their programmes and services are focused. Community participation has a strong appeal for social workers.

Although community participation is frequently claimed as unique terrain for social development endeavour. It has attracted the attention of economists as well. As this report shows, hard headed economists at the World Bank's Economic Development Institute (EDI) have come to the conclusion that social factors are important in development and that (pvii) "the involvement of intended beneficiaries in the planning and implementation of projects, applications of social analysis in development planning, and gender issues in developing planning and project management" are worthy of careful consideration.

Founded by the World Bank in 1955, to train economists responsible for development planning, investment analysis and project implementation, the EDI has served as an important resource for World Bank personnel and senior civil servants concerned with economic development issues in member countries. Recognising that the social aspects of development have been neglected in its training programmes, EDI organised an international workshop on community participation in Washington in September 1986. Participants

came from government and NGOs throughout the world, from staff at various international agencies, and from the World Bank's departments of urban development, population, health, nutrition and rural development. Twenty two papers were presented at the workshop. The Report of the workshop, which was published in 1988, contains a summary of the proceedings.

Although it is commendable that the Institute involved itself in issues of social development and community participation, the report contains little that is new. Much of what was said at the workshop had been said previously in numerous United Nations reports and other documents. Indeed, given the anti-poverty emphasis of the MacNamara years, it is somewhat surprising that the Institute awoke (in 1986) to the realisation that it needed to be more sensitive to the social development perspective. It is almost as if the organisers of the workshop had never heard of the efforts of the United Nations to promote integrated socioeconomic development planning in the late 1960s, or of the World Bank's sponsorship of the redistribution with growth ideal in the mid-1970s. Similarly, discussions at the workshop on the definition of community participation, the need, benefits, and feasibility of community participation, etc, will be familiar to most social workers who have a knowledge of the issues.

Nevertheless, the fact that economists are interested in social development issues such as community participation is very important. The harsh austerity policies being implemented in many Third World countries today, by economists under International Monetary Fund conditionality policies, is having a devastating effect on the welfare of millions of ordinary people. Sensitising economists to these realities may mitigate the Darwinistic themes implicit in current economic development policies. More contact between economists and social development professionals is urgently needed. The Economic Development Institute is to be congratulated for initiating a dialogue of this kind. Hopefully, it will undertake many more similar ventures in the future.

Reviewed by James Midgley, School of Social Work, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, USA.

Successful Development in Africa. Case Studies of Projects, Programmes and Policies, Economic Development Institute of the Third World, World Bank, Washington DC, 1989 (222pp, US\$11.95).

This publication focuses on the countries of SubSaharan Africa. It is basically a collection of case studies of a variety of development projects, programmes and policies undertaken in selected countries. The common denominator, in the eyes of the authors, appears to be that all the case studies are based on activities that have been deemed successful. In Part I the case studies covered include an Agroforestry Project in Burkina Faso, an Ochorerciasis Control Programme in West Africa, a Gravity-Fed Piped Water System in Malawi, and the production and export of horticultural commodities in Kenya. In Part 2 the following activities are covered: a case study of the Export Processing Zone in Mauritius, the Economic Recovery Programme in Ghana, and the Macroeconomic Management of Commodity Booms, 1975-86, in Botswana.