

This summary in the Haworth Press announcement says it all. David Freeman, whilst focusing on multigenerational family therapy, uses family history to shed light on the present, and particularly the resources the family has for coping in the future. Whilst set in the North American context, the approach appears to have the theoretical principles which can straddle different cultures and contexts.

The author utilises the extended family and highlights its importance in supporting and influencing beliefs and value systems held by individuals, which are often carried over into family life, aspects which are of particular importance to those of us working in the African context.

He shows how individual family members bring their own histories from their families of origin to synthesise with the next generation in a process of dynamic interaction.

Freeman also demonstrates how events can be experienced and interpreted quite differently by individuals, dyads and groups, often leading to complex effects and beliefs in families. In this way he highlights the challenge for the therapist who must understand these different realities and yet facilitate a process of positive change which affects all concerned.

I found this book enthralling, practical, illuminating and challenging, and I can thoroughly recommend it to all those involved in working with families.

Reviewed by C Farrell, Director, CONNECT, Zimbabwe Institute of Systemic Therapy, Harare.

Women and Development in the Third World, by Janet Henshall Momsen, Routledge 1991, edited by John Bale and David Drakakis Smith, 115 pp, ISBN: 0-415-01695-9. No price given.

"Women are agents of change and not just victims and making investment in women a development priority will make a critical contribution to development", writes Janet Henshall Momsen, a senior lecturer in Geography at the University of Newcastle.

This book is one of a series on development and underdevelopment. In an effort to highlight the role and contributions of women in economic growth the writer illustrates by way of case-studies. The book establishes beyond doubt that women in the Third World do both productive and reproductive work. They work longer hours than men, yet they earn 10% of the world's income and own 1% of the family property, produce almost half the world's population and yet there are fewer girls in schools.

There is a clear-cut division of labour by sex and according to the writer this is as a result of colonialism, sexual segregation, capitalism and modernisation, where the traditional economies have been overtaken by the modern sector. These traditional economic activities were (and still are) done by women, and consequently new and better-paid jobs go to men, yet the income so derived is not spend on the family.

Discontent is expressed in the book that the United Nations Third World Decade on Development has come to an end without having done anything to change the attitudes of institutionalised male dominance. Janet Henshall Momsen acknowledges that there is an awareness of the need to consider women when planning for development. She highlights approaches to women and development and suggests use of the integrated approach which is human-centred.

All societies have division of labour by sex, although this varies from country to country. There are gender roles within a household, but an integration of the women's reproductive and productive work should be realised within the private sphere of the home and public spheres in order for people to appreciate women's roles in development. Productivity has been equated with the cash economy, thereby ignoring women's economic contributions. Women are involved in small-scale agriculture and marketing, whilst men migrate to towns where the majority are found in areas of high economic value, where they work as producers.

Over-emphasis is made on female marginalisation which is due to historical, cultural and ideological factors. However, the commonly cited attributes of female marginalisation are the physical weakness of women, women's concentration on the periphery, that is on the informal sector-type jobs, the idea of making jobs feminine thereby according them a low status, eg nursing and teaching, economic inequality, that is occupational differentiation, and lack of fringe benefits and job security on work considered as women's.

Students of social work and sociology would quest for more answers to this gender differentiation and the writer briefly discusses the theoretical explanations of division of labour by sex. She indicates that there is the Neo-Classical Economic Theory which maintains that workers are paid according to productivity. This theory emphasises the disadvantaged position of women, characterised by poor education, less physical strength, lack of training and high turn-over. This line of thought pre-supposes that differences can be ironed out by way of exposing women to education which is intended to improve them. It assumes that there is an equal access to employment, yet ignores gender-based segregation prevalent in most societies.

The writer also discusses the Labour Market Theory which assumes that the labour market is institutionally controlled through formal and informal types of employment. As a result women are seen to be more in the informal sector due in part to their high turnover and unreliability.

The Feminist Theory, on the other hand, discusses the position of women in terms of social and cultural factors that restrict women's access to the labour market: "*A woman's place is in the kitchen*". The argument is that the reproductive and productive roles of women are inseparable. It is only when men perceive women as equals that a balance can be realised. But while men expect women in employment to fall back on their gender-based social expectations, and continue treating women as sexual objects, then this still remains an issue.

Janet Henshall Momsen discusses and presents in the book ten case studies with personalised stories of women's lives and how they have developed coping strategies in the context of the Third World. She has established that women are central to development; they control most of the non-money market economy through bearing and raising children; they provide labour for the household; provide maintenance and subsistence agriculture. They also contribute to both the formal and informal sector of the economy.

She concludes the book by challenging policy makers by calling for increased opportunities for women so that they can become economically independent .

I recommend the book to students of social work for it would give them an insight into some of the problems that society today faces, and gender differentiation is just but one of them. The book is very informative, educative, interesting and attempts to clarify some of the myths that arise because of women's issues; perhaps the question remains as to whether there should be positive discrimination so as to accord women an equal status. Definitely the problem cannot be isolated to the Third World. It is a global issue and therefore needs a united (global) confrontation.

Reviewed by Agatha Tsitsi Dodo, National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO), Harare.

The Politics of Africa's Economic Recovery, Richard Sandbrook, Cambridge University Press, New York, 1993, ISBN: 0-521-41543-8 (h/b), 0-521-42563-8 (p/b), 27,95 pounds (h/b), 10,95 pounds (p/b).

Sandbrook raises the most perplexing and unsettled question of concern to the student of African politics: which is the appropriate development strategy for Africa? Since independence, there has been no agreement on a suitable model of development, hence two predominant ideologies of development were adopted: state-capitalism and (African) socialism. The issue of appropriate development strategy is particularly important because of the current economic crisis in Africa and the need for a model that would overcome the crisis to promote sustainable development. Sandbrook's work is a vivid portrayal of economic hardship in sub-Saharan Africa.