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15th Professor Kanan Gopal Bagchi Memorial Lecture,
delivered on 28.2.17

A Strategic Plan for Environmental Stewardship of Khoai Landscape of Santiniketan and its Surroundings, West Bengal

Malay Mukhopadhyay*

Abstract : *Khoai is an important geomorphic unit. It is considered to be a part of India's natural heritage and is found specifically in Birbhum, Bankura and Bardhaman districts of West Bengal, and some eastern parts of Jharkhand and Chambal area of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Santiniketan Khoai is a part of lateritic undulating belt of Chotanagpur Plateau. The present author presumes that the term 'Badland' which is the English equivalent of Khoai is a misnomer because of its enormous geomorphic as well as economic significance. However, few incidences observed by the author over the years have revealed that this significant geomorphic unit is constantly being altered. The author wants to enlist those malpractices and suggests a few ameliorative measures to sustain this significant geomorphic unit.*

Key Words: *Khoai, lateritic undulating, badlands, environmental stewardship, neo-determinism.*

Centering the Development Discourse in Land Acquisition: Theory and Practice in Singur and Rajarhat, India

Chinmoyee Mallik*

Abstract : *The present neoliberal turn in the development paradigm that assign a pivotal role to the market in resolving the contradictions of limited resource and surging demands to a large extent accrues to the international institutions that emerged post second world war. This paper seeks to examine the legitimacy of the claims of the World Bank's recent assertions in the 2011 report entitled "Rising Global Interest in Farmland" that clearly direct how rural development and poverty alleviation may be instituted in the Global South through large scale land transfers away from the farmers to the capitalists. Through substantive reference to the case study of land acquisition in Rajarhat and Singur in West Bengal (India) this paper tries to understand how and to what extent such land transfers unfold opportunities that may potentially break the poverty trap.*

This paper highlights how large scale land transfers from the farmers in India unleash deranged involutory spirals that are differentiated by the pre-existing inequalities of the agrarian structure. The empirical evidences contradict the World Bank's claims about the poverty reduction potential of large scale land transfers and underlines how the land undergoes capitalist transition bypassing the labour that subsisted on it. Thus, this paper argues that commodification of land in a country like India, as the World Bank recommends, contrary to making the development policy pro-poor, would rather help to deepen the inequalities.

Key Words: *land acquisition, commodification of land, political economy, periurban Kolkata, livelihoods, World Bank*

Classification of Climates of the Chhattisgarh Plain – A Thermal Regime Approach

Agnisha Chakraborty¹, Anuja Tigga² and B. Hema Malini³

Abstract : *The present study is an attempt to demarcate the climates of the Chhattisgarh Plain based on the thermal regime concept of Thornthwaite (1955). For the purpose meteorological data on mean monthly temperature of seven IMD stations have been collected for a period of 30 years (1986-2015) from which monthly Potential Evapotranspiration (PE) and Summer Concentration of Thermal Efficiency (SCTE per cent) were estimated. Analysis revealed that the entire region experiences Megathermal climate (A?a?) with varying intensities. Therefore, the Chhattisgarh Plain has rich thermal potential to support luxuriant growth of vegetation if moisture is also available throughout the year.*

Key Words: *climates, thermal efficiency, mega thermal, SCTE*

Unemployment Among Youth in Rural Areas of Serampur Subdivision in Hugli District, West Bengal

Sourav Das ^{*} and Kanan Chatterjee ^{}**

Abstract : *Creating jobs for young people is a major challenge now a days. In this broad global context, this paper presents a detailed profile of youth unemployment in Serampur Subdivision of Hugli district, West Bengal. Young people face major barriers because of poverty and low level of human resource. Though educational status has risen quickly in recent years both in urban and rural areas, gaining a foothold in the labour market which remains elusive for many young people leading to the analysis of the trend of unemployment among youth, joblessness etc. This paper also offers policy recommendations for increasing productive employment and reduction in unemployment for the youth.*

Key Words: *youth unemployment, joblessness, vocational training, skill development, working age, labour market.*

Spatialities of Crime against Women in Assam

Lekha Borah¹ and Madhushree Das²

Abstract : *Crime is a social problem that affects the overall foundation of any society. Crime, based on gender and most specifically directed towards women is one of the most degrading aspects of any society. Crime against women is a reality occurring in the world and the country as a whole. Assam, located in north eastern part of India also shows a rising trend in all forms of crime against women. Official statistics reveals that it stands in the seventh position in the ranking of crime against women, with a crime rate of 123.4 per cent (2014) against 56.3 per cent of the country. Over the last few years from 2008 to 2014 it has made an increase of 97.58 per cent in crime against women. This paper therefore is an attempt to study the spatio temporal variation of crime against women in the state of Assam, spatial distribution and concentration of a few selected crimes and the impact of socio-cultural factors on the occurrence of crime against women in the area. This paper is based on the analyses of official crime reports and other secondary sources. The analysis is made using statistical techniques and presented by various cartographic techniques and maps.*

Key Words: *Assam, crime, crime against women, status of women*

Status of Biomass Resource in North East India

Darshana Sarmah¹ and Jnanashree Borah²

Abstract : *Biomass has been one of the main energy sources for the mankind since the dawn of the civilization, although its importance dwindled after the expansion in the use of oil and coal in the late 19th century. There has been resurgence of interest in recent years in the biomass energy in many countries considering the benefits its offers. Estimates have indicated that 15-50 per cent of the world's primary energy use could come from biomass by the year 2050. Currently about 11 per cent of the world's primary energy is estimated to be met with the biomass. Like in most developing countries, Fuel wood occupies the pre-eminent position amongst the domestic consumption of fuel in India. North-east India is no exceptional to the overall India's energy scenario. Around 80 per cent of the households depends primarily fuelwood either as a single fuel or in combination with other fuels. The demand of domestic fuels is met by conventional biomass sources. Assessment of available bio resources is helpful in revealing its status and helps in planning a sustained supply to meet the energy demand.*

Against this backdrop, an explorative analysis is been attempted with the objectives of estimating the availability of forest biomass and agricultural biomass for energy use. The whole study has been made on the states of the region, using satellite based secondary source of data . The status of biomass regarding its energy use in terms of its efficiency in respective states are thereby calculated to reveal the existing alarming situation in the present energy scenario..

Key Words: *Biomass, forest biomass, agricultural residue biomass, livestock biomass, biomass status*

Impact of Different Sources of Irrigation on Agriculture Production in Uttar Pradesh

Nasrin Biswas* and Mariya**

Abstract : *The present study tries to reveal the picture of irrigation as a major factor in the development of agriculture in the Uttar Pradesh. The state accounts for 11 per cent of the India's net sown area and contributes more than 41.1 million tons of food grains which are about 20 per cent of the total food grains production of the country. The main objective of the present paper is to compare the progress of agriculture development in the Western and Eastern Uttar Pradesh and the analysis of relationship between overall sources of irrigation and level of agricultural production indicates that there are wide geographical disparities in the district in respect of these two aspects. Those districts where irrigation facilities are highest, it is found that production of crops is also highest in those districts.*

Key Words: *irrigation, agricultural development, production, Uttar Pradesh*