



punjab geographer

A JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
PUNJAB GEOGRAPHERS, INDIA

VOLUME 5

OCTOBER 2009



BOOK REVIEW

Geography in the Twenty-first Century: Selected Readings

Editors: D.N Verma, R.B. Chaturvedi and O.P. Mishra.

Published By: The Institute of Geographers, India, Lucknow, 2009. Pages 269. Price Rs. 650/-.

This felicitation volume edited by a team of three geographers has been compiled in honor of Dr. R.S. Dixit. In academia there could not be a better gift to a teacher / researcher / mentor by his students, colleagues, and fellow geographers. It is indeed the most befitting tribute.

In all there are fifty contributors who have written twenty seven papers on a variety of themes, besides there are nine shorts write ups including poems, personal notes and a farewell address presented to Dr. Dixit at the time of his retirement. These cover various dimensions of Dr. Dixit's personality and his research contributions.

The title of the volume is very inviting for a reader and one looks forward to some freshness in themes and methodologies matching with the changing times. A careful reading of the volume, however, suggests that Indian geography at least what is included in the present volume has not changed much from what it has been since the beginning of the twentieth century. How Indian geographers are responding to the challenges of the twenty first century is a crucial test. Within the subfields of the subject papers included in the volume focus

on agriculture, population, marketing, applied medical geography, political aspects. This suggests that we continue to till the old fields in narrow frameworks and micro scales. Papers in the book cover single city/town, a district or at best a state and rarely present a national perspective. We have yet to capture the global perspectives which can enrich our understanding of problems at other scales of study. The challenges of the new century are fast encompassing processes of globalization, liberalization and privatization among many others. How we respond to these issues in our researches is an aspect which rarely finds a place in the frameworks of studies included in this book. Nevertheless the efforts put in by the researchers in developing various themes indicate good beginnings. It is hoped that the twenty first century would broaden horizons further.

The editorial board deserves applause for conceiving this project and bringing it out with painstaking efforts. It is a Herculean task to motivate and persuade individuals, collect the research papers and give them a presentable shape. The editors have done this daunting task to bring out the volume.

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