

and Truman have presented an excellent historical overview of Third World urbanisation highlighting the nature of urban growth in the pre-colonial period, the attendant distortions, various interventions through the planning process in the post-colonial era and the impact of imported industrialisation on urbanisation. R. B. Singh has presented a comparative view of regional dimension of urbanisation in Latin America, Asia and the Pacific relating these with the process of development in these regions. Swapna Banerjee's write up is concerned with the process of underdevelopment and the emergence of a vast urban informal sector in the Third World Countries. An incisive critique of the strategy proposed by the National Commission on Urbanisation has been presented by Shekhar Mukherji highlighting the conceptual and methodological shortcomings. Some of the neglected dimensions of Indian urbanisation have been examined by Gopal Krishan and Nina Singh using a political-economy perspective—a refreshing treatment indeed. Equally interesting is the evaluation of the gender dimension in a spatial - historical context. K. D. Sharma examines the cantonment towns as 'islands of serenity' in the otherwise chaotic urbanisation stream. The urgency of working out a rational strategy for meeting the growing demand for water in the metropolitan cities of India has

been highlighted by Daksha C. Barai. On the basis of a detailed comparative study of two towns in Gujarat, Anjana P. desai and Ami U. Rawal have raised some vital issues related with regional planning. The impact of land rights and housing policies in urban planning as a strategy for space management in East Asia is the central theme presented by Denis. And lest we get obsessed with India and the Third World we are rescued. Tracing the evolution of urbanisation in Australia Chris Maher views it with optimism for the continent's future.

Henk Meijer examines the changing strategy in Netherlands and, in particular, points out the failings in various policy documents in this regard.

The book is indeed a welcome addition for the teachers and students alike. The absence of maps in the volume would disturb geographers unless the editors have some convincing reason other than the cost factor. Or is it signal that we must now look beyond maps and patterns and come to grips with the intricate interplay of processes operating to create these patterns?

—Swarnjit Mehta
Panjab University, Chandigarh

Coastal Geomorphology of Konkan

edited by SHRIKANT KARLEKAR

Aparna Publications, 4 "Ankur", 573/4 Bibwewadi, Pune 411 037, 1993, 325 p., Rs. 125/-.

This collection of fifteen papers, including three by the editor, is the outcome of a sustained research effort in coastal geomorphology by Dr S. Karlekar and his students. The papers deal with varied landforms of the

Konkan coast between the Dharmatar creek in the north and Ratnagiri in the south. With approximately the same number of studies in each area, they center around three coastal stretches : the Jaigarh creek in the south,

Kelshi - Harihareshwar in the center and Rewas-Alibag in the north. The authors examine a variety of coastal forms and microforms ranging from cliffs and shore platforms to dunes, beaches, mudflats and intertidal spits. Major thrust, however, is given to the analysis of nearshore and shore processes.

In investigating such dynamic elements as waves, tides and currents innovative approaches and methods had to be adopted ranging from sampling and surveying in the surfzone and creeks in different seasons to appropriately chosen analysis in the laboratory. Of special significance seem to be the findings related to the changing monsoon and winter beach profiles (T. Shitole) and sedimentation processes in estuaries and inlets (V. Nikam, C.; Kenjale. A. Godbole), the studies on dune plants (S. Karlekar) and mangroves (P. Kulkarni) attempt to assess the complex relationship between geomorphic processes and coastal vegetation. Sea level changes are discussed with reference to abandoned cliffs, raised shore platforms (A. Deswandikar; J. Mate; S. Karlekar) and lithified dunes (J. Ghatpande).

The method of presentation follows a set pattern in all the papers : general introduction of

a coastal form and the related processes with reference to earlier studies, introduction of the area and methodology adopted, exposition of results in text, in tabular form often using statistical methods and in numerous figures grouped together at the end of the paper, and finally the conclusions drawn in precise terms. The simple language, clear presentation and often simplified sketches make the book easy to understand. However, one would have appreciated an introductory chapter by the editor putting forms and processes along the Konkan coast into right perspective. Some spelling mistakes especially of geographic terms and proper names could have been avoided. Some figures have suffered in the process of reduction and some are repetitive. The jacket presenting coloured photos of a mangrove swamp and a cliffed coast is very attractive.

The book is the first of its kind on a coastal stretch of India. Its merit lies in its quantitative and analytical approach and contributes not only to our knowledge of the west coast of India but also to the understanding of marine processes in the tropics.

— *Jutta Dikshit*