

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Research Methods and Techniques in Geography* : Dr Har Prasad; Rawat Publications, Jaipur and New Delhi; 1991; Diagrams, maps, tables; pp. 241; Rs. 250/-.

The purpose of this short review is to bring to the notice of our younger geographers a very useful publication that would promote their interest in research and enhance their competence in handling research themes. Dr Har Prasad of D.B.S. College, Dehra Dun, is a physicist turned geographer, and as such he elegantly brings in the disciplines of both the sciences in this presentation. The first three chapters : Nature and Status of Geography, Changing Paradigms in Geography, and Philosophy and Theory of Geography, provide a good background for understanding the place of research in Geographical Science. The next chapter 'Nature and Trends in Geographical Research' is a useful survey of the shifts in research interest from time to time. The next five chapters : 'Nature and Base of Research', 'Research Design', 'Field Techniques' and 'Data Collection', 'Processing and Analysis of Data', and 'Preparation of Research Report', form the core of the monograph : the

reader will find hints at every stage : Identification of the problem, preparing bibliography, hypothesis formation, secondary and primary data collection; role of questionnaire and sampling; quantitative techniques and most important of all : how to prepare a research report and present it to an audience, and how to make it suitable for publication. The last chapter : 'Research in Geography' in India is a very interesting analysis of some research themes which the author evaluates on a quantitative scale and provides comparisons between these which are good and others that are not up to that level. This is painstakingly and objectively done. The three appendices, glossary and bibliography add to the value of the book. Every department of geography in universities and post-graduate colleges ought to have a copy, and the earnest researcher will find it a useful investment.

C. D. Deshpande

*Once upon a far hillside* : Brenda Kidman, Century Publishing, London; 1985, pp. 215, 10.95.

Though published in 1985, this study of a Konkan village still savours the life and times of an Indian village. The author has a distinguished association with BBC Woman's Hour, and chanced to visit Borlai Pachatan on

the Konkan coast, not far away from Bombay. She did so via an Indian family settled in London and its associates in South Africa; a young Muslim girl marries an elderly Indian and migrates with him to this ancestral village.