important programmes and schemes implemented by the State in the context of education, health, family welfare, hunger alleviation, malnutrition, drinking water and sanitation. In doing so, it documents the achievements and failures, recommendations and challenges faced by rural Rajasthan. However, on the personal note, for a exhaustive study like this, the recommendations should have been elaborative with proper action plan.

Of the total number of 488 pages, 218 constitute the main text, while the rest remains as appendix. The bibliography provided is quite elaborate and will be of much help in the development of conceptual understanding as well as advanced study in this field. In an attempt at facilitating better understanding, the author has provided a key to abbreviations, terminology, and formulae. With similar intent, multivariable data is represented using GIS and statistical techniques Charts, models and inset boxes adequately support text of the book. The language is simple with minimum typological error.

Undoubtedly the data collected and represented is huge and exhaustive. The author needs to be acknowledged for this. It must have been a Herculean task in-deed. As a geographer, Dr Joshi has rightly represented the data by using lucid areal distributional maps. This book will be a resource of great utility to policy makers, development workers, planners at all levels, research scholars and students. Further, the information contained would help in proper planning for the future growth of human resources, enabling removal of regional disparity within the State. To conclude, more than a book, it is a report that evaluates the human development status for Rajasthan. It would help in proper planning and future growth of human development status. This would also provide opportunity to young geographers to take up research in this field in different parts of the country.

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## Environmental Changes and Geomorphic Hazards

By Surendra Singh, Leszek Starkel and Hiambok Jones Syiemlieh

(Bookwell Publishers, New Delhi, 2008. Pages 388, Price Rs.850/)

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This is a research monograph that includes papers presented in Indo – Polish joint seminar held at the North Eastern Hill University, Shillong during 20th to 22nd November 2006.

The book presents an overview of a few main geomorphic hazards such as landslides,seismicity, floods and desertification causing mass movements, collapse and subsidence, hydrological hazards and human-induced geohazards. It is aimed at providing the reader with a variety of case studies. The contributions therefore cover a range of geological, geomorphological and geographical settings. Geographically, the twenty four papers discuss environmental changes and geomorphic hazards from Arctic, Carpathian foreland, Northern Vietnam, South East Brazil and Sikkim Himalaya, North East India, Meghalaya, and Rajasthan.

There is a major thrust on mass movement landslide hazard zonation and flood hazards especially in Himalayas. Government and research institutions worldwide have long attempted to assess landslide hazard and risks and to portray its spatial distribution in maps. Several different methods for assessing landslide hazard were proposed or implemented. The reliability of these maps and the criteria behind these hazard evaluations are poorly documented. Geomorphological information remains largely descriptive and subjective. It is, hence, somewhat unsuitable to engineers, policy-makers or developers when planning land resources. Attempts at testing the proficiency and limitations of multivariate statistical techniques and of different methodologies for dividing the territory into suitable areas for landslide hazard assessment are in progress, at various scales.It is apparent from the papers included in the volume that Geomorphology can play a renewed role in assessing areas at high landslide hazard, and helping mitigate the risk.

The book contains an excellent account of the range and causes of geomorphic hazards and their relation with the environmental changes. Written in a clear and unpretentious style, it concentrates on the basic facts. The book looks at processes and the underlying principles and focuses on the need for a true understanding of the scientific details so that a real contribution to hazard management can be made. A comprehensive treatment of scientific and management issues of hazards caused by natural or sometimes human induced earth surface processes are covered including floods, landslides, soil erosion and subsidence. Leading researchers in the field of environmental studies, paleogeography, geoecology, atmospheric and space sciences, irrigation and drainage engineering, geomorphology, hydrology, geography, and geology have contributed to this volume.

The individual chapters deal with the environment and associated hazards, extreme geomorphic events, geomorphic hazards in low latitudes, landslide hazard evaluation, seismicity and environmental changes in north eastern India, analysis of flood hazards in north Bengal, Brahmaputra, Narmada and provide a review of current research in respective field and are complemented by an extensive bibliography. There is only a passing mention of coastal hazards, but there is no inclusion of any contribution on this aspect of environment in the volume.

The volume is well illustrated with 115 figures including colour photos. It is a major contribution to the global change programme of UNESCO and ICSU. It incorporates unique dimensions of geomorphology and the interaction with changing land phenomena over the earth. The book will appeal to practitioners, managers, academicians, researchers, planners, environmental scientists, administrators as well as students in geomorphlogy, natural hazards research and environmental management.

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