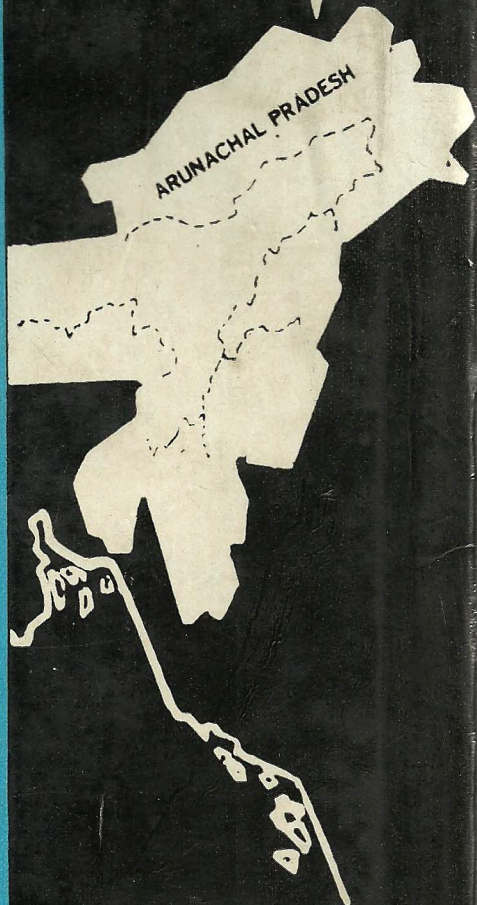


THE WEALTH OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

S. D. JHA



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The Wealth of Arunachal Pradesh



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THE WEALTH OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

is

dedicated to my father

Pandit Ram Lochan Jha.

PREFACE

This book is the direct outcome of my humble experiments and sustained study of all the facts of socio-economic life of the noble people of Arunachal Pradesh who, in general, are conspicuous by their cultural heritage and distinct identity, they do not believe in eulogizing their basic virtues which sustain the fabric of their social life. Some may say that the life of the people of Arunachal Pradesh does not form part of the mainstream of the so-called civilized world but, in fact, their ways of life are so pure and chaste that any modern civilized man would feel envious of them. How simple, how gentle, how innocent, how affectionate and how alluring is the life of Arunachal Pradesh ! It's just like a great work of art which goes on revealing new meanings in every encounter. Thus, mine is a humble attempt to get at the root of true and new meanings of the socio-economic fabric of the territory.

I got the privilege of acquainting myself with hill economy when I was first posted at Seppa in Arunachal Pradesh as Economic Investigator. In accordance with the nature of my job, I felt the need to post myself with up-to-date information on the economy of the territory, and so I started a search for necessary literature. But, I came to know before long that very scant information was available on the economy of the Territory. On account of the lack of data, I was confronted with numerous handicaps while discharging even my normal duty. When I visited the interior of Arunachal Pradesh in almost all the districts of the Territory, I felt the lack of the information all the more. Simultaneously, the potentiality of unexplored resources of the virgin land attracted me. All these led me to undertake a research project which culminated in my being awarded Ph.D. degree in 1975 by Gauhati University for my thesis entitled Socio-Economic Study of Arunachal Pradesh.

Subsequently, I got the opportunity of serving as Agricultural Census Officer and Planning Officer in Arunachal Pradesh. In the course of my duties, I came across many experts who had been called from different parts of the country to diagnose and put forward suggestions with regard to the overall development of the territory. This provided me an opportunity to observe their ingenuous interpretations and consequent incorrect inferences in respect of geo-economic and socio-economic variables of economic development of Arunachal Pradesh. But I was to remain a mute spectator. However, I kept on debating within myself in the foremost issue in the contexts of Arunachal Pradesh economy.

As an outcome of my self-education, I experienced that the need to produce a comprehensive account of the hill economy of the Tribal land of Arunachal Pradesh had started taking shape. The culminating point reached when Mr. N.K. Rustomjee visited the Government College, Itanagar where I am posted at present, as one man commission on the yet-to-come Arunachal University during November, 1982. The discussion embraced wide-ranging issues in which I took active part, and realised the missing links, the lacunae, the handicaps and other constraints obviously attributable to the lack of comprehension. In that context I decided to undertake this work, and the result is *The Wealth of Arunachal Pradesh*.

The outline of discussion in the present book is as follows. In view of the comprehensively obsessed task, the integration of geographical factors, economic factors, social factors and organisational factors became unavoidable. More explicitly, the operational behaviour of the above sectoral variables of economic development in Arunachal economy was inescapably required to be viewed in association of one another. To achieve this basic objective, which has been apparently escaping the attention of all concerned, the scheme of discussion in the present publication has been planned in five parts, each part comprising relevant chapters.

The Part One has been devoted to lay out the basic structure of the hill economy of Arunachal Pradesh. In this part, the topographical features, natural resources, population base and the socio-economic fabric of the tribal people have been

discussed at length. In the light of the revelations made in Part One, the agriculture, the horticulture, the agro-horticultural marketing, the co-operation, the animal husbandry and veterinary services and the fisheries have been accounted for in Part II. The Part III has been devoted to industries under secondary sector bearing in mind the foregoing revelations and references. The stock taking of the tertiary sector deemed synonymous to service sector and propeller to overall economic development has been attempted in Part IV intensively. Under Part V the planning and programme has been discussed.

In conformity with the primary concern of economic development in the territory, '*The Wealth of Arunachal Pradesh*' is a development obsessed work. Simultaneously, it is envisaged to cater to the needs of the applied researchers, the administrators, the planners, the executives and other workers in the fields. Besides, it is purposely aimed at catering to the needs of B.A. Honours and M.A. students in view of the forthcoming Arunachal University, where 'Regional Economics' is a likely subject. But there is no material available in required form. This has prompted the present author to furnish exhaustive account on several topics in relation to the aggregate economy of the country as a whole, which has further made the book comprehensive for the benefit of the student community at large.

While dealing with the topographical features of the Territory in Chapter I, the accessibility of the places, the surroundings, the frontiers, the potential and the constraints have been accounted for extensively from the standpoint of economic development. In Chapter II, the natural resource potentials have been viewed with strict regard to geographical constraints out of which the balance of feasibility for all round economic development has clearly emerged. Human resource is the pivot around which all the other resources rotate. A detailed account of the many faceted population has been furnished under Chapter III in analytical form. The important trends of the population have been noted, and the relevant characteristic features of the population have been spelt out in cohesion with the requirement of economic development in Arunachal Pradesh. The socio-economic composition of a

given community is deemed one of the deciding variables of economic development. In Chapter IV, the attempt has been made to deal with the social institutions and the socio-economic practices of the tribesmen in the light of the preceding geo-economic and demographic features in such a correlative manner that the relevant characteristic features have emerged explicitly enabling correct policy decisions to be taken at appropriate levels with regard to economic development.

The agriculture and the horticulture have been discussed under Chapter V and Chapter VI respectively where the potential has been accounted for, the localised handicaps have been identified, the needs have been noticed and the gaps have been revealed in the light of the foregoing geo-economic, demographic and socio-economic considerations out of which, it may be said the suggestions for the future course of development have emerged automatically. The agro-horticultural marketing has been viewed under Chapter VII as complementary measure to the development of agriculture as well as horticulture. How the gap of agro-horticultural marketing is operating as inhibiting factor and negating the economic gains to Arunachal farmers has been brought to the notice explicitly. The solution has, however, also been put forward in precise terms. While dealing with the chronological development of co-operation under Chapter VIII, the process of monetisation in Arunachal economy has emerged vividly apart from its effective role played towards economic development. At the same time, the structural phenomenon and the involvement of the people in co-operative movement as well has not escaped attention. The suggestion so emerged have been put on record. In Chapter IX the animal husbandry and veterinary services has been dealt within harmony with the geo-economic and socio-economic fabric of the indigenous population in particular. The economic potential of the livestock and poultry wealth has been explored, and the gaps with regard to rearing-practices, breeding policy, etc. in view of total perspective have been revealed. The emerging suggestions for the future course of development on scientific lines have been noted. In respect of fisheries, the potentials, the gaps and the development have been accounted for under

Chapter X in the light of the geo-economic and socio-economic factors intensively.

Under Chapter XI, the overall situation relating to industrial development in Arunachal economy has been thoroughly viewed in the light of the Government of India's Programme of taking industrialisation to 'industrially backward areas' and the geo-economic endowments of the Territory as well as other pressing problems. The total discussion on the industries has led to evolving the strategies for the harmonious development of industries in Arunachal Pradesh, so relevant to the discussion in the Chapter.

Under Chapter XII, the lack of operating agency for carrying out trade has been noticed in view of pressing needs for trade and commerce which was ignored in the past. While tracing out the history of trade and commerce, the Arunachalees have been found quite adventurous. While accounting for the supportive services in Chapter XIII, the inadequacy, the lopsided growth and the structural deficiencies of the broad tertiary-sector with regard to economic development in Arunachal Pradesh have come to the notice. As a response to the situation, the perspective suggestions have been put forward from the stand point of promoting a deliberate growth of the supportive services with respect to economic development in the Territory.

The Chapter XIV is devoted to planning and economic growth with an envisaged goal to evolving the genuine strategy for the achievement of self-sustained accelerated economic development in Arunachal Pradesh in cohesion with geo-economic endowments and socio-economic fabric. While evolving the growth strategy with regard to economic development, the geo-economic, demographic, socio-economic, the inadequacy and the structural bountifulness and the deficiencies of the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors of Arunachal economy have been invariably borne in mind. Besides, the present procedure of planning in Arunachal Pradesh has been reviewed, and the alternative plan frame has been suggested in cohesive manner.

But without the blessings of Dr. R.K. Mehrotra, Professor of Economics, Dibrugarh University, this work could not have seen the light. I owe to Professor Mehrotra a deep debt

of gratitude for the inspiration and encouragement I received from him.

I acknowledge my sincere gratitude to Dr. M.C. Joshi, the Director of Agriculture, Arunachal Pradesh, who has proved a source of inspiration to me. Dr. Joshi not only allowed me access to valuable office records and other documents, but also granted me opportunity from time to time for discussion on various topics I have heavily drawn from his rich and long experiences of life.

I am grateful to Shri Hare Lal Bhattacharjee, who took pains to go through the manuscript and extended valuable comments many of which were availed of by me.

I find myself unable to muster words to express my gratitude and thankfulness to Shri B.P. Shah who took immense pains to go through every word and carried out corrections. He offered invaluable comments, which I availed of fully. I owe irredeemable debt to him also.

My sincere thanks are due to Shri Jagadeesh Thakur, Shri P.K. Nag, Shri S.K. Sharma and Shri Radheshyam Mishra who helped me in many ways. I feel duty bound to express my gratitude to Shri R. Deb, Shri Durgadas Bhattacharjee and Shri Jogeswar Mochahari who took all pains to type the manuscript with utmost care.

In course of pursuing this work, I have drawn heavily from the records of the departments of Arunachal Pradesh Government, the Government of India, the Universities, the Institutes, the Societies and Associations and the works of individual scholars, which have been maintained in the bibliography appended to this work. I acknowledge my gratitude to all of them. I am thankful to those also whose names do not find mention here. It is needless to say, I am alone responsible for errors and shortcomings that have remained. The views expressed in the book are exclusively mine.

I shall be failing in my duty if I do not pay gratitude to my wife Smt. Urbasi Jha, who spared no pains as house wife to bear with me during the preparation of the present work.

The last but not the least is I express my gratitude to Shri K.M. Mittal who took every pain and care to publish this pioneering work on the virgin land of Arunachal Pradesh. I acknowledge my gratitude to him for the great help he extended to me in presenting this book to the academic world for the service to the nation.

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Itanagar,
Arunachal Pradesh

—S. D. JHA

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The Book

The Wealth of Arunachal Pradesh is a comparative study of geo-economic and socio-economic variables of development in the light of the whole spectrum of the tribes and the tribal land of Arunachal Pradesh. The operational behaviour of the traditional as well as emerging sectoral variables of economic development are inescapably linked and have been analysed accordingly.

The alignment of the present book reveals its scope and purpose. It is divided into five parts comprising a total of fourteen chapters. In Part I, the basic structure of the hill economy of Arunachal Pradesh such as topographical features, natural resources and constraints, population base and the socio-economic fabric of the tribesmen have been discussed at length. In the light of the revelations which emerged in Part I, the agriculture, the horticulture, the agro-horticultural marketing, the co-operation, the animal husbandry and veterinary services and the fisheries have been dealt with in Part II under primary sector. The industries have been discussed under secondary sector in Part III. Part IV has been devoted to tertiary sector deemed synonymous to service sector leading to over-all economic development of the territory. Under Part V, the planning programme has been discussed at length. An alternative model of planning has also been suggested.

In a nutshell, *The Wealth of Arunachal Pradesh* is a treatise on the hill economy of this Territory. By and large, the book is an analytical approach.

Last but not the least, the scrutiny of materials, the analysis, the interpretation and the discussion in this book have been aimed at catering to the wide-ranging needs of the applied researchers, the economic planners, the executives and, in particular, the students of Economics, pursuing Honours and M.A. Courses.

The Author

The author of THE WEALTH OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH, Dr. Satya Dev Jha (Born 1949) graduated from C. M. College Darbhanga with distinction in Economics Honours. He took his Master's degree in Economics from L. S. College, University of Bihar, Muzaffarpur. He was awarded Ph.D. Degree by Gauhati University in 1975 for his Thesis SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH.

His fields of specialisation are population, agricultural and livestock census, horticultural crop survey, agricultural planning and marketing of Arunachal economy where the momentum of modernity is catching fast.

Dr. S. D. Jha has to his credit more than 30 published papers on different topics of national as well as regional importance.

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