

## **Book Review**

### **Economic transformation of India with special reference to Kerala by Dr. K.V Joseph, Mittal Publications, New Delhi**

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This book by Dr. K.V Joseph is a collection of nine articles on various facets of Kerala's economy from an inter-disciplinary perspective. Each paper presents an overview of the transformation of the sector since the formation of the state and raises pertinent questions about its future in the changed circumstances. Ten academic papers of the author related to each article published in well known professional journals are appended.

The introductory chapter "An Overview of the Economic Transformation" places Kerala's economic transformation in the larger context of Indian economy and briefly summarises each article. This definitely helps a reader to straight away go to the article which may be of immediate relevance to his/her research and study.

The second chapter entitled "Rise and Fall of Agriculture since Independence" is an overview of the trends in area, production and productivity of major crops in Kerala. After discussing the various factors contributing to the dismal state of the agricultural sector in Kerala, the author rightly concludes that Kerala cannot afford to ignore agriculture as the remittance driven prosperity is 'artificial' and cannot be sustained. The third chapter is on the lacklustre performance of the industrial sector of Kerala. The major factors contributing the state's industrial backwardness like labour militancy and the indifferent attitude of the organised labour to work are discussed in detail. Recent developments like Kerala achieving the first position in 'ease of doing business' seems to address at least partially the anxieties and concerns of the author.

The fourth chapter “Migration in the Development in Kerala” is an overview of the trends and pattern of migration from Kerala. Keralites have always been on the move- from coastal areas and mid-land to the western ghats and later to Gulf countries. Migration is the single most important factor behind the internationally known ‘Kerala model of development’. The recent trends in migration to European countries, Canada and United States are discussed in detail. The fifth Chapter “ Pattern of Economic Transformation since Independence” presents a comprehensive view of the structural transformation of Kerala Economy since its formation.

Sixth and seventh chapters are snapshots on rising agricultural wages and growth of tourism industry. These two brief articles could have been part of some of the preceding articles. The eighth chapter “ Entry of Culture Industry in Kerala” discusses the emergence of visual media such as film industry and television. Though the approach here is more descriptive than analytical, the contribution of the author is praiseworthy as this is an area where not much work has been done.

The ninth chapter is author’s thoughts and observations about the future of Kerala economy in the backdrop of Covid-10 pandemic. There can be differences of opinion about some of his observations depending upon the ideological predilections of the reader. However, as a scholar who has done pioneering work on several aspects of Kerala economy and society, his observations and anxieties are quite pertinent.

For a reader who looks at Kerala’s transformation over the last 65 years from a multi-disciplinary perspective, the articles together with the academic papers in this volume provide a fairly good understanding of the path we have trudged and the options before the state to overcome the emerging challenges. As the author has admitted in the introduction, there are repetitions here and there which could have been avoided through a more meticulous editing. That apart, the book is a welcome addition to the growing literature on Kerala economy.