

BOOK REVIEWS

Issues in Social Demography

By A. K. Sharma

Mittal Publications, Delhi, 1989. 190 pages

This book examines the subject matter of social demography from both theoretical and methodological perspectives. It also provides empirical evidence based on the case of India in particular. In an attempt to define social demography, the author reviews basic principles in demography and relates various population variables to a number of social factors. Moreover, to illustrate concrete examples of this subject, the Indian experience is cited and discussed with regard to the issues of population and poverty, population management, as well as urbanization and migration.

The volume should prove useful not only as an informative text to students of demography and sociology, but also as a powerful teaching guide on this subject. The empirical data on India provide some insights regarding specific social-demographic issues which this country faces. In using the Indian experience as an illustration of various issues in social demography, the author is skillful in presenting his views on the interrelationships between demography and sociology.

The limitations of this book lie in the fact that the author restricts his review of the literature to very few previous classical works. The volume should be of much greater value if more updated debates and evidence are cited. Moreover, the emphasis on India excludes otherwise meaningful discussion on a number of relevant issues in social demography. In other words, the scope of social demography has been narrowed by the presentation within the Indian context. Lastly, the book should have been more carefully edited. There is a number of typing errors and repeated phrases. Despite the above drawbacks, this volume represents an admirable effort to combine the two approaches (namely, demography and sociology) in examining social processes.

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