

Rudolf Högger, *Die Schweiz in Nepal. Erfahrungen und Fragen aus der schweizerischen Entwicklungszusammenarbeit mit Nepal*. Bern/Stuttgart: Paul Haupt, 1975. 191 pages, DM 16. 80

Development-cooperation between Nepal and Switzerland dates back as far as 1948. In those days His Majesty Government asked for Swiss planning advice to better develop the country. The famous chees for instance, that many of us have enjoyed in the valley, is a direct result of the first project that Swiss agencies started in 1958. Since then Nepal has remained to be one of the main recipients of Swiss development aid which, by the way, is extraordinary low as compared to the performance of other industrialized countries.

Rudolf Högger was responsible for the coordination of the various Swiss projects in Nepal from 1970 until 1974. In this study he tries to persuade a wider audience, that development is a task in which we will never live up to our high sounding plans, theories and strategies. We must rather learn that each project develops its own case-history and allows therefore only vague generalizations for further actions in related fields.

I think that many of us will agree with this individualistic approach. Yet I doubt whether it is possible to keep to it, if development-aid trespasses a certain minimum-level of projects and personal. Then bureaucratic routine and administrative regulations will enforce their own rationality. It therefore remains to be seen whether the typical "Swiss approach", which this book describes, can be maintained in the very ambitious Integrated Hill Development Project which was started in 1972. With this project in Western Nepal a new dimension has been reached, and the Swiss development planners might be forced to think in more general categories than before. It might be that Rudolf Höggers book will soon be the case-history of an developmental area, when small was beautiful.

D. Kantowsky

Dirk Bronger, *Formen räumlicher Verflechtung von Regionen in Andhra Pradesh/Indien als Grundlage einer Entwicklungsplanung. Ein Beitrag der angewandten Geographie zur Entwicklungsländerforschung. Mit 43 Karten, 43 Tabellen, 10 Figuren und Diagrammen*. Paderborn: Ferdinand Schöningh, 1976. 267 pages, 43 maps (seperate). DM 134. -

The author has to be congratulated for this highly informative study of forms of regional integration ("räumliche Verflechtung") in Andhra Pradesh. It again proves the special contribution that socio-geographic research can make for an empirical foundation of development theories.

The study starts from the observation that regional integration in most of the developing countries is low and unevenly distributed. It is assumed that economic development and regional integration are correlated processes. Accordingly, the first part of the empirical investigation concentrates on forms and functions

of integration at the micro-level and analyzes in detail the traditional bonds and more recent forms of cooperation and dependence that link the individual, his family, his caste, his village and his neighbourhood with an ever widening circle of social and/or geographic units, depending on the kind of interaction observed. The second part studies the integration in the various sectors of agriculture, industry, commerce, and transport at the state-level. This analysis is substantiated through an immense amount of data and illustrated with all the professional skills of the discipline. The last two chapters of the empirical part deal with the process of integration among the three main networks observed and then try to explain its causes and factors. It is exactly this part (pp. 205-223) which is relevant for the development-planner. Here is the answer of the author to the many officials who in the course of his field-work were wondering about the use he could make of all the data wanted. Yet, not even a summary is offered to the english-reading public. I think that this is the main dilemma of all our development research, and not only the theoretical and methodological issues, that the author deals with in his concluding remarks.

Here we have an excellent study of development problems of an Indian region. Yet it is written in German and was submitted as "Habilitation" to a German University, i. e. its main outcome for the time being is an academic career. Yet I venture to hope that Dirk Bronger will have the time and the energy to make the best parts of his book available to his informants. Otherwise we should not wonder that our field-work does not arouse much interest and cooperation.

D. Kantowsky