

## Unit 13

### *Book Review*

- By GIRIWAR TANDUL (JOSHI)\*

**Bishwa Nath Tiwari, Ph. D.**, Associate Professor, Central Department of Economics, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal ( DECEMBER 2006) . *READINGS IN THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: CHALLENGES FOR ATTAINING THE MDGS IN NEPAL.*

The book "READINGS IN THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS", challenges for attaining the MDGs in Nepal was published in 2006 by the author Bishwa Nath Tiwari. This book is a set of collected articles in which highlights varieties of the authors' most vulnerable experiences and knowledge in his accumulated working period with the National Planning Commission and UNDP. The author has accumulated his knowledge and experience in the ground of planning and monitoring for which he owes to the National Planning Commission, Nepal Government Ministries, Donors, etc. The MDGs are a set of eight goals, 18 targets and 48 monetary indicators.

The basic concept concentrated in this book is to developed monitoring tool at the global and country levels, the MDGs have become a tool of monitoring and planning. Besides, the book focuses on performance, planning and monitoring of the MDGs in Nepal.

The author's an overview on attaining the MDGs in Nepal, find him a successful dealer to concieve such depth interpretative and informative tools that readers would obtain more comfortable and explainable on his detailed topics. His overviews on Nepal's own socio-economic issues such as poverty, inequality, education, health and environment which are considered the handicaps for the country's rapid development. The MDGs globally concerned with poverty and human development, poverty inequality and exclusion resource requirements, etc. Regarding Nepal for attaining the millennium development goals, the policy implication should be extracted on uniform way through proper plan, policy, and monitoring systems.

The first chapter in this book reveals the progress report of MDGs during 1990s. The targets of the goals achievements are concentrated on poverty and human development, inequality and exclusion. The author argues that these have not been able to address the root causes of poverty in Nepal in the past advances - primarily inequality, social exclusion and discriminatory practices. He emphasizes on the negative impact in production relations, socio-economic structure, gender relation and status of women. Because of these, poverty and human development insisted inequality, manifesting themselves in gender, caste, ethic and geographic disparities. The author underlines the need of proper planning, monitoring and optimal policy changes of government of Nepal.

The second chapter in which author discusses on the diversities among the big and small, landlocked countries (least development countries) and small island developing states in which are most vulnerable countries of free world - are in poor segment, have been cluster in Asia Pacific region alone. He points out the clues of key challenging denied in the Asia Pacific region is as follow: i) absolute poor (below less than one dollar a day), ii) instead of decline of poverty in some countries, increased of poverty in some other countries, and iii) diversified in geography, culture, political institutions, stage of economic development and variation in the economic growth rates. The author highlights the key features and challenges of Nepal - has characteristics of least developing and landlocked as follows:

- i) low per capita gross national income of US \$ 322,
- ii) lack of access to sea, remoteness and isolation from international markets,
- iii) prohibitive transit transport cost,
- iv) heavy dependence on transit services,
- v) smallness in domestic market,
- vi) deteriorating peace and security, and
- vii) increasing income inequality.

The third chapter - implementation of the Brussel's programs of action in Nepal conceived of various authentic commitment committed to review the such LDCs' poverty and inequality which are main issues of the country like Nepal.

Commitments are on the issue: a) fostering people centre policy frame work, b) good governance at national and international levels, c) building human and institutional capacity, d) building productive capacity to make globalization work for LDCs, e) enhancing the role of trade in development, f) reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment, and g) mobilizing financial resources. As the Brussel's declaration, the commitments assist to apply plan and policies to the LDCs which are abundantly required to implement more effectively applying into the plan and policies by the government of Nepal.

Fourth chapter 'food security for the eradication of hunger in Nepal' focuses on the vital need of achieving food security and attaining the MDGs of reducing poverty and hunger requires food security at individual level, and draws views on discussion of three dimensional approach of food security that is availability, access and utilization. For this food security, its three dimensional views are considered to be applied in the policy. Increasing productivity and road connection helps people to available foods in their areas. Increasing income earnings options and opportunities for the poor vulnerable to enhance economic access and improving the provision of infrastructures and services makes aware women and men on food quality and safely, promote gender equality in provision of food to enhance their food utilization.

The fifth chapter linking MDGs with the national planning cycle of Nepal is an absolute figure of planning conditions implied in Nepal's holistic developments. Generally, five-year period plans are prepared to Operationalize Perspective Plans. It has shown light relation in between annual budgetary plans and five-year plan. Besides these, government has introduced three-year rolling (financial) plan called Medium Term Expenditure Framework. This plan ensures budget to the priority program and projects.

Six chapter calculates the cost for launching the MDGs in Nepal. Likewise, chapter seven in this book reveals on public expenditure management for attaining the universal primary education. In the last chapter author gives his own evaluation, monitoring of the MDGs aspects through.

Indeed this book reflects to the readers on the development pace of Nepal and how it is taking place on the path of national progress. The situational hindrances, issues and difficulties is the root causes for launching developing plans and policies. The author opines that with the assistance of the donors and development partners in financial, technological and bilateral conceptual models constantly applied in Nepal, are supportive base to keep efforts for further continuity of the pace of development. His opinion on MDGs extract the views commenting on affected drawbacks in development acceleration, is pure data based analysis from which readers could obtain more effective tools and acknowledgement. Moreover, the book has successfully prescribed more comparative data that could be wrathful scholarly asset for scholars, students, and stakeholders involved with development activities related to poverty vs growth.