

P R E F A C E

while building up the model of development economics, one should deal with the "institutional" issues and rural development. The traditional economic analysis visualizes only the demand and supply mechanism as the main force which moves the economy ahead : consumer demand, producers' supply and the interaction between the two leads the economy in one direction or the other. The traditional approach of development economics thus ignores the importance and the role of "institutional" factors in building up models of development economics. This thesis, however, makes a humble attempt to make the analysis of development economics in a somewhat different perspective. It focuses its attention mainly on the dynamic relations among the various agrarian classes of the region under our study. The frame of reference is a backward region of West Dinajpur in the State of West Bengal.

The study tries to focus the attention on the phenomenon related to how the absence of well-organised credit and insurance markets leads to contractual interlinking of land, labour and credit and production relations.

The present study also uses the neo-classical looking tools to analyse the problems of traditional economic analysis in order to focus on the micro-issues of development economics. The study attempts to provide some balance between formal theoretical analysis and statistical testing and also between quantitative

and qualitative analyses of agrarian relations and their socio-logical-institutional background.

Finally, the study attempts to discuss and evaluate the various policy measures already adopted by our policy-makers. The measures include IRDP, RLEGP, and NREP schemes adopted to reduce and eradicate the incidence of rural poverty and exploitation of the backward and weaker sections of rural population. Some policy-prescriptions have also been suggested in this regard.

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