

dances. Thematically these songs are natural expressions of love and hate, joys and sorrows of existence and they point towards harmonious co-existence of man and nature. Thus is the ecological wisdom enshrined unobtrusively in the way of life! The accounts of the dances and other folk practices are interspersed with stories and anecdotes; that saves the description from becoming monotonous. One of the stories is associated with the 'Thro-Cham', it means the 'Furious Dance'; it is performed to subdue the evil spirit.

The tone of the author becomes jovial when she comes to the linguistic nuances and good-humoredly narrates the stories of people fumbling with Hindi and English and creating funny situations. She recounts the incidence of the 'cow's son' in tongue-in-the-cheek manner. Bhutan may be slow to accept change but the impact of globalization cannot be warded off. At every step Dimri encounters change and she feels confused because while change means progress, it also means annihilation of the traditional culture. The need is to keep the beauty of the culture intact despite transformations. Yet, the saving grace is that Bhutan is not very eager to accept outside cultural hegemony. It likes to retain its own ethos. That is one reason why the tiny country still remains a mystery.

Being a litterateur, it is natural that Jaiwanti should shift her attention to Bhutanese literature. Bhutan has its own traditional literature steeped in myth, legends and folklore but it is slow on creating new literatures. Talking specifically of indigenous literature in English, Dimri remarks with sympathetic understanding, 'Creation of literature and that too in a foreign

language for an underdeveloped country could verily be not one of the priorities at the initial stage of development' (p.121). Some translation and compilation work is being undertaken in the earnest at the behest of the Royal Government.

To add to the author's wide-eyed wonderment at the land so unique in many ways, she had had a chance to go round the country for an Orientation Programme; that broadened her purview. She aptly calls it 'circumambulating'—a word with hallowed connotations.

The last chapter entitled 'The Drupka Mystique' expounds the mystery of the land of the peaceful Dragon. It is 'a semantic construct which encapsulates the mood and the spirit, the air and the atmosphere of Druk Yuel in general and the Drupkas in particular'. These six pages are revelatory in which she catches the mysteriousness and the aura of the land. The book ends with 'Karding-chela' means 'Thank You'. With a glossary, end notes and a select bibliography, the work becomes a pleasant amalgam of scholarly exercise and a socio-cultural document exuding the joyous abandon of travel writing.

Professor Dimri, in bringing out the book, has not only captured her experiences but has also done great service to all those who wish to know more about Bhutan beyond 'tourist pamphlets'. I remember, we knew the word Druk in the 1970s-1980s only in connection with the tasty fruit jams and fruit juices coming from Bhutan. I acknowledge now that Druk, Drupka and Druk yuel mean much more.

The book is well brought out, has an attractive cover and good quality printing. Inside, it has got some useful and eye-catching sketches. But

I wish Dimri could have also provided a small pronunciation key to some typical Bhutanese words, for example, one does not know how the Bhutanese would pronounce Chorten or in Dzongkha whether 'D' is silent or 'Z'. One typographical error pertaining to the spellings of circumambulation/circumambulating is too glaring to be ignored. The language is effective, poetic at times, befitting the theme.

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Crisis in Higher Education: Role Analysis of Teachers in a University System, by Rani Mehta, Kalpaz Publication, Delhi, 2004, ISBN: 81-7835-305-9, pp. 386, Rs. 790.

In recent years, tremendous changes have come about in education. This is particularly so with the advent of the WTO regime in higher education. These changes influenced both, the techniques as well as the methodologies of imparting education, thereby affecting the very purpose and objectives of higher education.

The technological revolution taking place in higher education with e-learning is revolutionizing education at all levels. E-learning is to provide all that is required for a realistic interaction in the learning processes. E-learning is not going to dispense or make classrooms redundant, but to make teaching more effective, based upon realistic considerations of the learner. E-learning uses all the modern information technologies not only to make learning effective but also exhaustive and relevant as the end product.

In changing global economies,

universities must cope up with emerging challenges, choose the fast developing technologies and make the best use of new opportunities available. There arises a renewed challenge to adapt new approaches to teaching, create new and dynamic curriculum in order to maintain universities as centres of higher education. Universities have to redefine themselves in order to meet the diverse new roles it has to play as centres of social transformation, nation building, scientific advancement and development of human resources.

We are now operating, on the one hand, in the era of information society or knowledge society and on the other, in a globalized economy. In such a situation, every nation needs competent manpower for accelerating the pace of development. But in the context of our society, the crises of higher education gets pronounced due to lack of funds, faulty examination and evaluation methods, politicization and bureaucratization of the university system, stress on liberal arts rather than on vocational courses, skewed distribution of teachers to students, lack of autonomy to teachers, etc. In the wake of these issues, there is an urgent need to recognize the pattern of higher education with a view to evolve a system in which teachers can play effective roles.

Teachers are key actors in the university system. They are expected to rise above their self-interest and show a concern for the common good of the students and build up their personality structure for their effective role in society. It is well recognized fact that teachers do operate within the university prescribed system but it is also

important to analyze their performance in terms of how they relate these to the set of expectations from the students and administrators. In the book entitled *Crisis in Higher Education: Role Analysis of Teachers in a University System*, Rani Mehta studies these significant aspects of higher education. The book is the result of doctoral research work conducted at Panjab University, Chandigarh.

After an introduction, in which the author has delineated the research problem of her study, provides the reader with a historical account of the growth of education in India, review of studies, objectives and the theoretical framework, hypotheses of the study, the methods of data collection, plan of analysis of data and limitations of the study. In the second chapter of the book the author gives details regarding demographic, socio-cultural and economic profile of the respondents. In the third chapter, the author analyzes the 'role socialization' and views of teachers towards the profession. The fourth chapter highlights the 'role perception' and 'expectation of teachers'. The fifth chapter deals with 'role performance of teachers'. Teachers' views on crisis in higher education have been discussed in the sixth chapter. The outlook of students towards higher education, role of teachers and student-teacher relationship find expression in the seventh chapter. And in the concluding chapter, the author discusses the 'Crisis in higher education' in relation to 'role challenges to teachers'. The book has also four indices on Family Social Status Index of Teachers, Academic Level Index of Teachers; Participation Level Index of the Teachers in the University/Colleges Bodies

and Associations and Firmly Social Status Index of Students.

The study has thrown up some interesting findings. Most of the teachers, for example, prefer instrumental roles such as teaching and research over expressive roles, such as cordial relationships with colleagues and communication with colleagues and students. The study also shows that there is a gap between self-estimate of teacher's performance and perception of students towards their performance. According to perception of students, the performance of teachers falls short of their expectations and leaves something to be desired. The teachers by and large, lack attributes such as clarity of thought and expression, sensitivity towards the needs and hardships of students, sincerity of purpose and above all dedication and commitment.

This study which is based on three systematic samples, i.e., of teachers, students and educational supervisors in selected teaching departments and affiliated colleges of the Panjab University, Chandigarh, while making a comparative analysis between university and college teachers found that teachers in the university encounter more of professional problems while those in the colleges have to encounter more of organizational problems due to bureaucratic imperatives and the politics of management.

The study, further, brings out clearly that irrespective of gender, status and academic achievements of teachers, they seem to recognize that higher education is in crisis. The three most important factors ranked by the teachers pertaining to such a crisis are: (a) increasing politicization and bureaucratization of higher education, (b) the tendency on the

part of teachers to give precedence to their self-interest over the academic welfare of the students, and (c) faulty examination and evaluation process. Most significantly of these three, the politicization and bureaucratization of the university system impinges adversely the recruitment process of teachers and demoralizes and (de)motivates the teachers.

The study makes a definite contribution in creating a conceptual framework for analyzing the role of teachers in a university system. The socio-political structure as an external system, an organizational milieu as an internal system, certain attributes of teachers influencing their perceptions and motivations and expectations of their supervisors and students are the three key elements that need to be analyzed for delineating the role of teachers in a university system. The inclusion of students' perspective in delineating the role performance of teachers is a significant addition to the study. The author has aptly concluded that in order to strengthen the role of teacher, the roles of various players (the administrator, the teacher and the student) in the university system need to be well-defined and oriented towards one another in such a manner so as to bring in greater correspondence between role expectation and performance.

The author deserves appreciation for carrying out a comprehensive empirical study in the field of sociology of education. No doubt, the book is a welcome addition to the literature already available on educational sociology in the post WTO and e-learning scenario wherein the role of teachers in higher education is under serious scrutiny.

The book contains 386 pages

which could have been reduced by proper editing of the original project report. This would have resulted in a more sleek volume and pleasant to read both by scholars and general public. Needless to say, that the study is of immense use to educational planners, administrators and students of sociology, psychology, education and anthropology.

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Writers: Photographs by Nancy Crampton, The Quantuck Lane Press, New York, 2005, ISBN: 1-59372-019-X, pp. 224, \$ 40.

Writers: Photographs by Nancy Crampton is a book of photographs of literary personalities—novelists, poets and playwrights—with a difference. Along with the finely reproduced duotone portraits of these litterateurs, who have shaped the literary scene of not only America but of the entire world, are few lines from the pen of these personalities about their thoughts, important moments and their perception of what good writing is.

In some abstract way the 'portrait' of a writer is always present in his writing itself. Even then a pictorial representation of a writer adds 'flesh and blood' to the portrait. For this reason it is a normal practice in the publishing world to give the photograph of the author on the blurb of a book. It helps the readers to get an insight into the mind of the author by seeing him through the visual medium and then analyzing his writing. This must have been the idea of Crampton in reproducing the photographs of these litterateurs along with a few lines from their pens.

However, the possibility of a 'tension' between a pictorial representation and the personality traits emerging from the writing cannot be altogether dismissed. The charm of the book is that the photographs of the writers are in complete harmony with their writings. On the one hand is the persona of these litterateurs from the eyes of an ace photographer, on the other are their ideas and perceptions, providing a unique combination and balance, which is the novelty of the book.

Crampton is a photographer of repute and has lived up to the expectation. She is the official photographer of the Unterberg Poetry Centre, New York, which is famous for its literary readings. She has specialized in capturing literary personalities in her lenses, a job she is doing for three decades now. The book contains photographs and 'self-portrayal' of 104 literary personalities, who have influenced the American literary scenario. These include all time greats like Bellow, Mailer, Cheever, Wolfe, Singer et.al. The photographs of these literary personalities which have been taken over a period of time are technically of very high standard. Each portrait has something different to say, reflecting the various facets of these litterateurs, which include ten Nobel laureates. As has been mentioned by Crampton herself, she has taken photographs of different authors at different places and in different moods. Yet there is an underlining commonness in all these photographs—it is the perfect timing of capturing these personalities in the camera and the finesse of the duotone portraits.

VS Naipaul and Jhumpa Lahiri are the Indian 'connections' of the book. Crampton has caught Naipaul in a