

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

relaxed mood whereas Lahiri appears engrossed in deep thinking. In his brief autobiographical sketch, Naipaul has described what it meant to be a 'failure' and how it helped him to get his 'own voice' which got reflected in the form of his writings. This is complimented by his photograph, in which he appears to be calm, his eyes reflecting the contentedness of a successful author. Lahiri on the other hand walks into the lanes of nostalgia, highlighting the influence of Calcutta in her writings. She candidly accepts that even after spending several years in America, she has not been able to come out of her Indian mindset, which is reflected in her novels. The predicament of the young author, something which can be termed as

'identity crisis', can be very aptly gauged from her photograph.

The book has undoubtedly been brought out very well. It is flawless, the printing is of very high standard and the materials used are excellent. The photographs have been reproduced perfectly, thereby doing justice to the photographer and the book.

Although the book is excellent in every way, it appears as if it has been brought out for those who are in the know about the American literary scenario and are well versed with the works of the litterateurs, who find a place in it. Had the book been brought out only for the specialists, the approach would have been justifiable. But as it appears to me, no publisher who is bringing out the

book on such a grand scale, can have a limited audience in view. It would have been better if a few lines of biographical sketches of these litterateurs along with their important works would have been mentioned. It would have increased the value of the book.

However, on the whole this book is a fruitful attempt to portray the authors through their visuals on the one hand, and their side of the story on the other. It will be a valuable addition to the collections of all those who are interested in the contemporary literary scenario.

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Indian Knowledge Systems, edited by Kapil Kapoor and Avadhesh Kumar Singh
2 Vols., 2005, xi, ix, 710p; Index; 25 cm.

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