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Sharma, Ramesh Prasad

An economy-wide model for a region of Nepal: Modelling and applications

Ph.D. Stanford University, 1987. 220 pp.

The purpose of this study is to develop a general equilibrium model of an of an economy and to apply the model at the regional level in order to evaluate the impact of certain economic policies and exogenous shocks. The objective of the study is presented in three steps. First, the 1984 base-year transactions in the economy of the Kosi region of Nepal are organized in a Social Accounting Matrix (SAM). Second, a Closed Input-Output model is developed around the SAM data base. Third, the model is used to simulate the general equilibrium effects of certain policies and shocks.

The construction of the SAM itself out of existing disparate data sets became a notable accomplishment of the study. The constructed Kosi SAM consists of economic transactions among 21 production sectors, four population groups, one each for government and combined capital account, and two for trade accounts. A fixed-price Closed Input-Output model is developed to capture the economic linkages among these sectors and accounts.

The model is used to simulate the effects of changes in the following: exports, income levels of population groups, irrigation development, distributive policies, and supply shocks. Economy-wide effects are assessed in terms of several policy objectives, such as growth, equity, employment, trade balance and so on.

The results showed that a higher level of growth is usually associated with equitable distribution of income, and vice versa. Growth in the crops and livestock sectors was found to have relatively high overall effects on the economy. Rural demand linkages were found to be more important than production linkages in driving the economy. The conclusion from the empirical analysis highlights the

importance of demand linkages. Policies, for example, that generate demand through production and distribution programs which are directly targeted at the rural population, are likely to generate handsome dividends in terms of growth and equity in the economy.

Dissertation Abstracts International vol. 48 no. 7, January 1988

Blanger, Sara Williams,

Patterns of marital exchange and phenotypic differentiation in the Jirels of Nepal

Ph.D., Case Western Reserve University, 1987. 218 pp.

The genetic infrastructure of human populations is shaped by a number of evolutionary factors. This study examines the impact of non-random marital migration on between-village phenotypic differentiation in the Jirels of eastern Nepal using anthropometric and dermatoglyphic traits. Two related questions are addressed: (1) Is the pattern of phenotypic differentiation consistent with that expected from random migration at observed levels? (2) Is the magnitude of phenotypic variation different from random expectation?

The methodological approach used examines differentiation at two points in the life cycle of a cohort. Differentiation is assessed between natal villages, which represents the pre-migration state, and then between villages of current residence, which represents the situation after migration. Comparing phenotypic differentiation between these two stages provides information about the presence of non-random migration.

To test the hypothesis that migration is random, the expectation of phenotypic differentiation under random migration must be derived. Two methods are utilized to evaluate the phenotypic consequences of random migration given levels of movement as revealed by the observed migration matrix. These are an analytical approach which predicts expected codivergence and Mahalanobis distance matrices, and a permutation method which generates a null distribution of expected phenotypic distances from the centroid for individual villages. The permutation technique permits robust statistical testing of deviations from random migration.

The pattern of phenotypic relationship between residences is statistically consistent with that expected to result from a random migration process. However, the magnitude of differentiation between villages is significantly different from expectation for at least some villages for both sets of traits providing strong evidence for non-random migration. The causes and correlates of this non-randomness are investigated at the individual level. Clan membership is shown to be a significant factor structuring female migration. When the clan composition of migrants is controlled for, observed levels of differentiation are concordant with predictions.

Dissertation Abstracts International vol. 48 no. 7, January 1988

Sijapati, Krishna Bahadur

An evaluation of gatekeepers' influence upon public information in Nepal

Ph.D. The University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1987. 353 pp. Supervisor: Edward Donnersteing.
Order Number DA 8716541.

The main purpose of this research was to carry out an intensive study of public information (news) flow in Nepal. Study included national news agency, radio, and print media from both the government and private sectors.

At the outset, research questions were developed on gatekeepers' perceptions of news choices, contents of news media, and perceived newsworthy criteria used by editors in selecting/rejecting news stories.

Data were collected through four different sources: reviews of literature, questionnaire surveys, content analyses of published and unpublished news stories, and one-to-one interviews with editors and government officials. The analysis was presented through an organization of data along four dimensions: critical analysis of news media, editors' perceptions of news choices, contents of news media, and correlation between perceptions and actual selection/rejection of national and international news stories.

As in other less developed countries, print media are underdeveloped in Nepal, and radio has been an instrument of mass communication reaching across the barriers of illiteracy, geographical terrain, and economic constraint. Television, recently started in the capital valley, is still in an incipient stage. The foreign media market, especially Indian market, is still strong.

In the perception study, data revealed that the editors working for private and government media perceived differently the amount and type of news made available to their audience. Both the government and the private media selected more negative news stories than they perceived to be in the media. This study also found that the international news agencies transmitted negative news stories proportionately more than the national news editors chose to use. Data showed that the news media basically covered immediate geographical regions and developed countries, giving less priority to the news from developing nations of Africa and Latin America.

This study also compared the contents of print and broadcast, and vernacular and English media. Broadcast media used less negative, shorter stories, and more foreign news than the print media. Similarly the English and Vernacular language media also differed in their contents. English media carried significantly larger number of negative news stories than Vernacular media.

Finally, data in this study offered convincing evidence that the distributions of domestic and foreign news, positive and negative stories in the major media of Nepal were inequitably apportioned.

Dissertation Abstracts International vol. 48 no. 7, January 1988

Adhikary, Ganesh Man Singh

Economics of Nepalese rice mills

Ph.D. Michigan State University, 1987. 195 pp. Order Number DA 8722809.

This study sought to fill the knowledge gap on the size economics of rice mills in the Tarai, Nepal, from both the financial and economic perspectives.

Completed survey records were obtained from 79 mills or, 87.7 percent of the random sample selected in two states from two representative districts in the Central Tarai.

The findings indicated that the financial and economic cost of milling a ton of paddy declined as the size of the electrical mill increased. However, this is a tentative conclusion because the sample sizes for the largest two size groups of electrical mills were small. The cost of milling with the diesel mills seemed size neutral because the total cost as well as the amounts milled by different size groups varied proportionately.

The relative economic cost of milling by different size groups of electrical mills changes little with reasonable alternative values for the economic parameters. Removal of milled grain collection by the miller in addition to the cash milling charge (the lappy) would push all size groups of diesel mills and the smallest group of electrical mills into loss. Also, with the current rice recovery rate of 55 per cent, a change in which the miller mills 25 per cent of paddy on his own account would be profitable only if the byproduct could be sold. However, if the rice recovery rate were 60 per cent, the millers could make substantial profit from milling 25 percent of paddy on their own account even if lappy were abolished and the byproduct was not sold.

Encouraging bigger electrical mills for custom milling entails a trade off between lower milling cost and a higher mill user's total cost due to higher transportation costs of the users at greater distances. In areas with no electricity, small diesel mills were found to be the most economic.

Policies to improve the performance of rice milling include: support for importing and testing new rice milling machines, making finance more accessible to small millers, providing incentives for the adoption of better technology, and encouraging milling on the miller's own account. (Abstract shortened with permission of author.)

Dissertation Abstracts International vol. 48 no. 10, April 1988

Byers, Alton Clair, III

A geoecological study of landscape change and man-accelerated soil loss: The case of the Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) National Park, Khumbu, Nepal

Ph.D. University of Colorado at Boulder, 1987. 375 pp. Director: John D. Ives. Order Number DA 8723446

Popular and policy-influencing hypotheses concerning historical, post-1950s and current landscape degradation within the Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) National Park, Khumbu, Nepal, were tested through a number of complementary measures.

Historical perspectives were provided by the assessment of soil profiles, pollen analysis of stratified soil samples, and the identification and ¹⁴C dating of charcoal samples found at various soil depths. Repeat photography and ground-truth verification enabled an assessment of existing claims that large-scale vegetation and geomorphic change had occurred in the Park during the past 29-34 years. Soil loss study plots were installed on a stratified and replicated basis throughout the Imja Khola valley and monitored on a weekly basis between 6 April and 1 November, 1984.

Results of the palaeoecological analyses suggested that man may have been frequenting and modifying the Khumbu landscape for considerably longer than the 400-year period generally assumed, and that substantial climatic change has occurred during the past 4000 years. Repeat photography indicated that since the 1950s, far less forest removal and geomorphic damage has occurred than has been hitherto suggested. Soil loss study plots demonstrated that most shrub/grassland and forested slopes below 400 m are superficially stable, but that high soil loss can characterize certain degraded alpine slopes because of continued shrub harvesting for fuelwood, grazing pressures, and natural freeze-thaw processes.

Project results suggest that previous claims of serious landscape degradation have been overstated. Similar misunderstandings are likely to exist for other regions of Nepal and contain the potential for adversely affecting development and land management policies there. Long-term, region-specific, and quantitative research is suggested as a pragmatic strategy that will facilitate the better understanding, and thus better management, of the diverse environments characteristic of Nepal, the Himalaya, and the mountain world in general.

Dissertation Abstracts International vol. 48 no. 8, February 1988

Upadhyay, Ram Raj

Socio-economic and background factors and educational opportunity: An educational case study of Birganj, Nepal

Ph.D. The University of Connecticut, 1987. 184 pp. Major Adviser: John W. Brubacher. Order Number DA8728907

The objectives of this research were to determine: (1) The patterns of educational equality and inequality in the town of Birganj, Nepal: (1) the extent to which specific socio-economic and background factors, standard of living, father's education, mother's education, father's occupation, ethnicity, sex and number of siblings, were related to educational enrollment. (b) the relationship between those socio-economic and background factors and achievement of Birganj students on Nepal's School Leaving Certificate Examination. (2) Other factors which related to school enrollment and academic performance in Birganj.

A proportionate random sample of 10% of students from Birganj who were enrolled in the (a) 1st Grade, (b) the 10th Grade, (c) the 1st year Diploma, and (d) who had appeared at the School Leaving Certificate Examination in the year 1982 was used. In some cases where the total population was very small, a minimum of 45 youths was used to comprise the sample. A purposive sample of 45 children of primary school age from Birganj who were not enrolled in any school in the year 1982 were also included.

The methodology used to collect data in this research entailed both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Field observation, interviewing and documentation were the major tools to collect data on the socio-economic and background characteristics, enrollment, and academic achievement. The available data on these variables were analyzed using the Chi-Square technique. The level of significance was set at $\phi = .10$. In the process of data collection the new factors identified which were related to persistence, accessibility to school and academic achievement were: language used by parents, parents' concern, availability of a permanent place for study and access to reading materials. The relationships among these variables were presented in statistical percentages.

The findings show that all the variables except number of siblings: fathers education, mother's education, father's occupation, ethnicity, and sex are related to accessibility, persistence and academic achievement.

In order to reduce educational inequality some of the steps recommended were automatic promotion, provision for free nursery schools, developing an awareness to make proper use of language in the family, and provision for public reading places.

Dissertation Abstracts International vol. 48 no. 10, April 1988

Brower, Barbara Anne

Livestock and landscape: The Sherpa pastoral system in Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) National Park, Nepal

Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, 1987. 354 pp. Order Number DA8726151

This is a study of the pastoral system -- people, livestock, and land -- of Sherpas living in Sagarmatha National Park, Nepal. The study takes Sherpa livestock management as the central focus in a wide-ranging investigation of the changing relations of people to a high mountain environment.

On the bases of quick visits and superficial studies foreign observers have assumed that the environment of Khumbu is extremely fragile and is jeopardized by contemporary land use practices. The closer look provided by this study at both environmental history and contemporary man-landscape relations shows the environment to be surprisingly resilient, and human impacts to be longterm and moderate rather than recent and catastrophic.

The environment of Sagarmatha National Park, or Khumbu as it is locally known, has been shaped by centuries of people's use. The contemporary landscape reflects an ongoing process of human modification, engineered perhaps particularly by fire, that apparently has led to the replacement of forest by shrublands more useful to grazing yak and other stock.

The pastoral system is a complex and variable orchestration of livestock, labor, and resources that involves sequential migrations through a range of elevation gradients. Livestock movements have been regulated through the organization of land ownership and access and by means of ritual systems governing the timing and location of summer grazing. These mechanisms of regulation permit a distribution of livestock in space and time that minimizes environmental impacts and ensures efficiency in the use of range resources.

A host of social and economic changes operating over the last three decades has reshaped the traditional relations between Sherpas and the environment of Khumbu. These changes have transformed the Sherpa livestock economy, creating new stock owners, altering the composition of herds, and undermining traditional practices of livestock management. The restructuring of older patterns threatens to accelerate the environmental modification that is an inevitable concomitant of human residence in this landscape.

Management strategies from Sherpa traditions probably provide a more tenable and effective means of addressing conflicts between people and environment in this national park setting than regulation imposed from outside.

Dissertation Abstracts International vol. 48 no. 9, March 1988

Malville, Nancy Jean

Iron-deficiency anemia among village women of the middle hills of Nepal

Ph.D. University of Colorado at Boulder, 1987. 252 pp. Director: Alec John Kelso. Order Number DA8716268

Field work investigated the effects of anemia on the work performance of Nepali village women and examined factors associated with low hemoglobin levels. Subjects were nonpregnant women living at an altitude of 4200-6000 feet near Katmandu. Anthropometric and hematological measurements were made of 75 women (ages 16-60 years). Demographic, nutritional and socioeconomic data were collected during interviews. As defined by WHO standards, anemia was mild but widespread. Sixty-eight percent of the women had hemoglobin values less than 12.3 g/dl [means Hb concentration = 11.5 (1.7) g/dl]. The incidence of anemia varied according to caste or ethnic group, with Brahmans having the highest incidence (87%) and Chetris the lowest (52%).

To determine the effect of hemoglobin level on physiological responses to sustained work, 41 women (ages 18-40 years) performed a submaximal step test during which heart rate was recorded and expired air samples were collected for O₂ and CO₂ analysis. Hemoglobin concentration had a highly significant effect on the heart rate response of Tamanag and Newar women to moderate exercise. The "low Hb" group [Hb < 11.3 g/dl] had significantly higher heart rates (P < 0.01) than the "high Hb" group [Hb ≥ 11.3 g/dl].

A significant association was found between hemoglobin concentration and dietary habits. Women who had eaten vegetables at every meal during the previous week and dal at least once a day were more likely to have acceptable hemoglobin levels than those who had eaten these foods less frequently. Anemia among this sample of nonpregnant women is attributed to inadequate absorption of dietary iron combined with high iron requirements during pregnancy and lactation. Nursing mothers who had given birth during the past two years were found to have significantly lower hemoglobin concentrations than women with children 2 to 5 years of age (P < 0.01). Stool sample examinations for ova if intestinal parasites indicated that hookworm does not appear to be a significant cause of anemia in this village.

Dissertation Abstracts International vol. 48 no. 5, November 1987

Hulton-Baker, Robert
Tibetan Buddhist drama

Ph.D. New York University, 1987. 51 pp. Chairperson: Stephen Palestrant

This study provides a detailed analysis of the major characteristics of Tibetan buddhist drama as seen in the texts of three representative plays. A second aspect of the study investigates the possible influence of classical Indian aesthetics on the genre, and for this purpose an applied examination of Kavya has been included.

The three plays chosen -- Drimeh Kundan, Nangsa Ohbum and Songtsan Gampo -- are typical variations in type, source and theme. Drimeh Kundan, drawn from Indian sources and the best known example of this literature, illustrates the extraordinary generosity and compassion of its hero, Prince Drimeh Kundan, who gives away all he possesses so that he may benefit others. Nangsa Ohbum utilizes a Tibetan plot to explore the protracted difficulties of its heroine, Nangsa of Rinang, who is motivated to leave her place as the wife of a powerful prince to enter a life of religion. The ensuing conflict tests her endurance and determination in leaving her husband, son and parents to become a solitary ascetic. Songtsan Gampo is an historical drama which characterizes key events in the reign of Tibet's first Buddhist King. The play illustrates the establishment of the Tibetan Buddhist cultural identity.

The main conclusions are: (1) Buddhism has had a powerful influence upon, and is found abundantly within, the traditional drama of Tibet. Its presence in the genre is almost ubiquitous and there are numerous references to rituals and traditions that are specific to the Northern School of Buddhism, the Mahayana. Drimeh Kundan's vow to give his possessions to benefit others is representative of the mahayana vow of the Bodhisattva. Nangsa's flight from the mundane world to a yogic practice represents the Mahayana view of the world as that of relative appearance, yet insubstantial. (2) The connections with Kavya have been established chiefly in Drimeh Kundan and Nangsa ohbum, for these plays utilize classical Indian esthetic values in the formulation of organization, plot development, themes and characterization.

Tibetan Buddhist drama stands as a cultural monument to the religious and philosophical concerns, as well as to the culture, of the people of tibet, and it offers a revealing view of the uniqueness of Tibetan culture.

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