

The book under review is a contribution in providing information about and experiences of restructuring with a focus on technology and human resource development. The conceptual framework with which the volume begins is a description of what constitutes the current state of wisdom about reforms in multilateral agencies like the Fund and the Bank. There is not much analysis in this section, and hardly much to contest in terms of what needs to be done. The authors are somewhat silent on the difficulties to implementation, some of the consequential problems, and the transitional social costs of restructuring.

The second part of the book deals with country case studies. The experiences of Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and India are summarized with interesting evidence of comparative performances and focussing on the crucial differences in policy priorities. The third section deals with organizational case studies, one each from the process, electronics, information and computer industries. The case studies illustrate the possibilities of technology transfer and strategic choices available in restructuring. It also illustrates the influences (both enabling as well as restrictive) that the policy regime of the nation exerts on individual business organizations. The fourth and final section discusses the lessons to be learnt and the directions for the future. There is also, as an addition in the second edition, a discussion of the Asian Crisis and the force of globalization.

This book is useful as a source of organized information about performances and experiences, but short in terms of analytical content. It is better suited for an interested corporate executive with time on his/her hands, than a serious academic who is looking for underlying reasons that determine final outcomes.

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Logistics Management & World Seaborne Trade by Krishnaveni Muthaiah (Himalaya Publishing House, Mumbai. 1999)

The book discusses logistics in the first two chapters and then proceeds to discuss seaborne trade in ten of the next eleven chapters. One chapter is devoted to airborne transport. The discussion of logistics is rather short and general. There are no original viewpoints or insights. There is also very little attempt at integrating logistics with the discussion of seaborne trade.

Chapter 1 (Marketing Logistics System) briefly discusses logistics, its interface with marketing and the product lifecycle. It also describes distribution issues such as warehousing and transportation. Chapter 2 (Export Marketing Management) considers

the relevance and importance of logistics as well as the principles of logistics excellence, such as linking logistics to corporate strategy and measuring performance.

Chapter 3 (General Structure of Shipping Industry) discusses types of ships, shipping routes, operating ships and the organization of shipping companies. Chapter 4 (World Seaborne Trade) talks about the volume of world trade, constraints on tonnage, discrimination, protection, chartering and the conference system in which groups of countries have mutual agreements. Chapter 5 (Freight Structure and Practice) has information on freight rates, tariffs and principles of freight structure. Chapter 6 (U. N. Convention on Liner Code of Conduct) explains the role of UNCTAD, the issues related to the Final Act of the UN Convention and the convention on liner code. Chapter 7 (Co-Ordination – Role of Intermediaries) is about the role of intermediaries such as Agents, Brokers and Stevedores, and how each operates. Chapter 8 (Indian Shipping) describes the ports in India, gives an overview of Indian Shipping, government policy and port infrastructure. It also talks about the Shippers Association and Cooperatives. Chapter 9 (Containerization) introduces the reader to the nature of "containerization", the packing of goods into standard-sized containers. It discusses the classification of containers, the benefits to trade due to containerization, and the constraints. Chapter 10 (Inland Container Depot) describes the operations of the ICDs, which are like dry ports, the export clearance procedures at ICDs, the Container Corporation of India Ltd. – a PSU, the CONCOR network and its operations and finally the constraints in the growth of ICDs. Chapter 11 (Multi Modal Transportation) is concerned with transport operations that involve more than one mode (sea, air, road, rail) of transportation of goods. It discusses legislation and the Multi Modal Transport of Goods Act of 1993. Chapter 12 (International Air Transport) discusses the advantages and disadvantages of air cargo, the constraints in air transport, and the air cargo tariff structure. Chapter 13 (Sea-Trade Terminologies) contains a description of various terms related to seaborne trade.

In summary, the reader can find some discussion of logistics and shipping issues here in one volume. For someone interested in Indian shipping companies, Indian shipping rules, regulations and operations of Indian ports, this book will provide the introductory information.

However, there is no bibliography. Nor are there any references to the literature or documents. There is also no index. Perhaps this may be rectified in the next edition.

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