

SUBRATA GHATAK

**AN INTRODUCTION
TO DEVELOPMENT
ECONOMICS**

SECOND EDITION

An introduction to
**DEVELOPMENT
ECONOMICS**

SUBRATA GHATAK

University of Leicester

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Preface to the Second Edition

The appearance of the revised edition of my book on *Development Economics* permits me to take account of the constructive criticisms and comments received from many people. In particular, I have added two new chapters: one on the 'Green revolution and income distribution' (Ch. 9); the other on 'The new international economic order' (Ch. 12). I felt obliged to write these two chapters in view of important changes that have taken place since I wrote the first edition of my book. I hope readers will find these additions useful. New material has been incorporated in many chapters but certain topics have been dropped in keeping with the changing emphasis in development theory and policy discussion. As before, my main objective has been to achieve a reasonable balance between economic theory and economic realities in less developed countries.

I have also added appendices at the end of many chapters to clarify a number of issues which have been discussed in the text. Readers who might view some arguments in the text as being rather concise and terse should find the appendices particularly useful. However, I have also maintained the previous edition's level of maturity, restricting the text to material that requires only the background in economic theory and quantitative methods provided by the standard course on principles of economics in most universities and colleges.

I wish to thank Pat Gibbs and Charlotte Kitson for typing parts of the manuscript in record time. I also thank Clement Aysia, Nicholas Brealey and Walter Allan for their help and for forbearance.

Subrata Ghatak
University of Leicester

Preface to the First Edition

The economic development of the less developed countries (LDCs) presents many important and interesting problems to students and teachers of economics. These problems are many in number and diverse in nature; it is hoped that this book will provide an analytical framework to deal with some of these major problems. It is generally known that many issues related to the economic development of the LDCs are not purely economic. Political, social and cultural factors work alongside the economic factors when the economies of the LDCs go through a process of growth and structural change. However, the problems which are dealt with in this book are mainly economic and further reference has been made in some cases to broader and very diverse institutional issues which a 'kindred spirit' may wish (rather hopefully) to explore. This explains the reason for adopting a framework of analytical economics for the discussion of most issues raised in this book.

Although some useful books on development economics are available at present, one major reason for writing this book is to strike a greater balance between the theory and the practice. Thus, whenever possible, the existing theories on growth and development are evaluated in terms of the economic realities of the LDCs. The other important aspect of this book is that an attempt has been made to quantify the available evidence with the use of basic statistical tools like regression analysis. Next, given the importance which is usually attached to planning in the LDCs, a comprehensive chapter on both *macro-* and *micro-planning* with special reference to the application of cost-benefit analysis to project appraisal has been added. The role of agriculture with special reference to the supply response of farmers has been particularly emphasized. Protection, in theory and practice, has been critically discussed. Topics of current interest like the transfer of technology, the role of the multinational corporations and the new international economic order have received due attention. Also population problems, particularly the problems of controlling fertility, poverty, income distribution, rural-urban migration and employment have been analysed carefully. Thus, the chief aim of this book is to provide a comprehensive textbook based upon rigorous qualitative and quantitative analysis.

This book is aimed chiefly at third year undergraduates taking

courses in the field of development economics. Some understanding of macro- and micro-economics, welfare economics, elementary mathematics and statistics is assumed, though care is taken to explain complicated and technical issues in simpler ways. It is hoped that this book will also provide a background reading for postgraduate courses in development economics.

The manuscript was written mainly between 1977 and 1978 while I was teaching economics at Leicester University. I received valuable and constructive comments from many people during the course of my writing. I am particularly indebted to Professor David Pearce for all his valuable comments and for his generous help and encouragement despite his very busy schedule. I am very grateful to my colleague, Leo Katzen, who has not only read the entire manuscript and made many valuable suggestions for the improvement of the book, but has also been kind enough to write jointly with me Chapter 7 on 'Population, Poverty and Income Distribution, Employment and Migration'; my thanks are also due to Paul Hallwood who has kindly read the entire manuscript and offered many useful comments. Thanks are also due to Peter Ayre, Ian Bradley, Anita Ghatak, Martin Hoskins, Homi Katrak, Lionel Needleman, Howard Rees, Frances Stewart, and Kerry Turner for their useful comments on different chapters of this book. On a wider academic front, I have drawn material from the works of Adelman, Chenery, Corden, Hicks, Johnson, Kuznets, Meier, Myrdal, Amartya Sen, Streeten, Thirlwall and Todaro. I feel, therefore, that it is only fair to acknowledge my debt to their writings. I would like to pay tribute to Jeanne Cretney for her skill and patience, and for providing me with the necessary secretarial assistance. Also Joan Cook, Dorothy Logsdon, Elaine Humphreys and Pat Greatorex who have been kind enough to type the manuscript. Anna Cooknell and Janut Westerman have taken the trouble of drawing the diagrams. Mr M. Ramady has also helped me in the preparation of the index. To all of them, I remain very thankful. I would also like to thank the editors of the *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics* for granting permission to reproduce material from articles of mine which were originally published in that Journal.

My wife Anita and my baby daughter Churni had to pay the inevitable price of being rather neglected during the last two years. I am happy to say that they have paid this price very willingly (though not always silently). As a tiny compensation, this book has been dedicated to them and to my elder brother, Debaprasun, and his son, Souma.

For all errors in this book which unfortunately remain, I take full responsibility.

*Dedicated to
Churni
and
Anita, Debaprasun and Souma.*

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

1.1 Introduction

The problems of the economic development of the poor countries of today's world is one of the most widely discussed topics of our time. Experts in various fields such as economics, politics, sociology, and engineering have held different views about the nature of underdevelopment and poverty, its causes and its remedies. It has now been fully recognized that the nature and causes of the 'poverty of the nations' are very complex and the remedies are neither easy nor quick. The understanding of the problem of underdevelopment requires a good knowledge of certain basic characteristics of the less-developed countries (henceforward to be referred to as LDCs). The analysis of these characteristics will shed some light on the peculiar economic and social conditions of production, consumption and distribution of income and wealth in the LDCs, which will help us to draw some policy implications.

1.2 Characteristics of the LDCs

Low per capita real income

Low *per capita* real income is generally regarded as one of the main indicators of the socio-economic conditions of the LDCs. A comparison with the economically developed countries (DCs) is striking (see Tables 1.1 to 1.3). It shows very clearly the difference between the DCs and the LDCs. If the *per capita* income of the USA and India are considered, it is clear that an average Indian earned about 2.13 per cent of the income of an average American in 1981. Most of the LDCs exhibit this very low ratio of income to population. It shows the relatively low level of national income in most LDCs, or a high level of population, or both. Low *per capita* real income is a reflection of low productivity, low saving and investment, backward technology and resources, while the level of population is determined by complex socio-economic factors. Hence, the importance of population in relation to national income in the LDCs can hardly be overemphasized and this is discussed in the next section.

Table 1.1 Basic indicators

	GNP per capita			Average annual rate of inflation (per cent)			Life expectancy at birth (years)	Infant mortality rate (aged under 1)	Crude birth rate per thousand population		Daily calorie supply per capita as percentage of requirement		Number enrolled in primary school as percentage of age group total		Energy consumption per capita (thousands of kilograms of oil equivalent)
	Population (millions) mid-1982	Area (thousands of square kilometres)	Dollars 1982	Annual growth rate (per cent)					1982	1982	1982	1981	1981	1981	
				1960-70	1970-82	1980-82									
Low-income economies	2,266.5	29,097	280	3.0	3.2	11.5	59	87	30	11	97	94	253		
China and India	1,725.2	12,849	290	3.5	..	..	62	78	25	9	98	102	307
Other low-income	511.3	16,248	250	1.1	3.2	11.7	51	114	44	16	91	72	80		
1 Chad	4.6	1,284	80	-2.8	4.6	7.8	44	161	42	21	76	35	20		
2 Bangladesh	92.9	144	140	0.3	3.7	14.9	48	133	47	17	84	62	35		
3 Ethiopia	32.9	1,222	140	1.4	2.1	4.0	47	122	47	18	76	46	23		
4 Nepal	15.4	141	170	-0.1	7.7	8.9	46	145	43	19	86	91	10		
5 Mali	7.1	1,240	180	1.6	5.0	9.8	45	132	48	21	72	27	21		
6 Burma	34.9	667	190	1.3	2.7	9.7	55	96	38	13	113	84	59		
7 Zaïre	30.7	2,345	190	-0.3	29.9	35.3	50	106	46	16	94	90	76		
8 Malawi	6.5	118	210	2.6	2.4	9.5	44	137	56	23	94	62	46		
9 Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta)	6.5	274	210	1.1	3.3	9.7	44	157	48	21	95	20	22		
10 Uganda	13.5	236	230	-1.1	3.2	47.4	47	120	50	19	80	54	23		
11 India	717.0	3,288	260	1.3	7.1	8.4	55	94	34	13	86	79	158		
12 Rwanda	5.5	26	260	1.7	13.1	13.4	46	126	54	20	88	72	18		
13 Burundi	4.3	28	280	2.5	2.8	12.5	47	123	47	19	95	32	15		
14 Tanzania	19.8	945	280	1.9	1.8	11.9	52	98	47	15	83	102	50		
15 Somalia	4.5	638	290	-0.1	4.5	12.6	39	184	48	25	100	30	90		
16 Haiti	5.2	28	300	0.6	4.0	9.2	54	110	32	13	96	69	55		
17 Benin	3.7	113	310	0.6	1.9	9.6	48	117	49	18	101	65	38		
18 Central African Rep.	2.4	623	310	0.6	4.1	12.6	48	119	41	17	96	68	33		
19 China	1,008.2	9,561	310	5.0	..	..	67	67	19	7	107	118	412
20 Guinea	5.7	246	310	1.5	1.5	3.3	38	190	49	27	75	33	54		
21 Niger	5.9	1,267	310	-1.5	2.1	12.1	45	132	52	20	102	23	31		
22 Madagascar	9.2	587	320	-0.5	3.2	11.5	48	116	47	18	109	100	41		
23 Sri Lanka	15.2	66	320	2.6	1.8	13.3	69	32	27	6	102	103	123		
24 Togo	2.8	57	340	2.3	1.3	8.8	47	122	49	19	83	111	125		
25 Ghana	12.2	239	360	-1.3	7.5	39.5	55	86	49	13	88	69	161		

26 Pakistan	87.1	804	380	2.8	3.3	12.7	50	121	42	15	106	56	179
27 Kenya	18.1	583	390	2.8	1.6	10.1	57	77	55	12	88	109	147
28 Sierra Leone	3.2	72	390	0.9	..	12.2	36	190	49	27	101	39	121
29 Afghanistan	16.8	648	..	..	11.9	..	36	205	54	29	72	34	48
30 Bhutan	1.2	47	..	..	..	..	43	163	43	21	103	21	..
31 Kampuchea, Dem.	..	181	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	95	..	59
32 Lao PDR	3.6	237	..	..	..	..	43	159	42	20	97	97	65
33 Mozambique	12.9	802	..	..	..	..	51	105	49	16	70	90	85
34 Vietnam	57.0	330	..	..	..	..	64	53	35	8	90	113	103
Middle-income economies	1,158.3	43,031	1,520	3.6	3.0	12.8	60	76	35	10	111	102	721
Oil exporters	519.5	15,036	1,260	3.6	3.0	13.9	57	90	38	12	108	106	593
Oil importers	638.8	27,995	1,710	3.5	3.0	12.7	63	64	31	9	113	99	824
Lower middle-income	669.6	20,952	840	3.2	2.9	11.7	56	89	37	12	107	101	362
35 Sudan	20.2	2,506	440	-0.4	3.9	15.2	47	119	45	18	99	52	70
36 Mauritania	1.6	1,031	470	1.4	2.1	8.7	45	132	43	19	97	33	131
37 Yemen FDR	2.0	333	470	6.4	..	..	46	140	48	19	86	64	791
38 Liberia	2.0	111	490	0.9	1.9	8.5	54	91	50	14	114	66	373
39 Senegal	6.0	196	490	(.)	1.8	7.9	44	155	48	21	101	48	206
40 Yemen Arab Rep.	7.5	195	500	5.1	..	15.0	44	163	48	22	76	47	57
41 Lesotho	1.4	30	510	6.5	2.7	11.4	53	94	42	15	111	104	..
42 Bolivia	5.9	1,099	570	1.7	3.5	25.9	51	126	43	16	91	86	326
43 Indonesia	152.6	1,919	580	4.2	..	19.9	53	102	34	13	110	100	191
44 Zambia	6.0	753	640	-0.1	7.6	8.7	51	105	50	16	93	96	443
45 Honduras	4.0	112	660	1.0	2.9	8.7	60	83	44	10	96	95	206
46 Egypt Arab Rep.	44.3	1,001	690	3.6	2.6	11.9	57	104	35	11	116	76	448
47 El Salvador	5.1	21	700	0.9	0.5	10.8	63	72	40	8	94	61	210
48 Thailand	48.5	514	790	4.5	1.8	9.7	63	51	28	8	105	96	284
49 Papua New Guinea	3.1	462	820	2.1	4.0	8.1	53	99	34	13	92	65	240
50 Philippines	50.7	300	820	2.8	5.8	12.8	64	51	31	7	116	110	281
51 Zimbabwe	7.5	391	850	1.5	1.1	8.4	56	83	54	12	90	120	578
52 Nigeria	90.6	924	860	3.3	4.0	14.4	50	100	50	16	91	98	143
53 Morocco	20.3	447	870	2.6	2.0	8.3	52	105	40	15	115	78	283
54 Cameroon	9.3	475	890	2.6	4.2	10.7	53	92	46	15	102	107	122