

Annotated Listings

Editor's Note

Our policy is to review all books which are either sent to us or in our opinion are useful to our readers.

Agarwal, J.D. and Aman Agarwal; *Literature in Finance: Specialised Finance (Vol IV)*; 2004, IIF Publication, Delhi, India, pp 218, Price Rs. 330/-.

Finance is often cited as the main containing factor for developing different sectors of the economy. The millennium goals set by United Nations and an attempt to achieve them in the world economy has increased the importance of sectorial finance. There are a large number of text books as well as research studies, available in Finance. However, there is no compendium presenting at one place the literature available on finance, recognizing the fact that there exist wide time gap in the research being done, published in journals and included in books.

Finance as a field has emerged as one of the most vital component for growth and development. Its emergence as a discipline in the last quarter of the 20th century brings forth it's vitality. It is one of the most-scarce resources, which has been the greatest facilitating factor in the growth and development of an economy, firm, corporate and even an individual. The emergence of Finance as a discipline is a strong conviction.

Most of the literature in finance in the past six decades ever since World War II has focused on corporate finance, investments, banking and financial systems, securities markets and public finance. As a result finance as a field of study has been directly identified with these areas and most often treated as an extension of economics or accounting. The financial management of various sectors of the economy which play a pivotal role in the development processes of a country and required massive investments, equally attracted the attention of international agencies, policy makers, academicians and practitioners as these sector required massive investments as well as creative solutions to finance these sectors.

To fill the gap between the literature which has been published and the available books on finance, the authors out of their personal experiences globally, have attempted to bring forth the untapped work which remains as decorated in the columns of professional and academic research journals.

Hence, the benefit that society may derive from serious research findings based on hard labour and serious efforts of researchers has been a much needed attention. The book under consideration is fourth in the series. The authors brought forth a compendium of literature published on Education Finance, Health Finance, Real Estate Finance, Infrastructure Finance, Multinational Finance, Insurance, International Finance, Corporate Tax Management, Agriculture Finance, Financial Management of Multinational Finance, Corporate Finance and SME Finance.

The text provides a medium for existing work as an appropriate outlet for dissemination. The book has been intended to be useful for policy makers, researchers, doctoral students, practicing managers, chartered accountants, finance executives and students of finance.

Sirirassamee, Buppha; Chanya Sethaput & Bencha Yoddumnern-Attig; *Gender Perspectives in Reproductive Health Practices in Thailand: A Synthesis of Research Findings*; 2003, Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University, Thailand, pp. 130, Price US \$ 15/-.

The authors synthesizes research findings from seventeen regional research studies on gender issues and reproductive health. These project cover all four major regions of Thailand to find out more accurate picture of the degree to which gender norms and roles exert a strong influence sexuality, reproductive health (RH) behaviour, RH/Family planning Server delivery and their Socio-economic impacts.

Thailand's population programme is one of the most successful in the world. As of January 2000, the nation's population stood at almost 62 million with a life expectancy for men of 70 years and 75 years for women. Thailand was among the first Southeast Asian countries to achieve a fertility level below replacement level, with a total fertility rate of 1.9 children per woman in 1996 (also the rate as of January 2000) and a population growth rate of 1.0 per cent. Health care services reach at least 90 per cent of all communities through an extensive primary health care system, and water and sanitation facilities reach over 80 per cent of the population. Good accessibility to maternal health care is reflected in health indicators that show trained health personnel attend 95.8 per cent of births. The maternal mortality ratio is 43.9 per 100,000 live births, the main causes of which are haemorrhage, obstructed labour and complications following spontaneous or induced abortion.

The book provides the reader with the research findings of the project. They can be briefly outlined as persistent double standard in Thailand Society; socially constructed gender norms strongly govern men's and women's behaviour; men have high degree of decision-making power regarding sexuality; RH decision making and practices; in RH, men play more dominant role which women's play a passive one, which reduces