BOOK REVIEWS


The author, an Indian journalist and scholar, gained wide recognition for her insight and scholarly research technique in an earlier book "Blossoms in the Dust." In that book she reported first-hand investigations pertaining to the economic attitudes and opinions of a number of farmers in her native country. As a result of that experience she became interested in the attitudes of farmers in general toward their work, the opportunities confronting them and the need to excel. In short, Mrs. Nair, an accomplished economist in her own right, wanted to know what motivated farmers to perform as they do. In the process she also wanted to identify some key to progress which hopefully could be applied to the future expansion and development of Indian agriculture.

In the preparation of the author's latest book hundreds of farmers in the United States, Japan and India were questioned and their reactions to an unstructured interview recorded. No attempt was made to computerize or even quantify the findings--case reports seem adequate to depict clearly the attitudes sought in the individual case studies. At times the author avails herself of the privilege of some personal analysis and observations relative to individual responses and the contributory causes underlying the attitudes portrayed but these are stated without bias or prejudice and in most instances the facts are reported without embellishment or evaluation.
The implication of the responses reported form a wide cross section of farmers in 3 widely different countries may be disturbing and even upsetting to many readers but the reading will be more-the-less fascinating to sociologists, social psychologists, economists, educators and those just interested in an expose of human nature in the raw. Graduate students, college teachers and professionally minded practitioners will find this book interesting, revealing and thoroughly thought provoking. It should be read carefully with full attention accorded the author's technique for collecting the data reported.

George L. O'Kelley, Jr.  
University of Georgia

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Hillsdale College has a reputation for developing leadership in undergraduates and the employees of hundreds of business concerns. This publication will be of interest to professional educators having responsibility for leadership preparation courses. The book is divided into four major sections, "The Qualities of Leadership," "Leadership and Communication," "Leadership in Meetings" and "Person to Person Leadership."

The philosophy of Hillsdale College is presented in an interesting, readable form. Problems which may arise due to ethnic differences are treated frankly. Consideration should be given to securing this book for a department's library.

Gerald R. Fuller  
University of Vermont

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This publication is the result of work done in Michigan as part of a project supported by the Division of Vocational Education, Michigan Department of Education. Nine vocational agriculture teachers were involved in the project.

Everyone is talking about individualizing instruction; these people have done something about it. The guidelines are valuable suggestions to teachers who wish to meet the needs of individuals enrolled in the same class. While not the final word on the "what" and "how," it does provide alternative procedures for consideration.

Suggestions on how to implement individualized instruction are presented and guidelines for developing individualized instruction are outlined. A bibliography identifies additional sources of information in case an individual desires to "dig a little deeper."

Gerald R. Fuller
University of Vermont

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This is the second volume in the summaries of studies in agricultural education under the sponsorship of the American Association of Teacher Educators in Agriculture, and continues the publication of abstracts or research in agricultural education.
The criteria used by the Research Committee for selecting studies to be included were: (1) contributed to the solution of problems in agricultural education; (2) employed an adequate design, used appropriate procedures, and involved sufficient data which were effectively summarized and resulted in justifiable conclusions; (3) have been published in a professional journal, are available for loan from a university library, or are available from a state department of education; and, (4) reported staff research or research submitted as a thesis or dissertation for a graduate degree.

This publication includes abstracts of studies numbered 3400 to 3672, and are indexed by abstract number. The outline of each abstract enables the reader to identify the purpose, method, and findings easily.

With the rapid changes taking place in vocational education programs in agriculture at elementary, secondary, post-secondary, and adult levels, educators and researchers have in this publication an excellent source for identifying the systematic research completed in agricultural education during the two year period 1965-1967.

Roy D. Dillon
University of Nebraska

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