

From the Editors' Desk

During the last decade we observed the consequences of the new economic policy adopted in the beginning of 1990s. The agriculture sector which constitutes the basis of India's economy has been severely affected by these policies. The government has changed its rural development policies as now more emphasis is given on the partnership of private sector and NGOs in the transformation of the rural society. The state is gradually converting itself into an agency which best serves the interests of capitalist class, and the masses both in rural and urban areas have to face more constraints in coming years. The urban middle class which was very fascinated with the ideas of globalization, liberalisation and privatization is now realizing disastrous consequences of these policies. At the intellectual level hardly any serious debate is generated in the recent past. Some of the intellectuals and bureaucrats have engaged themselves in propagating and speculating about the usefulness of these policies for Indian society. Under such circumstances ETDR invites serious scholars from academia to deliberate upon the issues related to the developmental problems of Developing societies of Asia, Africa and Latin America in general and Indian society in particular through their articles and notes.

We are very glad at the occasion of bringing out eighth issue of the ETDR despite many difficulties and financial crunches. However, continuous motivation and cooperation of professional colleagues during this period helped us a lot. We expect that the subscribers, authors and well wishers of the journal will help in making ETDR financially self-sustained by subscribing it for the libraries of their academic institutions. We also expect from the contributors that they become life members so that some funds can be generated for the timely publication of the journal. In publishing this issue we took liberal help from some of the members of the Editorial Advisory Board. We express our gratitude to all of them specially to Dr. G. Ram and Dr. G. P. Pandey for their continuous motivation and valuable suggestions.

April 17, 2002

Editors