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Village Tourism as Sustainable Development Alternative: Empirical Evidence from Mawlynnong, the Cleanest village in Asia

Khan Ferdousour Rahman and Sabina Yeasmin

[ASA University Review, Vol. 8 No. 1, January-June, 2014, P. 129]

Abstract

While the impact of global warming and climate change has been crucial in the question of sustainable tourism development, village tourism has drawn the attention of the world. Sustainability considerations have been making ways in each and every development initiative in the last few decades. In line of this trend, the concept of the 'new tourism' has emerged. The economic globalization of the world has initiated this type of tourism trade and as such the countries possessing attractive bio-diversification empirical and historical heritage have the opportunity to develop the 'new tourism' sector to reap benefit out of this ever-expanding industry. In view of such reality, this article attempts to investigate on the conceptual dynamics and benefits of village tourism and explores reflective state of these theoretical underpinnings, on the basis of an in-depth analysis of a case study drawn from a successful village tourist destination. Finally, there has been a great deal of study focused to the role of village tourism on how it enhances the economic status of host and local communities in developing countries like Bangladesh and beyond.

Effects of Coriolis Force Through a Curved Rectangular Channel for Various Aspect Ratios

Md. Saidul Islam and Rabindra Nath Mondal

[Hamdard University Bangladesh, Vol. 1, No. 1, September 2014, P. 122]

Abstract

In this study, a comprehensive numerical study is presented for the unsteady flow characteristics through a rotating curved channel with square and rectangular cross section. Numerical calculations are carried out over a wide range of the Taylor number $-500 \leq Tr \leq 1000$ for Positive rotation for the Dean number $Dn = 1000$. Spectral method is used as a basic tool to solve the system of non-linear differential equations. The rotation of the channel about the center of curvature is imposed for both the positive and negation rotation, and the effects of rotation (Carioles force) on the flow characteristics are investigated. As a result, multiple solutions of steady, periodic and chaotic solutions with symmetric and asymmetric two-, four- and multi-vortex solutions are obtained. It is found that the axial flow is shifted near the outer wall of the channel for the positive rotation, if the Dean Number is increased.

Micro-credit and Poverty Reduction in Bangladesh

Mihir Kumar Roy and Tapash Kumar Biswas

[ASA University Review, Vol. 8 No. 1, January-June, 2014 ,P. 143]

Abstract

The main objective of the study is to assess the impact of micro-credit on poverty reduction. The study was conducted among recipients of microcredit provided by both Grameen Bank and the BRDB in Manikganj Sadar Upazila of Manikganj district and Sagalnaiya Upazila of Feni district. The study reveals that Grameen Bank and BRDB covered higher proportion of landless households compared to control area. On an average each member in programme area received credit 5.35 times with an average of Tk. 44,000 from the date of their joining. A significant number of members used their credit in unplanned areas. The respondents opined that due to involvement in micro-credit programme, average food provisioning of Grameen Bank and BRDB members increased about 10 and 20 percent respectively. The calorie intake method reveals that 6-percentage points poverty reduced due to micro-credit. Percentages of hardcore and ultra poor in programme area were significantly lower compared to control area. Ninety three percent of the respondents under Grameen Bank and 94 percent under BRDB mentioned that their economic condition improved to some extent due to the involvement in micro-credit programme. Micro-credit had also positive impact on changing the housing condition. The relationship between access to micro-credit and incidence of poverty was not statistically significant at 5 percent level of significance. Improvement of economic condition assessed through self-assessment was positively related with the duration of membership in micro-credit programme, number of times received credit and amount of credit received and these were statistically significant. Impact of micro-credit on human poverty related indicators was relatively less compared to the income poverty related indicators. For accelerating poverty reduction through micro-credit the study recommended establishing the effective monitoring and evaluation systems on utilization of micro-credit by the beneficiaries, appropriate training to the beneficiaries, increase credit size and increase full time employment opportunity.

Reading Monica Ali's Brick Lane: Insights into the Formation of Diasporic Bengali-Muslim Identity and Subjecthood

Maswood Akhter

[Hamdard University Bangladesh, Vol. 1 No. 1, September, 2014, P. 35]

Abstract

This paper aims to offer an engaged analysis of Monica Ali's fictional representation of the lives of diasporic Bangladeshi Muslims in London with a view to unraveling practices and processes of identity formation within the community as well as the shaping of diasporic Bangladeshi-Muslim subjecthood. Commodification and exoticization of cultural otherness, stereotypical or Eurocentric gaze on "ethnic" identities endorsed and sponsored by hegemonic operations of the western publishing industry, conflicting notions of "home" within the members of different genders and generations of a diasporic community— all these issues are almost intrinsic to this discussion as they affect the politics of identity and representation in Ali's fiction. Obviously, Ali's unique "insider-outsider" location as a writer has influenced her narrative vision, and consequently the ways her diasporic characters construct their identity and subjecthood. While Ali's women of both generations wish to carve out their identity in British-Bangladeshi terms, some members from the second-generation immigrants attempt to foreground their global Islamic identity rather than the local Bengali one. Brick Lane, finally, seems to espouse the need to assimilate and acculturate, and discourage insular adherence to any purist notion of identity, with the narrative identifying positive transformative potentials of diasporic existence, and celebrating cultural hybridity and adaptability both of its immigrant protagonist as well as the "multicultural" metropolis. Despite all the alleged limitations in Ali's narrative vision, Brick Lane, as I would argue here, still offers some useful insights into the politics of identity-formation of the Bangladeshi-Muslim "subjects" in the diasporic location of London.

Poetics Neurosis: A Study of Sylvia Plath's Poetry

Pankaj Bhattacharjee

[Metropolitan University Journal, Vol. 4 No. 1, 2014, P. 46]

Abstract

This article is a study of one of the most brilliant and successful American poets Sylvia Plath's is neurotic poetry. As a member of confessional school of poetry her poems are extremely personal yet superbly refined. She was a serious patient of neurosis. Consequently a question arises whether her confession precedes neurosis or her suffered neurosis compels her to be confessional. Neurotic or at some extreme points schizophrenic expressions in poetry do not usually reach the desirable level of poetics. But, it is interesting to observe that Sylvia Plath's neurotic spells, one after another, have transformed poetry of neurosis into poetics of neurosis. Through an analysis of Plath's history of neurosis and her poetry this article will finally show how she has been able to make a rare symbiosis of psychological strains of life and beauty of poetry.

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Good Governance and Development: Bangladesh Perspective

Colonel Dahiru Abdulsalam, ndc, psc

[NDC Journal, Vol. 13 No. 1, 2014, P. XX]

Abstract

This study on good governance and development in Bangladesh examined the relationship between good governance and development as well as the impact of the lack of good governance on the development of Bangladesh. The research methodology employed was the descriptive method in document study and survey analysis. Bangladesh performance in governance over the period of eleven years (2000 - 2011) was assessed be low based on the score which ranged between 25 and 49 percentile using the World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators. It has been established that among six countries of Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Singapore assessed, Bangladesh showed a dismal performance in political governance during the period 2002 - 2006 with a marginal improvement from 2006 onwards. However, Bangladesh recorded the lowest score among the six countries assessed in institutional governance. The research findings established that although there was a clear case of governance deficit, it has not affected development negatively as expected. Therefore, the level of development would have been much more with better governance. Consequently, it was concluded that good governance is not an absolute determinant of development. Governance deficit could be remedied by the formulation and faithful implementation of comprehensive strategies to enhance governance quality and consequently improve on development

India's Foreign Policy Interesting Trends Over the Past Decade

Tridivesh Singh Maini

[South Asia Journal, Vol. 1, Issue 10, 2014, P. 79]

Abstract

In recent years there have been a significant departures from the Nehruvian set of economic and foreign policies that had dominated India in the decades prior. This article aims to provide an overview of some of the important changes in India's foreign policy sphere: such as an improvement in ties with the US, a new approach towards its immediate neighbors in the region, and the increasing role of India's own federated states in determining a national foreign policy. It also provides an analysis for the key reasons behind some of these important changes, including the changing mindsets of policy makers, and projects a possible future trajectory for India's foreign policy.

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The Quest for Beauty in Rabindranath Tagore's Poetry

Mohammad Shafiqul Islam and Rashed Mahmud

[A Journal of English Studies, Vols. 4 & 5, 1,2014, P. 61]

Abstract

Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) pursued beauty all through his life. In his quest for beauty, he passed through many stages of development. His early poems incorporate sensuous observations of nature. The effect of sensuous magnetism persists, but the soul is awakened towards a greater vista of beauty. The soul keeps searching and comes to the conclusion that mere sensuous beauty is not the goal; it needs a revelation of a deeper meaning. He finds beauty in harmony with the inner and the outer principles of nature midway through his poetic life. It is also at this stage that he finds beauty and truth synonymous. To find the absolute beauty, the Infinite, Tagore reaches the final stage where he discerns God and seeks communion with Him. The paper aims at showing how Tagore sees beauty in every object of this universe; how he correlates beauty and truth; and how he seeks communion with the Infinite, the definitive source of all beauty and truth.