



Social Organisation in An Indian Slum

By Ratna N. Rao

Mittal Publications, New Delhi, 1990. N.A. Book Condition: New. Viii+260pp Slums are one of the most important and equally persistent problems of urban life. Unlike many recent studies which take a too objective view of the life in slums and depict them as the very purgatory of human existence where poverty and crime alone predominate, the present study, based on the approach of the Chicago School of Park, Burgess, Whyte and others, takes a humanistic attitude and attempts to search for organised life in it. The study looks at the slum as an organic unit of the larger urban social system and examines the inter-relationships both within the smaller system of the slum and between the smaller and the larger systems, namely the slum and the city, and how the changes in the larger system affect the smaller system ? a linkage which no slum development planning can afford to ignore. The findings are the result of a field-study undertaken by the author in a slum of Wodars or stonecutters and builders emigrated from the northern parts of Karnataka to the metropolitan city of Pune (or Poona) in Mahatashtra.



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