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Annotated Listing

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.

WB Report; *Women, Business and the Law 2014 : Removing Restrictions to Enhance Gender Equality*; 2013, The World Bank & Bloomsbury Publishing, Washington DC, USA, pp 192 , Price £ 25.50

The legal gender parity has improved around the world though major differences remain. Many laws, regulations and policies on entrepreneurship and employment continue to prevent women from improving their own and their families' well-being by working or running a business. A new World Bank and IFC report finds legal and regulatory barriers to women's economic inclusion have decreased over the past 50 years globally, but many laws still hinder women's participation in the economy. Laws restricting women's economic activity are currently most prevalent in the Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. The third in a series, Women, Business and the Law 2014: Removing Restrictions to Enhance Gender Equality monitors regulations affecting women entrepreneurs and employees in 143 economies. This Edition highlights reforms carried out over the past two years, examines the evolution of women's property rights and legal decision making ability since 1960 and expands coverage to examine legal protections addressing violence against women.

Gender differences in the law are only one of many factors that affect women's economic opportunities-but they are an important factor that governments can directly influence. The report provides seven indicators of gender differences in formal laws and institutions: (a) accessing institutions explores women's legal ability to interact with public authorities and the private sector in the same ways as men. This indicator provides disaggregated information on 11 categories of legal ability, highlighting differences between married and unmarried women. This edition expands the data coverage to examine gender differences in getting national identity cards. Information has also been added on the use of quotas to increase women's representation on corporate boards and in national parliaments and local governments; (b) Using property analyzes women's ability to own, manage, control and inherit property. This edition expands the data coverage to include women's ownership rights in the marital home and whether legislation accounts for nonmonetary contributions such as unpaid care for children or the elderly; (c) Getting a job assesses restrictions on women's work, such as prohibitions on working at night or in certain industries. This indicator also covers laws on work-related maternity, paternity and parental benefits and on retirement ages. This edition examines data on industry restrictions in greater detail to provide more nuanced information on where women face more onerous barriers. (d) Providing incentives to work examines personal income tax liabilities, taking into account tax credits and deductions available to women relative to men. This indicator covers taxation as well as public services such as childcare and education. (e) Building credit identifies minimum loans tracked by private credit bureaus and public credit registries and assesses bureaus and registries that collect information from microfinance institutions. This edition expands the data coverage to examine economies where credit registries and bureaus collect information from retailers and utilities; (f) Going to court examines access to small claims courts and data on whether women's testimony in court is given the same evidentiary weight as that of men. This edition includes additional data on the number of women justices-including chief justices-in supreme courts; (g) Protecting women from violence examines laws on domestic violence against women and the existence and scope of laws on sexual harassment

The first three indicators capture legislation with direct gender dimensions and are based on a reading of laws from the perspective of women. These indicators also examine areas of laws with indirect gender dimensions. For example, laws may have gender-neutral text but can affect women more in practice. The Providing incentives to work indicator examines explicit gender differences in tax laws as well as the existence of public services, such as childcare, that are not gender differentiated but are more likely to favour women. The Building credit and Going to court indicators examine ease of access to credit bureaus and courts to assess the indirect effects that credit reporting and dispute resolution mechanisms have on women, who are more likely to rely on non-traditional financial services. Each indicator was constructed based on data availability, economic relevance and variation in regulation across economies.

The Protecting women from violence indicator is being piloted in this report. Data have been collected for 100 economies on the laws, regulations and institutions that deal with domestic violence against women and sexual harassment. This pilot indicator represents a partial effort in both the number of economies covered and the scope of the data collected. For example, when using the data it is important to look beyond criminalization to also consider laws authorizing and funding prevention programs and services for survivors of violence. This indicator is a first step toward quantifying the global legislative framework on domestic violence and sexual harassment and offers comparable baseline data. This report includes a separate section highlighting findings from this pilot indicator. Laws on domestic violence and sexual harassment are further explored in a case study on South Asia. A second case study focuses on marital property regimes in Chile and examines the evolution of women's legal capacity and property rights in Latin America. A third case study looks at the implementation of constitutional reforms benefiting women in Kenya. Kenya was the top reformer in the previous edition of Women, Business and the Law.

"The ideal of equality before the law and equality of economic opportunity isn't just wise social policy: It's smart economic policy ," said World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim. When women and men participate in economic life on an equal footing, they can contribute their energies to building a more cohesive society and a more resilient economy. The surest way to help enrich the lives of families, communities and economies is to allow every individual to live up to her or his fullest creative potential.

Women, Business and the Law builds on the growing body of research and empirical evidence that stresses the importance of the legal and institutional framework in shaping women's economic rights and opportunities and improving gender equality. Research has called into question the notion that economic growth alone increases gender equality. Continuous policy commitments to gender equality might be required to achieve it. Gender equality favours a variety of positive development outcomes. In Colombia women who own property are in a better bargaining position at home, where they are more likely to be able to move freely, negotiate the right to work and control their income. Women's access to land has also been linked to gains in family welfare, including children's health.

Moreover, unequal rights for women have adverse effects on women entrepreneurs. In economies where husbands can prohibit their wives from working, women are less likely to have formal accounts, savings or credit. The same is true in economies with a higher prevalence of violence against women. But if married women can choose where to live in the same way as married men and are not legally required to obey their husbands, they are more likely to use formal financial products. The gender asset gap, which has been well documented, can also undermine women's bargaining power and capacity to engage in economic activities. Access to formal credit relies heavily on asset-based lending. A recent survey of banks in Ghana found that they strongly prefer land and buildings as collateral. If women have unequal property rights, they are constrained in their ability to use property as collateral, limiting their access to credit. Where that is the case, reputation collateral such as records of successful loan repayments to micro-finance institutions or retailers may help women build their credit histories and ultimately access finance.

Workplace and labor regulations also affect women's opportunities and outcomes. Restrictions on the hours that women can work or the industries where they can work can limit their ability to get the jobs they want. In

Taiwan, China, working hour restrictions reduced the number of hours that women work, while maternity benefits increased women's labor force participation. But personal income tax liability can affect workers' decisions about how much or whether to work. Women, particularly those who are married, are more negatively affected by income tax rules. In contrast, childcare subsidies such as tax credits and the availability of childcare increase women's participation in the labor force. Legal formalities and litigation costs-direct and incidental-discourage poor people-regardless of their gender-from accessing courts.16 Even for relatively simple disputes, legal formalities are associated with less contract enforcement, longer cases and perceptions of lower-quality justice. One stop shops such as small claims courts can improve access to justice for men and women. How to use these data Women, Business and the Law can be used to raise awareness, inform policy discussions on gender differences in laws and prod policy makers to take actions strengthening women's economic rights and opportunities. The report is also designed for researchers, as it can be used to further research at the economy level and across economies on links between gender-based legal differences and outcomes for women. Women, Business and the Law and the 50 Years of Women's Legal Rights database can be used together to study these links over time.

Women, Business and the Law 2014 examines laws and regulations affecting women's prospects as entrepreneurs and employees. The report's quantitative indicators are intended to inform policy discussions on how to remove legal restrictions on women and promote research on how to improve women's economic inclusion. It was very interesting to read the report, however disappointing that it only focused on the developing world. The Women's Empowerment position is quite bleak in the Developed world including US and European EU Nations. Especially when it comes to rights regarding votes, equal pay and work environments. It would have been nice to see some reference of the situation in US / Europe to give the report an appropriate global perspective. Nonetheless, the report has a positive contribution in bringing forth the need to strengthen Women's position in the contribution of the family and Nation Building. It highlights some very fine points to enable countries take positive stands to bring forth true empowerment of Women in today's dynamic global village. The book is highly relevant for all libraries, departments focusing on women issues in various governments / ministries, for researchers / students of international economics, law and women studies. Finance professionals and chief executives of various corporations would benefit to read the text to enable them induce growth in their incorporations.

Agarwal, J.D.; *Capital Budgeting Decisions Under Risk and Uncertainty*; 2009, 4th Reprint, IIF Publication, Delhi, India, pp.168, Rs. 280 or US $ 40

Capital Budgeting Decisions are important because of their long term implications both for the firm and economy, particularly because they involve large amount of funds, they are irreversible in nature, they are complex and have influence on future earnings as well as the growth of the company. Most of the Techniques used in the past for evaluating Capital projects have lost their relevance in the today? context of complex world.

Agarwal's book on capital budgeting Decisions under Risk and Uncertainty discusses in details the existing technique of evaluating capital projects. The book discusses in details the existing technique of evaluating capital projects. The book discusses in details that firms in general postulate multiple objectives and the theories and techniques which have been developed and used on the basis of the assumption of single goal and assuming conditions of certainty are not only irrelevant but have also lost their usefulness. The book provides an empirical testing of these facts with Indian firms. The books also presents various objectives with the firms pursue while evaluating capital projects.

One of the most fascinating features on which the book concentrates is on applying Goal Programming model to capital budgeting decisions to provide solution in the multi objective situation. The book also discusses and provides a stochastic goal programming model for incorporating risk and uncertainty in Capital Budgeting Decisions. At the end, the books given an extensive bibliography and subject index as well author index.

As a prerequisite for applying Goal Programming model to Capital Budgeting Decisions which have generally been encountered had been the need of a model for ranking various multiple objectives in an ordinal way. The book provides a model of ordinal ranking of multiple objectives adopting lexicographic ordering approach.

The book is divided into nine chapters followed by bibliography and index. Chapter one covers introduction of capital budgeting and ent. Finance. Second chapter covers nature and meaning covering definition, classification, importance , administrative, force diners, long range plant etc. of capital budgeting. Chapter three introduces techniques of evaluation like payback, accounting rate of returns, NPV, IRR, PI etc. Chapter four focuses on capital budgeting decisions and multiple objectives evidenced through some empirical observations, methodology, analyzing through different basis. Chapter five focuses on Indian firms through their financial and non-financial objectives. Lexicographic model of ranking of multiple objectives on proposed and identities in chapter six followed by chapter on goal programming model. The stochastic goal programming model is discussed in chapter eight.

The book which was the first research publication of Indian Institute of Finance, is a useful edition to the existing literature both in the area of Operational Research as well as Finance, at all management levels. The book would be useful for decision makers, policy makers, finance managers, financial institutions, researchers and MBA / M.Sc. (Finance) graduates.

WB Report; *Global Economic Prospects: Less Volatile, but slower Growth (Volume 7)*; 2013, The World Bank, Washington DC, USA, pp 215 , Price NIL

The global economy appears to be transitioning toward a period of more stable, but slower growth. Global gross domestic product (GDP), which slowed in mid-2012 is recovering, and a modest acceleration in quarterly GDP is expected during the course of 2013. That progress will be masked in the annual data, however, with whole-year growth for 2013 projected by World Bank at 2.2 %, a touch slower than in 2012. The strengthening of quarterly growth will show up in whole-year global GDP growth of 3.0 % for 2014 and 3.3 % in 2015. Financial conditions in high-income countries have improved and risks are down, but growth remains subdued, especially in Europe

High-income countries continue to face challenges to restore financial sector health, reform institutions, and get fiscal policy onto a sustainable path. However, the likelihood that these challenges provoke a major crisis has declined. Although acute risks have diminished, real-side activity remains sluggish. Among high-income countries, the challenges are especially difficult in high-income Europe, where growth is being held back by weak confidence and continued banking-sector and fiscal restructuring. The recovery is on more solid ground in the United States, where a fairly robust private sector recovery is being held back, but not extinguished, by fiscal tightening. Meanwhile, in Japan, a dramatic relaxation of macroeconomic policy has sparked an uptick in activity, at least over the short term. Overall, growth in high-income countries is projected to accelerate slowly, with GDP expanding a modest 1.2 % this year, but firming to 2.0 % and 2.3 % in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

Growth is firming in developing countries, but conditions vary widely across economies. In developing countries, GDP is expected to firm somewhat. Less volatile external conditions, a recovery of capital flows to levels that support growth, the relaxation of capacity constraints in some middle-income countries, and stronger growth in high-income countries are expected to yield a gradual acceleration of developing-country growth to 5.1 % in 2013, and to 5.6 % and 5.7 % in 2014 and 2015, respectively. Most developing countries have recovered from the crisis, so room for additional acceleration is limited. The overall acceleration is not stronger because the majority of developing countries have more-or-less fully recovered from the 2008 financial crisis. For many of these countries, current and projected growth is broadly in line with underlying potential growth-leaving little room for acceleration. Thus, GDP in the East Asia & Pacific region is projected to increase 7.3 % in 2013, but then expand at a broadly stable 7.5 % rate in each of 2014, and 2015. In Latin America, growth is expected to pick up in 2013 to about 3.3 %, but then to stabilize at just below 4 % in each of 2014 and 2015. Already, growth in several countries in both regions is being held back by supply-side constraints that are manifesting themselves in inflation, asset-price bubbles, and deteriorating current account balances.

Many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are also running at, close to, or above potential output, and risk building up inflationary pressures. Growth in the region is projected to firm over the projection period to 4.9 %, 5.2 %, and 5.4 % in 2013, 2014, and 2015, respectively. Growth in South Asia is projected to pick up to 5.2 % this year, following a very weak 2012 and then to firm only gradually to 6.0 % and 6.4 % in 2014 and 2015 as spare capacity is reabsorbed.

In developing Europe and the Middle East & North Africa, output gaps remain and growth is projected to strengthen. Many countries in developing Europe have still not recovered from the crisis. Unemployment and spare capacity remain high, because activity has been weighed down by banking-sector, household, and fiscal restructuring (much like high-income Europe). As adjustments are completed, growth in the region is projected to strengthen progressively from 2.7 % last year to 4.2 % by 2015. Growth in the Middle East & North Africa has been disrupted by political and social tensions and Euro Area weakness. Assuming that tensions in the region gradually ease, growth is projected to slowly strengthen from 2.5 % in 2013 to 3.5 % in 2014 and 4.2 % in 2015.

Risks are less pronounced and more balanced than a year ago, with new risks gaining prominence. Although acute risks in high-income countries are down, more modest downside risks linger as these economies continue to adjust. Importantly, downside risks are now balanced by the possibility of stronger growth should confidence improve more quickly than anticipated in the baseline. For developing countries that have already recovered from the crisis, or that are expected to in 2013, macroeconomic policy may need to be tightened to contain or prevent inflation, asset-price bubbles, and deteriorating current accounts. Tightening would have the further advantage of restoring depleted policy buffers. In countries where unemployment remains high and spare capacity is ample, notably in developing Europe, a loosening of policy may be in order where policy space exists. The rebalancing effort in China, and its unsustainably high investment rate are on going challenges.

Most countries need to prioritize structural reforms to expand their growth potential. While projected growth rates are satisfactory and well above the growth rates of the 1990s, they are 1–2 percentage points slower than in the pre-crisis boom period. To achieve higher growth on a sustained basis, developing countries will need to focus on domestic challenges. These differ across countries, but share common themes. In general, policymakers will need to redouble efforts to restore and preserve macroeconomic stability and reduce bottlenecks by streamlining regulations; improving their enforcement; and investing in infrastructure, education, and health.

New risks include a faster decline in commodity prices and the potential impacts of a withdrawal of quantitative easing. Over the past year, energy and metals prices have been easing in response to supply and demand-side substitution induced by high prices (metal prices are down 30 % since their

February 2011 peak). If prices decline to their longer-term equilibrium more quickly than assumed in the baseline, GDP growth among Sub-Saharan African metal exporters could decline by as much as 0.7 percentage points, while current account and fiscal balances could deteriorate by 1.2 % and 0.9 % of GDP, respectively. Lower oil prices would have similar impacts for oil exporters (-0.4 % of GDP), but would tend to benefit developing countries as a whole (+0.3 % of GDP). Quantitative easing has benefited developing countries by stimulating high-income-country GDP, lowering borrowing costs, and avoiding a financial-sector meltdown. On balance, the increased liquidity has not generated excessive capital flows to developing countries. Net capital flows to developing countries have recovered to 4.2 % of developing-country GDP, but remain well below the 2007 level of 7.2 % of GDP. However, flows have been more volatile. Based on this experience, the recent intensification of monetary easing in Japan should not prove too disruptive for developing countries over the medium term, but it could generate large fluctuations in flows over the short run that are difficult to manage.

Once high-income countries begin to pursue quantitative easing less actively or begin to unwind long-term positions, interest rates are likely to rise. Higher interest rates will increase debt-servicing costs, and could increase default rates on existing loans. Banks in countries that have enjoyed very strong growth and asset-price inflation, together with high levels of government or private sector debt, may be at particular risk. In the longer term, higher interest rates will raise the cost of capital in developing countries and can be expected to reduce the level of investment that firms wish to maintain. As investment rates adjust to these higher capital costs, developing-country investment spending and growth can be expected to decline by as much as 0.6 percentage points per annum after three years.

In many countries, policy attention is appropriately returning to simplifying regulations, opening up to trade and foreign investment, investing in infrastructure and human capital. These are the policies that have underpinned the acceleration in developing country growth over the past 20 years, and it is only through continued reform and progress in these policies that the strong productivity growth of the past 20 years can be maintained. For the many countries operating at close to or even above full capacity, macroeconomic policy may need to be tightened-both to re-establish fiscal space that was used up in response to the crisis and to prevent inflationary pressures and asset bubbles from building up. The external risks facing developing countries have also evolved (a) the recent decline in industrial commodity prices is, perhaps, signalling an end to the upward phase of the commodity cycle. Policy makers in commodity-exporting countries need to take a close look at the potential consequences of a sharper-than-anticipated decline in commodity prices for growth, government finances, and their external financing needs; (b) For countries in East Asia, the recent intensification of monetary easing in Japan could prompt strong and disruptive capital inflows, adding to already existing inflation and currency pressures; (c) longer term, as high-income monetary policy becomes less accommodative, interest rates in developing countries will rise. Higher rates may generate difficult adjustments and possibly domestic crises, especially in countries where public and private sector indebtedness has been on the upswing; (d) over the longer term, higher interest rates will translate into increased capital costs, potentially slowing developing-country growth by as much as 0.6 percentage points per annum after three years as firms reduce debt levels to more manageable levels.

Overall, the global economy is moving into a new and hopefully less volatile phase. The extreme risks and swings in perceptions that have driven global capital and output markets have eased significantly, even as new risks and challenges have gained in prominence. The majority of developing countries have navigated the crisis and immediate post-crisis period very well. With the exception of some countries in developing Europe and the Middle East & North Africa, they recovered relatively quickly from the crisis and have enjoyed solid, if less rapid than boom period, growth rates. With the demand gaps opened up by the crisis largely filled, future growth will increasingly be determined by the success with which countries succeed in addressing supply-side bottlenecks, including gaps in physical, social, and regulatory infrastructure.

The report has quite critically outlined the presence of dark clouds enveloping the growth sentiments worldwide. It has been quite apt in outlining the factors responsible and what can economies do to enhance the growth components having inclusive financial growth. The report would serve to be of importance for executives of international agencies, for government officials involved in policymaking / economic wings and CEOs of firms having global presence (TNCs / MNCs) including those who are moving towards global presence. The book would be of immense interest for research scholars and Master students of international economics and international finance. Professors would find it relevant to widen their scope of teaching encompassing the latest developments worldwide on the economic front. It is a must keep for libraries of Universities and Institutions of higher learning / research orientation.

Cheema, D.S. (Col.); *Operations Research*; 2013, 3rd edition, Laxmi Publications Pvt Ltd, Delhi, India, pp. 896, Price ₹595

Operation Research is field that finds its origins with the development of the scientific management theories of Fredric W. Taylor in 1885. The field developed and found much relevance in the II where production bottlenecks in Great Britain were resolved using the tools of this field. In India this field finds its origins since 1950s and has a celebrated its sixty years of existence among the practioners, researchers, educators and students. The book is a tribute to the dedicated evolution of this field of scientific study. Operations Research is scientifically and methodologically develop the solution to a given problem where important steps involve observing the operating environment, formulating the problem, selecting and developing a suitable model, collecting the data, finding a solution that is most optimal and feasible, presenting it before the decision maker and then finally with requisite feedback implementing the same.

The book is divided into nineteen chapters each chapter offering detailed explanation, problems and solutions to the different tools of operation research. Exam type problems and questions that have appeared in the Punjab University Examination are also provided for student and teachers benefit.

Chapter One is an introduction to Operations Research, its definition, salient features, tools, importance, advantages and limitations. The author explains the mathematical technique of linear programming that helps in optimizing the different resources. Linear Programming establishes a linear relationship between two or more variables involved in managerial decision making. Chapter two begins with the introduction to the linear programming model and its basics. The chapter explains how to formulate a problem and solve it using the graphical method and corner point solutions. Demonstrates the use of linear programming. Simplex method and its specific cases are discussed in Chapter three. Big M Method and Mixed type constraints are also discussed in this chapter. Chapter four looks at the dual formulations of the primal linear programming problem and its solutions through the simplex method. Explains how to interpret dual programming model and solve for the same.

Transportation is special formulation of linear programming model. The transportation model deals with the determination of minimum cost for transporting one commodity from a number of sources. Chapter five concentrated on the transportation problems, terminology used in the problems, assumptions and solutions. Different methods like the North west corner rule, Row Minima Method, Column Minima Method, Least Cost Method and Vogel Approximation method have been discussed and explained in detail.

A special case of transportation is Assignment which is discussed in Chapter six. The operations research model is used when the resources have been assigned to the tasks which involve different efficiency of performing different types of jobs and it involves different costs, the problem arises of how to assign jobs so that total cost is minimized. Special problems of maximization and unbalanced are also discussed.

A sequence is the order in which different jobs are performed. When there is a choice that a number of task can be performed in different orders, then the problem of sequencing arises. Chapter seven gives insight into the meaning of sequencing, assumptions made in the sequencing problems, terminology used and types of sequencing problems.

Chapter Eight offers an understanding that depreciable assets have to be replaced. It provides as how the management can formulate the assumptions of the replacement theory. Also, the concepts of increasing maintenance cost and time value of money are considered in resolving replacement issues. The chapter also discussed group replacement policy.

Firms are often faced with the problem of servicing customers in long queues. A queuing system involves a number of servers which we will also call service channels. The service channels can be communication line, workstations and others. Hence the number of servers, queuing system can be single and multi-channel. Randomness in the arrival of the customer and services may lead to suboptimal use of resources and dissatisfied customers who face congestions at service counters. To resolve this problem, Operations research offers the queuing theory based on several assumption and processes. The same has been explained by the author in chapter nine.

Heavy Mutual interdependence and uncertainty are common feature of the new business paradigms. Decision makers often face dilemma about the competitor's action which needs to compete with by strategically placing his position. Operations Research offers the game theory as a tool that offers the decision maker a solution in the times of uncertainty. Chapter eleven explains the concept, terms used in the theory, limitation of the theory, Zero sum games and other important aspects of the theory.

Inventory is a result of business production. Business firms even with the just in time approach cannot maintain zero inventories from the fear of loss of customers. They need to optimize the cost of storage, ordering cost, transportation cost and other incidental costs of the inventory. Chapter twelve explains inventory management and its models. Economic order quantity, its utility and limitations are also well explained with examples.

Quality may be defined as the totality of features and characteristics of a product or service that bears on its ability to satisfy the customer. Chapter thirteen offers insights into quality management with explanations offered on its concept, distinguishing it between quality and inspection, techniques of quality control and used of control charts. The chapter also discusses its advantages.

Investment in the book is defined as acquiring facilities which can be used in production and for their future gains. In finance we refer to these decision as capital budgeting decision and not investment decision to which separate field of study are dedicated. The author has also discussed the different sources of funding. Chapter fourteen discusses the phases of investment decision, time value of money and techniques of capital budgeting. The chapter should be retitled as Capital budgeting decisions and break even analysis.

Project management and the techniques for evaluation namely PERT and CPM have been discussed in Chapter fifteen. PERT developed by US Navy in 1958 and CPM developed by Du Pont Company. Chapter sixteen is dedicated to simulation where the author contends that all real life problems cannot be converted into mathematical models. He describes Simualtion as a process of designing a model of the real system and conducting experiments with the model for the purposes of understanding the behavior for the operation of the system. The chapter discusses the concept, basic techniques and use of random numbers

Time Management is studied under the work study and value analysis chapter Seventeen. The production management or operation management attempt establishment/ installation of the most effective method of performing the operation. Also offer control of the resources used for production. The chapter discuses the concept of normal time and standard time, establishing time standards and learning the details of work sampling. Chapter eighteen is dedicated to probability theory and Markov analysis. The chapter discusess binomial probability distribution , normal distribution and recognizes markov analysis. Chapter nineteen is based on the goal, integer and dynamic programming. Many operations research books offer this chapter after the linear programming chapter as these programming methods are an extension of the Linear programming model.

The book is excellent for under—graduate student who would like to practice and score well in university and other exams in operations research. The book offers ample examples, numerical, exam type questions for practice. The book lacks in offering managerial insight into the subject. Company specific problem or real life case scenarios would add value to the book.

Carson, Carol S., Charles Enoch and Claudia Dziobek; ***Statistical Implications of Inflation Targeting: Getting the Right Numbers and Getting the Numbers Right;*** **International Monetary Fund, IMF Publication Services, Washington DC, USA, pp. 376, Price US$ 42.50**

IMF lays out the relevance of inflation targeting for the MF's responsibilities to conduct surveillance on global macroeconomic and financial stability and to provide policy advice to member countries. Many countries have moved recently toward flexible exchange rate regimes. Under such regimes inflation targeting provides an anchor for inflation expectations, and the profile and the profile and importance of the statistical underpinnings are enhanced. The authors concur that information requirements follow directly from the policy requirements of inflation targeting regimes: a formal commitment to a specific rate of inflation, a designated measure of inflation (for example, the consumer price index), analytical tools to forecast inflation, analytical tools to analyze the monetary transmission mechanism and the central bank's ability influence inflation, and a communication policy.

Another common theme is that inflation targeting imposes a high degree of discipline on central banks and national statistical offices. Commitment to a target the can be readily observed by the public-for example, the headline inflation figure-makes the central bank's performance much more transparent; any failures to achieve the target will be obvious. A number of statistical implications can be observed. Ongoing communication with the public, including through regularly published inflation reports and analysis, become a vehicle for establishing credibility and handling any deviations from the target. To some extent, inflation targeting changes the data requirements for setting monetary policy: there is for example, more emphasis on forward looking indicators, including property occupancy rates, labor market information (wage and compensation indices), interest rate yield curves, and long-term bond rates. The extent to which these data are available varies greatly across countries. Countries that have more developed financial markets tend to have a richer set of forward-looking data to rely on, and may therefore have the greatest opportunities in pursuing an inflation targeting regime.

Knight, Fay and O'Reilly in chapter two, reflecting on the Canadian experience, stress the long time lags involved in monetary policy and the great amount of information and study necessary for effective policy. Policy actions are taken with a view toward influencing the price level 18 months to 24 months down the road, and effectiveness is closely related to credibility. The uncertainly inherent in statistical models, and hence the need to "diversify" in research and models, leads central banks to process vast amount of information. The authors provide an overview of the basic statistical elements and the framework for evaluating statistical information as developed by the Bank of Canada.

Lehohla and Myburgh in chapter three, discuss differences use needs with respect to price indicators, which led Statistic South Africa to produce, in addition to the overall consumer price index, two core price indices and other variants including different regional coverage. Tetangco Jr. and Tuano-Amador in chapter four note that inflation targeting leads central banks to place more emphasis on the medium-term perspective and less on day-to-day developments. Data needs, accordingly, are more focused on forward-looking indicators. In the Philippines and elsewhere, the central bank produces quarterly inflation reports, which help focus research with respect to the reaction function and the transmission mechanism of monetary policy. In the case of deviations form the target, the governor must write an open letter explaining the deviation and how the central bank intends to rebutter transparency.

Oberg and Lindblom in chapter five describe the experience in Sweden, where the central bank commissions form Statistics Sweden the publication of two monthly measures of "underlying inflation" which exclude "temporary" effects that enter into the CPI as well as the development of additional forward-looking indicators. Stevens in chapter six brings forth that while more frequent data are generally believed to be better, some countries with quarterly data, like Australia, have successful inflation-targeting regimes. More important are the availability of credible CPI series and the analytical capacity to "dissect" and interpret these data, especially to separate temporary from permanent price changes. Independence of the data-producing agencies is a key to credibility, as is the central bank's ability to present a comprehensive macroeconomic analysis to the public that includes but it's not limited to price developments. Another theme echoed in many of the chapters is that inflation targeting has meant that central banks or national statistical agencies must develop their ability to research inflation, dissecting data to distinguish between "one-off," or transitory, factors, affecting inflation and more permanent changes, and removing volatile items or those independent of central bank action in order to determine appropriate policy responses.

The Exchange Rate policy has always been central to the work of the IMF. Ever since the breakdown of the Bretton Woods system, there has been a widespread desire to avoid excessive volatility in the exchange rates to the world's major currencies. And the IMF's bilateral and multilateral surveillance has become an important way for the international community to signal its views and seek better coordination of underlying economic polices. Our Research department's analysis, for example, points to the recent persistent overvaluation of the US$ and the under/over-valuation of the Euro. But in a world of highly integrated global capital markets, the authors do not see any realistic alternative to floating exchange rates among the major currencies. So, our members need to deal with currency misalignments by concentrating on the fundamental-especially, in the case of the European Union and Japan, by accelerating the pace of key structural reforms.

Looking beyond the major currencies and important conclusion of the IMF's research and reviews of country experience is that no single exchange rate regime is appropriate for all members in all circumstance. Nevertheless, there is now increasing tendency among our members to choose "corners solutions". A country that is willing to abandon all monetary policy discretion may be able to adopt a hard peg, such as a currency board arrangement. Because this deprives the country of instruments to deal with external shocks, living safely under a hard peg obliges a country to have not only a disciplined fiscal policy, but also particularly sound financial and corporate sectors and considerable wage and price flexibility. As shown tragically in Argentina, when these conditions do not hold, it can be very difficult for a country to arrange timely exit strategy.

The writings in the book advise emerging market countries to be very cautious about adopting pegged or heavily managed exchange rate systems. When a country is open to international capital flows, the reaction to any hint of unsustainable macroeconomic policies can be swift and severe. And a country considering an exchange rate peg needs to be fully aware of the associated costs, including the possibility the extraordinarily high interest rates might be required at times of severe financial market pressure. In particular, the country's domestic financial institutions and businesses must be well prepared to live with such policy adjustments. Where there is doubt that these requirements will be met, a flexible exchange rate regime is a better choice.

For other developing countries, there is in principle a wider range of choice in exchange rate regimes, provided that these are backed by the appropriate macroeconomic and structural policies. An we recognize that very few countries, advanced or developing, are indifferent to the behaviour of their exchange rates. But on balance, we see floating exchange rates as the safest solution for a wide range of countries. Unfortunately, this has the disadvantage of leaving the public and markets without a clear anchor, which can make a country vulnerable to accelerating inflation in response to domestic or external shocks.

Inflation targeting has been adopted by several countries with floating exchange rate system as way to anchor inflation\ expectations. Many other countries are actively considering this possibility, and some are committed to do so under IMF-supported programs. After a decade of experience, we have seen inflation-targeting regimes in action, and we are beginning to have a basis for assessing their performance and refining our views on how best to manage them. The IMF stresses to countries that are considering the adoption of inflation targeting, the keys to success are transparency and credibility. Once a political decision has been taken to make the inflation target the primary objective of monetary policy, it is crucial for the monetary authorities to keep the public regularly informed about the action they have taken to meet that objective and the basis for the judgments that they make. Perhaps even more than other monetary regimes, inflation targeting obliges the central bank to safeguard its credibility in pursuing the inflation goal. For this reason, inflation targeters are almost invariably countries in which the central bank has a high degree of operational independence. But it is also important to avoid a deflationary bias, which would impose unnecessary costs on society and risk undermining the political basis for the inflation-targeting regime and the independence of the central bank.

While there are now many analyses of the experience under inflation targeting, relatively little has been written about the implications fro economic statistics. This is an important omission. In preparing for inflation targeting, most countries have adopted an existing, well-known price index as the target-generally the national consumer price index (CPI)-and they have used a selection of available data series in forecasting inflation and assessing the effects of monetary policy. Moving forward, it will be important to explore whether this is the most appropriate index to target, whether some components of the CPI should be systematically excluded from or added to the index, and what new statistics might be needed for related analysis and forecasting.

It is also possible that the institutional arrangement for producing economic statistics my need to be adapted in a country with an inflation-targeting regime. Just as with a central bank, it is important for the national statistical agency to be operationally independent, while receiving adequate resources from the government to do its job. At the same time, there should be good coordination with the central bank. In many countries the central bank sits at one end of town and the statistics agency at another, or-as in my own country-even in an-other city. The mixture of senior central bank officials and those from statistics agencies represented in this volume provides a particularly valuable opportunity to exchange ideas on these issues. For countries with inflation-targeting regimes, forward-looking indicators such as stock indices, real estate prices, and derivatives yields provide crucial information for assessing the appropriateness of monetary policy. This type o data is also important for the work of the IMF in promoting stability of domestic and international capital markets, and we often face gaps in information and questions about the suitability of what we do have. While such information is generally produced by markets or private firms, there might be a role for the public sector-in collecting these statistics, setting standards or guidelines, or at least encouraging full disclosure of the methodology that was used to assemble the data.

Finally, the topic of this Volume - the statistical implications of inflation targeting-brings together many of the key themes of the IMF's ongoing work to improve the functioning of the international monetary system - in particular, strengthening IMF surveillance, enhancing transparency, and using internationally recognized standards and codes as new rules of the game for global governance. Our Special data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) was the first of the IMF's core standards to be introduced, under the leadership of Carson. In parallel with the SDDS, during the past year we have begun using the IMF's new Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) as a systemic approach to assessing country practices and capabilities in the statistical area. While the DQAF was not designed with inflation-targeting countries specifically in mind it is clear that data quality in the sense of the framework is precisely what underpins a well-functioning inflation-targeting regime. The SDDS was designed for countries seeking access to international capital markets, regardless of their exchange rate regimes. But another one of our objectives here is to consider whether the SDDS might need to be enhanced to take account of special data needs of countries with inflation-targeting regimes. Whatever the outcome, it is noteworthy, and certainly welcome, that virtually all countries that have adopted an inflation-targeting regime are also among the 50 subscribers to the SDDS.

This book by Carson, Enoch and Dziobek brings together the experience of central banks and national statistical agencies in countries that focus their monetary policy on inflation targets. Inflation targeting has led to a close interface between these two sets of institutions. When the performance of central banks is measured in terms of specified price indices, which are usually compiled and disseminated by the national statistical agency, the role of national statistical agencies becomes central to the credibility of monetary policy. Data needs and uses have also shifted, with implications for national and international statistics compilation: market data have gained in importance; less emphasis is placed on traditional monetary aggregates; and greater attention is paid to timeliness, adherence to sound economic accounting standards, and other aspects of data quality. The book is highly relevant for researchers, central bankers, professors, doctoral students and Master students of international finance/business.

Negi, Jagmohan and Gaurav Manohar J.; ***Financial Management and Investment Decision*****; 2013 Laxmi Publication Ltd, Delhi, India, pp. 178, Price** R **150**

Financial Management is concerned with the planning and controlling of the firm's financial resources. It is related to procurement of finance and its usage in the course of business. The global financial that have occurred such as the Asian crisis that occurred in the late 90's, the Euro crisis that started from the beginning of 2000 and the late US crisis that occurred in 2008 have emphasized the need for understanding the role of financial management and how important it is for any corporation to survive in the long run. Now the firms are required to take a greater precaution while making investment decision for example identifying the underpriced and overpriced security, evaluating each lender and borrower carefully, analyzing risk and return of a security or a project. So, every entity, investor, government official, etc. involved with the word finance must have proper knowledge about it to make correct and profitable decisions. This book provides enough knowledge for them to have comprehensive overview of finance. The reader who has little knowledge or is not familiar with finance will surely develop some level of understanding after reading this book.

The author has tried to cover all the relevant topics related to financial management and factors to be considered while making investment decision. The book contains total of nine chapters. The chapters are based on short term and long term finance, capital structure, financial overview, how important it is to analyze financial statement and how to do it, it also includes how to manage cash by covering fund low statement and cash flow statement. One must also remember that the success of any enterprise generally depends on how it manages its short term liquidity requirements which is covered in the fifth chapter called working capital management. The second part of the book that is from chapter six to chapter ten which includes decisions to be taken with respect to investment. It incorporates all the cost that an enterprise has to incur for starting a business, it has also given importance to macro economic situation such as inflation and government policy and how they might affect investment. For any enterprise its dividend policy is very important, if it pays larger amount of dividend or whole amount of net profit as dividend then it is likely that there is no future investment that the enterprise would make which reduces its future growth opportunity however, if it's dividend payout ratio is less than there is certainly good future growth for the enterprise. This book covers all such topic to help the common man or an investor to base his decision rationally.

The author has tried to keep the book as simple and easy as possible so that different kind of people could easily comprehend it without much difficulty. It will also help investor to make the right investment by making them aware of how the economy would move if there is a change in any of the macro economic indicator. The investors/corporations could also identify profitable stock or project and invest in it. For analyzing a company or stock the investor could refer to chapter to three, which includes financial statement and important ratio's such as liquidity ratio, turnover ratio, etc., chapter four which is based on cash analyses for example what are the sources from where cash is coming and where is the company using it cash and how much balance it has, chapter five that is based on working capital management which tells how is the firm meeting its short term liquidity requirement and other chapters at the end which includes topics such as break even analyses, cost volume profit analyses. This book will also tell you how to tackle the problem that will affect your portfolio and about other things that you do not need to worry about.

The author throughout this book has shown how the financial manager uses the financial principles to solve practical problem arising in finance. The book also includes some of its own recommended reading, a glossary of terms and also a list of acronyms used in the book which are all included at the end of this book. There is extensive focus on numerical problem in each section.

The author has tried to use the conceptual understanding of finance rather than just an introduction of tools and techniques used in finance. However, there are still some improvements that can be made to the book to make it much better. The author has not included any valuation technique either for bond or equity. If some valuation technique like Capital Asset Pricing Model, Fama – French Model and Goal Programy Model would have been discussed, it would be very helpful for the reader to understand the concept of finance in a better way. The author should also introduce the concept of risk and how should also have explained how important it is when we talk about the word finance. But all other concepts of finance have been explained with the use of practical scenarios. This book is important for students doing BBA, B.Com, M.Com.