



Poverty Targeting in Asia

Edited by John Weiss, Professor of Development Economics and Associate Dean, Research, University of Bradford, UK

Following a comprehensive overview by the editor, this book offers a detailed assessment of the results of directly channelling resources to the poor and extensively discusses the experience of five Asian countries – India, Indonesia, the People’s Republic of China, the Philippines and Thailand.

‘This book is a “must read” for researchers and students interested in poverty, poverty reduction, social welfare and development. It provides systematic and comparative studies on the design features, achievements and problems of targeting, set against specific national contexts. The economic focus of the analysis is balanced with sections on the political economy of targeting and management aspects (administrative systems and incentives). While the considerable variations between targeting mechanisms, schemes and contexts demonstrate the difficulties of blanket policy prescriptions, the book presents a fascinating conclusion. Rather than continuing the debate about universal versus targeted approaches, it proposes that a mixed approach might be best: the “broad” targeting of basic services such as primary education and health care combined with the “narrow” targeting of social protection schemes for the very poor.’

– David Hulme, University of Manchester, UK

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