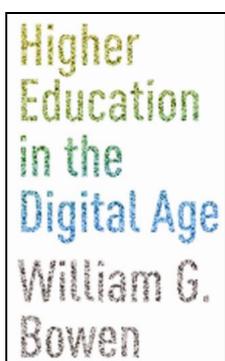


contributors have done justice to the editor's initial assertion that more vulnerable children require adequate support, as succinctly as possible in 363 pages.

As I close the book, I feel like I have had a personally guided helicopter tour across the globe gaining perspective on focal and generic issues imperative for sensitive practice of child and adolescent mental health. The reader's horizons are left expanding with reference to mental health practice with children and adolescents with excellent opportunities for cross-cultural learning. Nayar's statement that 'This book is a personal and professional journey of understanding mental health concerns of children and adolescents', rings through the volume. I consider this an essential addition to the reading list of any child and adolescent mental health practitioner.

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Higher Education in the Digital Age. William G. Bowen. Princeton University Press, Princeton NJ 08540, USA. 2013. xviii + 173 pp. Price: US\$ 26.95.

William G. Bowen, President of Princeton University during the years 1972 to 1988, has first-hand experience of a range of issues in academics. In addition to his career as an economist at Princeton, after his years in academic administration Bowen joined the Mellon Foundation where, among other things, he helped develop the on-line digital journal archive JSTOR. His leadership of one of the major centres of learning in the world, his involvement in initiatives

that have been at the forefront of the digital revolution in academics worldwide, and his scholarly analysis of many issues in education make this book not just insightful and deep, but also important and essential reading for all those with a concern for access and equity in higher education.

For the main part, this somewhat unusual book is a transcript of the Tanner Lectures on Human Values that were delivered by Bowen at Stanford University in 2012. In addition to two lectures – that are reproduced here with their conversational informality, there are additional sections that include the reactions and responses of a number of other distinguished academics.

The first of Tanner Lectures by Bowen deals with the 'cost disease' of the US higher education system. Over the years, there has been a steady increase in tuition fees both in private as well as publicly funded institutions at all universities. How the rising costs have impacted the access to education and its efficacy form the various themes explored in the first chapter. The second lecture focuses on effective methods of using the internet for carrying out instruction as a way of addressing the cost issue through MOOCs, the 'massive online open courses', that have been sweeping the internet in the past few years. Such a drastic change in pedagogic style has wider implications, and Bowen discusses various points that range from mundane issues like certification, validation and credit transfers, to a deeper discussion on the role of technology in educational transformation.

The commentaries on the lectures bring in additional points of view. Howard Gardner, professor of psychology at Harvard, draws attention to the value of the peer group, where learning is reinforced in a community of students spending time together. Stanford's President John L. Hennessy analyses the cost issue, with particular reference to how rising costs effectively debar students from completing a degree. Andrew Delbanco, professor of literature at Columbia, comments on the lower efficacy of MOOCs in the light of the loss of the classroom experience. The last of the comments, by Stanford professor of engineering Daphne Koller, extends the second Tanner Lectures by bringing in the perspective of a teacher who more or less devised the MOOC and who is playing

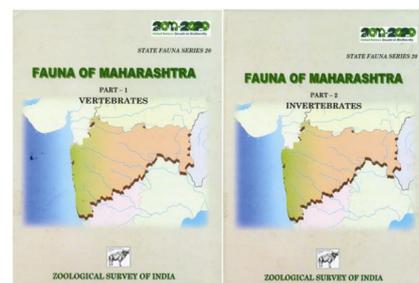
such an important role in implementing it on such an impressive scale through Coursera, the company she co-founded.

The central message of the book, one that is made repeatedly by Bowen and reinforced by the commentators is that, the only way in which education will be both affordable and effective in the coming years is if we learn to use technology efficiently, to blend on-line instruction with traditional styles of pedagogy. This message is simple enough – even self-evident in some ways given the manner in which the classroom has evolved in recent years; but as other reviewers of the book have noted, the discussion is relevant not just within the higher education community, but also among policy-makers. It is therefore important that the arguments that are articulated by someone as insightful and as concerned about education as Bowen have a wider audience.

The diverse audience that should find this book interesting would include teachers of course, but also those interested in the organization of education, university administrators, government and potential employers. And indeed anyone with a concern for the future of education itself, and its evolution at this time.

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Fauna of Maharashtra: Parts I and II. Published by the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata 700 053. 2012. 480 and 1129 pp. Price: Rs 1900 and Rs 2250 respectively.

The fauna of a region is important not only from systematics and ecological viewpoints, but also from agriculture,

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health and economic viewpoints. Protozoans, helminthes and other parasitic animals are responsible for large-scale morbidity among humans, pet animals and edible animals like fishes. Houseflies, mosquitoes and other insects spread serious epidemic diseases killing thousands of people every year. House dust mites are responsible for causing severe asthma in susceptible persons. Pest insects destroy agricultural and fruit crops, and stored food materials worth billions of rupees. Ecological services like pollination, seed dispersal, nutrient recycling, maintenance of soil productivity are rendered by insects, birds, earthworms and other animals. Beneficial insects, birds, snakes and other predatory animals keep a check on many potential pests, including rodents. Carrion-feeding animals help in keeping our environment healthy and clean. Lobsters, prawns, fishes, mussels, etc. are an important source of highly nutritious protein-rich food to man.

These are just a few examples to highlight the important role of fauna in ecology and economy of a region.

Fortunately, there has been an increased awareness about environmental problems and biodiversity issues in recent years. Maharashtra, the third largest state in India, and having an area of a little over 3 lakh sq. km, approximately 20% of which is under forest cover and 58% under agriculture, has 6 national parks and 35 wildlife sanctuaries. It has several important habitats sheltering rich biodiversity, including coral reefs, mangrove ecosystems, sacred groves, etc. The Western Ghats, Deccan Plateau and coastal areas of Maharashtra have their own characteristic flora and fauna with many endemic species facing threat of extinction.

Although not yet fully explored, the fauna of Maharashtra has attracted attention from several researchers, but the faunal information is widely scattered and in many cases not easily accessible to young researchers. It is against this backdrop that we must welcome the first ever consolidated account of *Fauna of Maharashtra: Parts I and II*, published by the Director, Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Kolkata with contributions on different animal groups by various scientists and experts from ZSI and other institutions.

An excellent overview by Anil Mahabhal and R. M. Sharma (both senior scientists of ZSI) at the beginning of Part I,

offers a concise account of biogeographical details and faunal characteristics of various regions of Maharashtra. Altogether 5640 species of animals spread over 2733 genera have been listed together in this two-volume set.

Part I, devoted to vertebrates with separate chapters on Mammalia, Aves, Reptilia, Amphibia and fishes (both freshwater and marine), each contributed by two or more experts, gives a detailed account of various species with their IUCN status, distribution, endemism, etc. Taxonomic keys are provided for species identification. In the chapter on fishes, fishery information is also provided. Detailed bibliography given at the end of each chapter will help researchers in seeking more information. Beautiful maps, colourful photographs of representative animals appearing in Part I help in better understanding of the faunal characteristics in relation to ecology.

Part II dealing with invertebrates includes chapters on free-living and parasitic protozoans, freshwater sponges, molluscs, freshwater prawns, crabs, barnacles, wood borers, various insect groups and other arthropods like arachnids and chilopods. In many instances, line diagrams of invertebrates have been included to highlight their structural details. Large groups like protozoans and insects have occupied more space in comparison to smaller groups like sponges and arachnids. It is for the first time that information about fauna of Maharashtra has been compiled in two volumes and this should provide a ready source of information to all academicians and researchers working in various fields.

As rightly emphasized in the overview '...This is not the final account of total biodiversity of Maharashtra state'.

Many important animal groups like earthworms, leeches, helminthes, marine sponges, cephalopods, coelenterates, etc. known to occur in Maharashtra and documented in the literature elsewhere have been left out, perhaps for being included in future publications. Although nicely printed and neatly bound, the price of the two volumes, a little over Rs 4000, is beyond the reach of many researchers and students. Many more colourful photographs of rich fauna could have enhanced its utility. It is also felt necessary that a consolidated list of endangered animals with their photographs could have helped the professionals and

amateurs in conservation efforts. It is suggested that ZSI should undertake to publish the fauna information in Hindi and regional languages as well.

Even a cursory glance through the two volumes readily reveals the painstaking efforts of Mahabhal and Sharma, who working as project coordinators have contacted the widely scattered zoologists working in different institutes and laboratories and persuaded them to contribute on the specialized groups of animals for ensuring that the information is up-to-date, authoritative and reliable. Being an important source of highly reliable and authentic information, the book is recommended for students, academicians and researchers working in pure and applied sciences, agriculture, health, environmental and allied fields.

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Indian Pandanaceae – an Overview.

Altafhusain Nadaf and Rahul Zanan. Springer (India) Pvt. Ltd. 7th Floor, Vijaya Building, 17, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi 110 001. 2012. 163 pp. Price: €83.29. ISBN 978-81-322-0752-8.

This book provides information on Indian taxa belonging to Pandanaceae with respect to taxonomy, phylogenetic relationship and conservation status. Pandanaceae is known to India by economically important species *Pandanus odorifer*, used in the production of 'kewda' perfumes, in flavouring a variety