

ductive sectors. These contribute significantly to the generation of food, employment and national income. The paper finally recommends that the fisheries policy which was enunciated in 1898 has not changed significantly in more than hundred years, although the fisheries technology has drastically improved from the country-crafts to highly mechanized boats and powered fishing. It is, therefore, necessary to formulate a new policy which takes into consideration the interests of all the fisheries sectors. The export earnings of seafood have increased from Rs 25 million in the 1950s to Rs 52,000 million in 2000. Therefore, there is enough justification to increase financial support to the fisheries sector. For marine fisheries, maximum sustainable yield has to be indicated. Aquaculture, being the fastest growing sector, requires greater incentive. Fisheries education needs further refinements and the quality of publications in our journals needs a lot of improvement to reach international standard.

The volume undoubtedly provides valuable addition to our knowledge about Indian fisheries with all its complexities. It is well-edited, for which T. J. Pandian deserves our compliments. The only weakpoint in the book is that it gives little reflection on the degradation of coastal and estuarine areas of the country. Rapid growth in human population and increased human settlement around the coast and estuaries have modified the natural habitats, including mangroves, salt marshes, coral reefs and mudflats to a considerable degree. Lack of waste-disposal facilities and dependence of the settled population on resources of the environment such as timber, corals and their associated animals (wherever they occur), and overexploitation of fish, crustaceans and molluscs, impose considerable stress on the environment. Mumbai alone, with a human population density of 25000 km<sup>2</sup>, generates 2.2 × 10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup>/day of domestic waste, which enters the bays and creeks in treated, partially-treated and untreated forms, and creates serious problems because these areas form important fishing grounds. Environmental degradation is found from severe to less severe forms in practically all the estuaries of India. We have not yet decided about the allowed level of environmental degradation and extent

of deforestation of mangroves. Therefore, the cumulative economic gains by preserving a natural ecosystem are just as important as the technological advancement in the form of industrial complexes along the coast, which may spell out destruction of the environment.

Unlike agriculture farming, dairy production and poultry farming which have become sustainable, the fisheries sector has been fluctuating from year to year and has suffered stagnation for several years in the past. Therefore, attempts made in the present volume to make the Indian fishery sustainable are indeed valuable and praiseworthy. The book will form an important addition to all libraries and must be used intensively by research workers and policy makers, as it gives constructive information on different fisheries sectors to be implemented in the future.

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**Assisted Reproductive Technologies: Current Methods and Future Directions.** Indira Hinduja, Kusum Zaveri and Chander Puri (eds). Oxford University Press, YMCA Library Building, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi 110 001. 2001. 254 pp. Price: Rs 1500.

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The birth of the world's first and second test-tube babies born in the UK and Calcutta, respectively just a few months apart in 1978, created sensational news. Scientific disbelief, and moral and ethical criticisms highlighted these early events. Today, with over a million babies reportedly born throughout the world by medically-assisted reproductive techniques (MART), *in vitro* fertilization and embryo transfer is considered a benign, therapeutic option for millions of infertile couples. MART has become an intrinsic part of modern therapeutic modalities that aim to alleviate human suffering.

It is against this background that the book under review generates considerable interest, as it promises to tell all about current methods and future directions of assisted reproductive technolo-

gies. However, a careful reading of the miscellaneous collection of eighteen chapters is very disappointing; no new information is presented nor any future directions suggested. Much more relevant and recent information is freely available on the World Wide Web.

The editing appears to have received perfunctory attention. Literature citation is misleading. For example, the foreword written by the Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research reads, 'Collectively, this book represents the insight gathered by more than 500 years of clinical scientific and research experience'. Surely one cannot expect the Director General to commit such a faux pas on a subject that is less than 50 years old!

Chapter 1 states 'the cost factor is unfortunately *inhibitive*'. Possibly the authors mean 'prohibitive', as the word 'inhibitive' does not exist in the *Oxford Dictionary*.

Chapter 2 cites two separate publications of Lass *et al.* Both the articles were published in the same journal in 1997. In such cases, it is relevant to differentiate the citation by referring to the article as 1997a and 1997b, so the reader can check the appropriate article. In Chapter 9, only the author's name is given in the citation without the year of publication.

Line drawings in Chapter 3 are amateurish. They could have been presented better with the help of a professional artist. These line drawings are not original, but have been culled out of reproductive physiology textbooks. The sources of these illustrations should have been indicated, otherwise these drawings could be construed as having been plagiarized.

Reproduction of photographic illustrations leaves much to be desired. One is amazed to see such poor-quality illustration from Oxford University Press in this day and age of digital illustration. Such illustrations have further devalued the quality of information being conveyed by the various chapters.

The book is certainly not worth its price.

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