

Why Poverty Persists

Poverty Dynamics in Asia and Africa

Edited by **Bob Baulch**, Chronic Poverty Research Centre

'This volume on poverty dynamics in developing countries, whose authors include the leaders in this field, is a must for analysts and research students. It advances the literature by addressing three important issues – measurement error, attrition, and tracking. For each of these questions, the volume leads by example, showing how they can be handled in specific cases. The results show that escape from poverty is a diverse phenomenon, and establish the importance of country and context specificity. The volume provide an analytical platform for careful policy assessment of policy alternatives.'

– Ravi Kanbur, Cornell University, US

'At the beginning of the 2000–2010 decade, Bob Baulch (with John Hoddinott) was setting the micro-econometric agenda on poverty dynamics and chronic poverty and producing work that "non-economists" had to read if they wanted to conduct serious research on these issues. In this volume – through his analytical excellence, the pursuit of methodological rigor, extraordinary energy and persistence, and his ability to lead such a distinguished network of colleagues – Bob has set the research agenda for the next ten years.'

– From the foreword by David Hulme, Brooks World Poverty Institute, Chronic Poverty Research Centre, Institute for Development Policy and Management, University of Manchester, UK

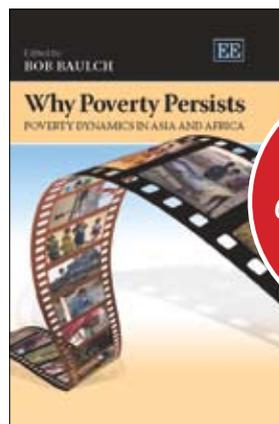
This edited book analyses what traps people in chronic poverty, and what allows them to escape from it, using long-term panel surveys from six Asian and African countries.

The distinguishing feature of these studies, which were commissioned by the Chronic Poverty Research Centre, is they span longer periods or have more survey waves than most developing country panels. This allows a detailed account of the maintainers of chronic poverty and drivers of poverty dynamics. Many of the studies (from Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa and Vietnam) are written by leading development economists, and all pay careful attention to the difficult issues of attrition, measurement error and tracking. The book's comparative perspective highlights the common factors which cause people to fall into chronic poverty and allow them to break-free from it. A number of promising policies and interventions for reducing chronic poverty are identified.

This up-to-date book will be an excellent resource for international development agencies, academics specialising in development economics and development studies, and researchers in international NGOs. Graduate students of development economics and development studies will also find much to interest them.

Contributors include: B. Baulch, S.D. Bhatta, S. Dercon, D. Hulme, H.R. Lohano, J. May, C. Porter, A. Quisumbing, S. Sharma, I. Woolard, D.H. Vu

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