

the poor themselves; and give priority to groups that examine and address their own goals continuously. In addition, the initiatives should strengthen, foster and accompany the active constitution of the poor's sociopolitical identity using rights-based approaches —rather than treating them as mere recipients of need-driven, centrally defined projects. Recent comparative assessments in Latin America confirm that the growth potential of these types of initiatives is stronger and more sustainable if goal- and rights-driven grass roots organizations have been set up and are running prior to and independently of any external interventions.

Broadly then, the book deals with poverty and strategies to reduce it. In a stricter sense, however, it mainly covers the ways in which governments, nongovernmental organizations, civil society and grass roots organizations, international donors, and multilateral agencies should relate to each in tackling poverty. In this respect, it clearly stresses the need to set (and suggests strategic directions for) major institutional, operational and methodological changes to make it easier for players to act effectively at the local level.

The book also poses some crucial questions:

- Who empowers whom and who pays for it, under different political-institutional settings?
- How should the possible paths to setting and managing “partnership” or similar management programmes evolve in settings where stakeholders' rationales and logic are contradictory and operate on very different scopes and time frames – for example, public urban infrastructure and utilities under private management or subject to privatization processes?
- What are the different “qualities of citizenship” to be achieved by poor segments of the population in progressively dualized economies/ societies, given that even locally successful poverty reduction strategies may not stem the growth of the inequality gap.

In summary, this is a well structured, authoritative and reliable book. ■

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Marijuana and madness

Editors: David Castle, Robin Murray
 Publisher: Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, England; 2004
 ISBN: 0521819407; hardback; 234 pages; price £45.00

This monograph is the professional person's guide to the psychological effects of cannabis use — a sort of everything you need to know about cannabis. It consists of 13 chapters, each written by some of the principal experts in this field. For the most part the chapters are up-to-date reviews although some original data are presented. The chapters on neurochemistry cover the endogenous cannabinoid system and the relation between cannabis and other transmitter systems. These topics are well written and contain minimal redundancy.

The chapters that deal with the more clinical aspects include both the acute and subacute effects of cannabis use, the cognitive effects of cannabis, the “controversial” cannabis psychosis, and importantly a number of excellent

reviews of the relationship between cannabis use and the onset and course of schizophrenia. These chapters critically review the latest research in these areas.

Practical issues are dealt with in the chapters that examine the link between cannabis and depression in young people. Importantly there is also an excellent review on what motivates patients with psychosis to continue using cannabis and equally importantly a chapter on addressing this problem in the clinical situation.

All in all, this is an excellent and up-to-date reference text for any professional with an interest in cannabis use and its links to psychopathology. All the chapters are extremely well written, the references are comprehensive and up to date, and it is a credit to the international group of contributors. This is an easy-to-read, evidence-based review of cannabis and is important in view of its increasing consumption especially by young people. This is indeed the informed persons' guide to marijuana use and its adverse sequelae. ■

Christopher Tennant²

Bulletin board: have your say.

Readers have the opportunity to comment on recently published articles that have appeared in the *Bulletin*, in the form of an informal letter to the editor. These comments will then be published on the *Bulletin's* web site, after quick editorial review, under our new “Bulletin board” section and a selection will be chosen to appear in the print version of the journal. Please visit our web site at <http://www.who.int/bulletin/en/> to access the latest articles and email your contributions to: bulletin@who.int.

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