



# **Starvation and India's Democracy (Routledge Advances in South Asian Studies)**

*Dan Banik*



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This book analyzes India's impressive efforts in responding to sensational and easily visible disasters in contrast to the 'silent emergency' of drought-induced under nutrition and starvation deaths. Building on Amartya Sen's famous claim that no famine has ever occurred in a democratic country, it re-examines the relationship between democracy, public action and famine prevention. Drawing on both quantitative and qualitative data in India at national, state and local levels as well as in-depth field visits to two states on India's east coast, Orissa and West Bengal, the author analyzes the following issues:

- the interaction between specific institutions in India and their accountability to the public
- the role of the media in highlighting problems of extreme poverty and destitution and the effectiveness of political and administrative responses to such reports
- the extent to which tribal groups are vulnerable to starvation and famine, and an analysis of whether starvation deaths in drought-prone Kalahandi district in Orissa are unique in India
- the impact of two major nutrition programmes, the Public Distribution System (PDS) and the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), in reducing the incidence, duration and impact of starvation deaths.

*Starvation and India's Democracy* will be of interest to researchers in economics, political science, philosophy, development studies and South Asian studies.

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