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This book brings together a set of studies on labour conditions in GVCs in a variety of sectors—ranging from labour-intensive sectors like garments, fresh fruits, tourism, to medium- and high-technology sectors like automobiles, electronics and telecom, and knowledge-intensive sectors (IT software services). The studies span a number of countries across Asia—Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

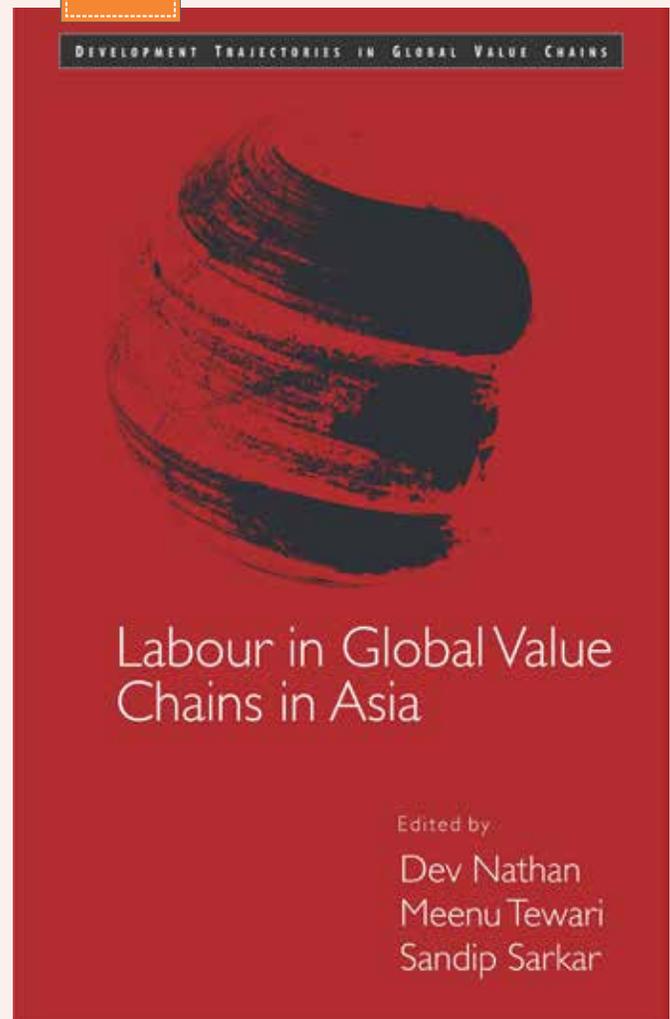
Participation as suppliers in GVCs has provided many benefits to Asia—increased employment in higher value activities or those with increasing returns, such as manufacturing and services, reduction in poverty, and the heightened participation of women in these modern sectors. However, this book also points to the continued weaknesses in these developments and the underside of participation in GVCs—such as the continuation of sweatshop conditions in several sectors, the persistence of child labour in many parts of GVC manufacture; the appearance of new forms of Taylorism in Call Centres; the high incidence of precarious employment in low-knowledge tasks, and so on. The book documents the uneven distribution of benefits along the value chain, the uneven patterns of the knowledge flows associated with out-sourcing and the contested nature of the impact of lead-firm business practices on wages and employment and work conditions in supplier countries, alongside the benefits of upgrading and job enlargement that has accompanied these same processes.

In trying to identify spaces for progressive action and policies in the current GVC-linked global work environment, the book goes against the grain in searching for an alternative to *laissez faire* forms of globalization.

Dev Nathan, *Institute for Human Development, India
and Duke University, USA*

Meenu Tewari, *University of North Carolina, USA*

Sandip Sarkar, *Institute for Human Development, India*



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Endorsements

"...an impressive number of case studies from several Asian countries to show how their specialized location in GVCs as 'supplier countries', different distribution of surplus along those chains and varying governance types structure...wages, employment relations and working conditions...This link between an increasingly important type of participation in international trade and conditions in the labor market and thus the process of development in general throws much-needed light on a topical subject of great concern in Asia and elsewhere."

Pranab Bardhan, Professor of Economics, University of California, Berkeley

"A conceptually coherent and empirically rich assessment of the complex and shifting position of labour in GVCs in Asia...very effectively uses different GVC governance types as an organising frame, but also gives full weight to the place-specific or 'horizontal' factors that powerfully shape the outcomes and opportunities for labour in GVCs ... an exciting contribution which deserves a wide readership across the field of GVC/global production network research and beyond."

Neil Coe, Professor of Geography, National University of Singapore

"This important book demonstrates...that GVCs are not delivering a fair share of the economic benefits to workers and that private compliance approaches have failed. It contributes to a better understanding of the underlying causes, which should help governments, companies and others interested in positively influencing working conditions in GVCs to distinguish worker-centered strategies that can lead to genuine change from mere window-dressing."

Jenny Holdcroft, Policy Director, IndustriALL Global Union

"...a major contribution to knowledge of how GVCs work, the wage and skill patterns that they create, the conditions under which gains for labour can be maximized and the ways in which the actors concerned are responding. It is required reading for anyone who wants to get behind the rhetoric of the global economy to understand the realities on the ground."

Gerry Rodgers, Former Director, International Institute of Labour Studies, Geneva

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