PREFACE

To do some work on the basic needs was one of my interests. The idea got further strengthened while going through the writings of some of my teachers. I could not choose a better occasion to translate this idea into study than doing my Ph.D. at the Jawaharlal Nehru University. While looking for the literature, I was fascinated by the works of Paul Streeten and Dharam Ghai on the basic needs approach to development. And it was probably this fascination which tempted me to present a research proposal on the theme and made me determined to carry forward the proposal. Although I had access to sufficient literature on the theoretical formulations of the basic needs studies, lack of substantive empirical work held back my attempt. Finally, I could succeed in getting the nod. Of course, the whole credit for that goes to the faculty of the Centre for the Study of Regional Development, especially to Dr. Sachidanand Sinha, and Professors Ashok Mathur and Amitabh Kundu.

A few words on the basic needs approach and the study. The basic needs approach as such does not aspire to present itself as a complete development strategy. It may at best be considered as an approach supplementing the earlier strategies of growth and employment promotion, and poverty reduction. All of these three strategies ultimately emphasized the growth of per capita income
so that the poor could satisfy their basic needs on their own income on the condition of automatic trickle down. But the thesis failed to deliver the goods in actual practice. As a result, an overwhelming number of the Third World population have been compelled to nurse abject poverty and were left with no option to satisfy their minimum needs such as food and nutrition, water and sanitation, health care, education, and housing. In other words, the trickle down theory has not been able to ensure the attainment of the ultimate objective of growth, viz. the provision of basic amenities to all.

Therefore, the basic needs approach has been suggested by the developmental experts to compensate for this failure of the growth strategies. This approach aims at achieving the full physical, mental and social development of human personality through a package of measures, and concentrates on the nature of what is provided rather than on income. It suggests for public provision of basic services for the specific target group who possibly may not be able to satisfy the basic needs on their own income. Under these presumptions, the present study has attempted to establish a triangular relationship among education, other basic needs and economic development. In essence, the study has looked into the mutual dependence among these three vital forces of the economy.

A brief introduction to the chapters may be presented here in order to obtain a broad outline of the present study. Chapter 1 introduces the problem, presents the theoretical framework,
and states the objectives and methodology of the study. Chapter 2 deals with critical appreciation of the available literature, besides attempting a debate on the basic needs approach and socio-economic values of education. Chapter 3 analyses the nature of relationship between basic needs fulfilment and the levels of economic development. Chapter 4 assesses the role of education in influencing the levels of basic needs satisfaction. Chapter 5 examines the mutual interactions between the levels of disparities in education and economic development. Finally, Chapter 6 summarizes the findings and outlines their implications.

If one thing deserves special mention here, it is the shortcomings of the study. The study has been limited to secondary sources of data because of several constraints including my physical conditions which prevented me from going for a primary survey. The available data were neither comprehensive nor adequate to explain the hypotheses of the problem I persisted with rather hastily. As a result, the empirical analyses could not come up to expectations, particularly in Chapters 3 and 4. I accept the responsibility of not doing justice to the rich literature published on the basic needs approach to development. Of course, I consider this study as a preliminary attempt on the field.

During the course of this study, I had the privilege of enjoying cooperation from all quarters. I cannot sufficiently express the help I received from my supervisor, Dr. Sachidanand
Sinha, all through. His was the decisive role that saw this work completed. Professors Ashok Mathur and Amitabh Kundu helped me to such an extent that I had no option but to complete the study. Their encouragement and suggestions at every stage led me to overcome the hazards of overcast mental conditions of mine. Besides, this research effort has greatly benefitted from my several discussions with them. The study and I myself personally owe a lot to all of them.

I am grateful to the Chairperson, Professor G. K. Chadha and the faculty of the Centre for their cooperation and help throughout my research career there. I am also grateful to Dr D. N. Rao for his useful suggestions and encouragement. My thanks are due to Drs. Asutosh Satpathy and Satyabrata Sahu for going through the drafts. Sanjay Dhall and Parthasarathi Mondal were always with me to share the trauma of Ph. D.

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I do not know if I could at all have sustained myself through this painful task without the compulsion of my friends. The demanding voice still gets echoed, saying 'you have to submit, you have to'. I failed to say no to such overwhelming concern. Finally, the patience of my family to bear my absence from home for years together made me forget to leave the work before completion.

However, I am only responsible for the errors, if any, in the study.

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