CHAPTER - VII
LEVELS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CHAPTER-VII

LEVELS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

7.1 INTRODUCTION:

Whether in a developed country or developing country, regional disparity is matter of prime concern because of the pace of socio-economic development is never even and smooth throughout the length and breadth of any country. It is greater uncertain areas as compared to others for a various socio-economic (e.g. differences in natural endowments, industrial structure, physical and culture infrastructures, agricultural achievements, demographic quality etc.) and historical reasons. As a result there emerge two distinct regions, such as, more developed and less developed.\(^1\) Arising from this problem of geo-economic regional disparity, two theoretical questions assume prime importance; (i) how is geo-economic growth spatially differentiated and (ii) what accounts for differential patterns and sequence of growth.

In India planners have been conscious of the existence of large inter-regional and intra-regional disparity in the levels of economic development and of the need to reduce them. Balanced Regional Development have been accepted as the objective of planning
and policies. In the foregoing pages the investigator has discussed and analysed sector-wise economic development of the study region at the level of areal units at which the data are available. From the study it is revealed that systematic analysis of regional difference in economic development or economic growth and the identification of less developed or slow developing region, have not received due attention of planners during the various plan periods. This study region remained backward and have gained little from economic planning. Though the developmental efforts have increased in every successive plan periods, its benefits have percolated more to the already developed areas, like Eastern Orissa Region. In favour of such a process it is argued that areas which have developed infrastructure and other overhead facilities are bound to attract more investments and, as such, it is not surprising that the benefit of additional investment is confined to such areas. However, from the viewpoint of balanced regional development if such a process continues for long the regional disparities may grow wider and benefits of planning may accrue to selected areas only. Seen in this context, it becomes essential to identify economically less developed areas, examine their development potentialities and formulate specific plans for their accelerated growth.

7.2 DETERMINANTS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Basically economic development implies the processes securing higher level of productivity in all sectors of economy. This, in turn, is a function of the levels of technology. For obtaining a higher level of technology the economy is required to forge the physical apparatus in the form of machines, equipments, tools and instruments
of production on the one hand and to train the labour force of the
region to make use of the physical apparatus thus created. In other
words, economic development is a process stepping up the rate of
capital formation. But, it must be emphasized that capital, though
necessary, is not a sufficient condition of the economic development
which depends on such non-economic factors as social attitude,
political conditions and human endowments. Economic development
thus depends upon two sets of factors economic and non-economic.

The non-economic factors provide the requisite social climate,
in which the seed of economic development can germinate to full
bloom. Therefore, it would be unwise to under-rate the importance
of social factors. Development is not governed in any country by
economic forces alone and more backward the country the more this
is true. The key to development lies in man's mind, in the institu-
tions in which the thinking finds expression and in the play of
opportunity on ideas and institutions.  

An underdeveloped economy is not only required to raise
the level of investment in order to initiate the process of growth
but is also required to gradually transform the social religious and
political institutions which act as obstacles to economic progress.
Consequently economic development cannot take place unless men are
educated. Thus, the rate of economic development depend upon factors,
both economic and non-economic, such as resources, capital investment,
technology, and the quality of population - physical, mental, social
and cultural.
Western Orissa Region possess vast natural resources. Most of them are un-utilised or under-utilised. Due to lack of other factors of economic development, such as, capital, technology, socio-political organisations, physical constraints, attitude of people etc. Socially and politically the region, barring a few pockets, is still backward. People are conservative and they are reluctant to adopt new chances in social and political field. However, the situation has improved after some efforts for tribal development and literacy programmes. During various plan periods attempts were made to bring innovations in the field of power, irrigation, minerals, industries, education etc. Consequently, economic development of the region is far behind the state and national average. Therefore, it is essential for the economic development of the region to develop the economic and non-economic factors of development. Without the development of these factors the economy of the region cannot develop.

7.3 APPROACHES:

Economic development refers to the process of developing a region for better living and economy. The study of economic development has attracted the attention of the economists right from Mercantile school and Adamsmith down to Marx and Keynes. The economists were, however, mainly interested in the problems which were essentially static in nature and largely related to west European framework of social and cultural institutions. It is however, in the forties of the present century and specially after World War-II, the economists, geographers and other social scientists started devoting their attention towards analysing the problems of under-developed
region and countries. This tendency in the economics of development has been further stimulated by the wave of political resurgence in Asia, Africa and South America. The leaders of the underdeveloped countries were committed to develop their countries more rapidly and to remove the age old poverty. On the other hand the developed countries also realised that poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere.

The term economic development is used interchangeably with such terms as economic growth, economic welfare, economic progress etc. But certain economists have made distinction between the more commonly used terms economic development and economic growth. Economic development refers to the problems of underdeveloped regions and economic growth to those of advanced countries. Development is a discontinuous and spontaneous change in the stationary state which forever alters and displaces the state of equilibrium previously existing. On the other hand economic growth is a gradual and steady change in the long run which comes about by a general increase in the rate of savings and and population. Development appears to be a more general expression where as growth is specialised one. Growth is more a tool rather than subject matter of studies, for economists. Development may be interpreted as to mean a change from or a transformation of the existing state of economy and related aspects for better. In the present work we are concerned with the development and its entire range of process and results. Economic growth may occasionally be employed to understand, interpret and project the processes and results of development in more concrete
In regional studies one is interested in precise delinination of regional disparities in the levels of economic development, because sectorwise study of economy does not give a real picutre and indication of areal variation in economic growth. It is realised that areal and regional imbalances in economic development are not only the major hurdle in achieving the national goal, but also it poses threat to peace and integrety of the nation. Hence, the approaches to the successive plans envisaged a wholistic regional development. This necessitated the identification of weak and strong areas according to national scale of economic development. But all efforts during the plan periods remained confined to macro and meso regional levels. Micro-regions suffering from economic disparities were not brought under the perview of any diagnostic study. Consequently literatures of informations regarding small areal variations in economic developments are lacking. Therefore, it becomes a difficult task to identify and delineate small areal units as per the national scale of economic development. Statistics available from census records and other Govt. agencies are inadequate to help in diagnosing smaller areal units like tahasils or community development blocks. So sub-divisions are chosen as areal units for the present study. In spite of all these handicaps efforts have been made to measure areal disparities and dilineation of planning regions by utilising available data from various secondary sources and from personal collections from unpublished official sources, field work and observations.
7.4 METHODOLOGY:

From the study of various literature in the field of geography, economics and regional planning it is observed that quite a good number of quantitative techniques have already been developed and applied in case of regional analysis and delimitation of planning regions. However, more fruitful results are obtained by the application of tools which are appropriate for the area of analysis and mathematically more sophisticated. The investigator is very much interested to apply sophisticated techniques like component analysis, but his hands are tight due to the non-availability of computer facilities and consultancy services, in the state. For this reason, the investigator has selected M.G Kendall's ranking method for the construction of composite index for each areal unit for different variables. The same method has also been applied by Mitra in classifying the Indian districts into four quartiles of development using 35 indicators of regional development. This ranking method of construction of composite index is expressed below:

\[ I_j = \sum_{i=1}^{n} R_{ij} \]

Where, \( I_j \) = Composit index of development of individual areal unit (Sub-division)

\( R_{ij} \) = The rank of the \( i \)th variable (each variable) in the \( j \)th area unit (individual areal unit)

\( n \) = the number of variables.

\[ \sum R_{ij} \] = Sum of the ranks of all the variables of the individual area unit (Sub-division)
In the present context, using Kendall's method the levels of development of eleven sub-divisions (the lowerst areal unit at which data are available from various sources) has to be ranked separately for each variable for four different time periods. The sum of seventeen ranks (of 17 variables) of a sub-division will give the composite score reflecting the levels of development of the sub-division. In the table the sub-divisions have been ranked 17 times according to their status for different variables as described earlier. The sub-divisions having highest status has been assigned first rank, the next highest has been assigned the second rank and so on. The assignment of ranks from higher to lower or vice versa depends upon the nature of the variables. In case of ties, which is a common problem in any ranking procedure, the convention to avoid this complication is to give them a rank value equal to the average of the successive ranks given to them.

Thus the composite scores of ranks have been calculated to show the overall development of all the sub-divisions of the study region based on the given seventeen variables for successive decadal time periods (1961, 1971, 1981 and 1990). These composite score of ranks are grouped into three regions of high, medium and low development on the basis of their scores for four time periods. Those groupings are compared for the better assessment of the nature and direction of growth.

In this method the observations are ranked and their ranks become new variables. However, before the application of the above
mentioned technique the investigator has duly, considered the following points.

(1) The rank variables are discrete and has no dimension,
(2) The values of two consecutive ranks do not have an equal amount of difference in their original values,
(3) Mean, standard Deviation and Coefficient of Variation of all the variables after ranking becomes equal,
(4) The larger the number of variables, the smaller will be the distortion in composite index due to ranking.

With in the above mentioned limitations the category wise variables with respect to the individual sub-divisions of the system of region under study has been computed for four time periods, that is, 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1990. The details about the analysis and interpretation of the compiled data have been discussed in the subsequent paragraphs under separate headings.

7.5 CHOICE OF INDICATORS:

Comparison of economic development and growth of different areal units involves the selection or choice of suitable indicators depends largely on their suitability as the measures of development and availability of adequate and accurate data on them. The multi-indicator approach to measure the levels of economic development has been adopted successfully by several regional scientists like Mitra\textsuperscript{14}, Sharma\textsuperscript{15}, Pattanaik and Chattopadhyaya\textsuperscript{16}, Pathak\textsuperscript{17}, and Pal\textsuperscript{18}, in Indian context, because it helps to have an aggregate pictuure
of regional disparities in levels of development. For this reason the Multi-indicator Approach to measure the spatial variation in the levels of economic development is followed here.

In the present study levels of economic development have been analysed in four sectors, such as, demographic, agricultural, industrial and infrastructure sectors. In the demographic aspect population density, percentage of urban population, percentage of literates, percentage of primary, secondary and tertiary workers are considered as they indicate the levels of development and for those data is available from various official sources in the raw form. Likewise, in the agricultural sector cropping intensity, yield rate of major crop (Paddy) and percentage of irrigated area to net sown area are chosen. From infrastructure or human efforts sector intensity of surfaced roads, rate of power consumption, number of hospital beds, post offices and school (only primary and secondary) per ten thousand population and from industrial sector number of registered factories and number of financial institutions (including public and private sector commercial banks, cooperative banks) are selected. As the date for other such relevant variables are not available for the entire study time periods (1961, 1971, 1981, 1990) and at the level of chosen areal unit (sub-division) for comparison, the study is based upon a total of seventeen variables covering above mentioned sectors. Though the variables are not in large numbers, they are in consistency with the work in the field of regional analysis by various regional scientists. The analysis is to be done for four
decadal time periods such as, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1990. The selected indicators (variables) are defined below:

$V_1$. Population density per square kilometre in the Sub-division.

$V_2$. Percentage of Urban population to total population in the Sub-division.

$V_3$. Percentage of literates to total population in the Sub-division.

$V_4$. Percentage of primary workers (Primary activities include cultivators, agricultural labourers, workers in livestock, forestry, fishing and allied activities and mining and quarrying activities looking to the census classification accepted in 1981 census) to total workers in the Sub-division.

$V_5$. Percentage of secondary workers (include the workers categories of household industries and other than household industries as per 1981 census) to total workers in the sub-division.

$V_6$. Percentage of Tertiary Workers (include workers in construction, trade and commerce, transport, storage and Communications, and other service sectors) to total workers in the Sub-division.

$V_7$. Intensity of cropping, that is, percentage of cultivated area sown more than once to total cultivated area.
The above variables selected for the present study are chosen with a view to measure the levels of development as they reflect the developmental characteristics. These indicators from a large number of them (for which data are not available for the present study region) are traditionally accepted as indicators of development by various regional analysts.

7.6 INTERPRETATION:

With the application of the composite ranking technique the investigator has computed the sub-division-wise Composite ranks.
### TABLE - 7.6.1
Western Orissa - Sub-division-wise Study of Level of Development (1961)

| Sub-Divisions | Density (per sq. km) | Urbanity | AWC | Per Capita | Land Kms | Work-K Crews | Work-K Crews | Work-K Crews | Work-K Crews | Total Work-K Crews | Total Work-K Crews | Total Work-K Crews | Total Work-K Crews | Total Work-K Crews | Total Work-K Crews | Total Work-K Crews | Total Work-K Crews | Total Work-K Crews |
|---------------|----------------------|----------|-----|------------|----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Belagiri      | 2.39                 | 0.63     | 1.98| 21.2       | 31.2     | 20.6          | 10.2          | 10.2          | 10.2          | 10.2                | 10.2                | 10.2                | 10.2                | 10.2                | 10.2                | 10.2                | 10.2                | 10.2                |
| Sonapur      | 3.05                 | 0.73     | 2.81| 23.8       | 32.8     | 22.6          | 12.6          | 12.6          | 12.6          | 12.6                | 12.6                | 12.6                | 12.6                | 12.6                | 12.6                | 12.6                | 12.6                | 12.6                |
| Patanagarh   | 3.10                 | 0.75     | 2.99| 25.2       | 35.2     | 25.4          | 15.4          | 15.4          | 15.4          | 15.4                | 15.4                | 15.4                | 15.4                | 15.4                | 15.4                | 15.4                | 15.4                | 15.4                |
| Titagarh     | 3.12                 | 0.76     | 2.99| 27.2       | 37.2     | 27.4          | 17.4          | 17.4          | 17.4          | 17.4                | 17.4                | 17.4                | 17.4                | 17.4                | 17.4                | 17.4                | 17.4                | 17.4                |
| Kalahandi    | 3.13                 | 0.76     | 2.99| 29.2       | 39.2     | 29.4          | 19.4          | 19.4          | 19.4          | 19.4                | 19.4                | 19.4                | 19.4                | 19.4                | 19.4                | 19.4                | 19.4                | 19.4                |
| Nabarangapur | 3.15                 | 0.76     | 2.99| 33.2       | 43.2     | 33.4          | 23.4          | 23.4          | 23.4          | 23.4                | 23.4                | 23.4                | 23.4                | 23.4                | 23.4                | 23.4                | 23.4                | 23.4                |
| Phulbani     | 3.2 0.79             | 3.01     | 2.99| 35.2       | 45.2     | 35.4          | 25.4          | 25.4          | 25.4          | 25.4                | 25.4                | 25.4                | 25.4                | 25.4                | 25.4                | 25.4                | 25.4                | 25.4                |
| Boudha       | 3.21                 | 0.79     | 3.01| 37.2       | 47.2     | 37.4          | 27.4          | 27.4          | 27.4          | 27.4                | 27.4                | 27.4                | 27.4                | 27.4                | 27.4                | 27.4                | 27.4                | 27.4                |
| Belaguda     | 3.22                 | 0.79     | 3.01| 39.2       | 49.2     | 39.4          | 29.4          | 29.4          | 29.4          | 29.4                | 29.4                | 29.4                | 29.4                | 29.4                | 29.4                | 29.4                | 29.4                | 29.4                |

**Source:**
1. Directorate of Census Operations, Bhubaneswar, Orissa.

### Class Intervals (Total ranks)
- 20-70
- 70-120
- 120-160

### Level sub-division in the Group (Cl)
- Belagiri, Titagarh
- Sonapur, Kalahandi, Patanagarh, Boudha
- Phulbani, Dhamangharh, Nabangara, Belaguda
### TABLE - 7.6.2

**Western Orissa - Sub-division-wise Study of Levels of Development (1971)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-division in the group (CT)</th>
<th>Belangir</th>
<th>Titlagarh</th>
<th>Somepur</th>
<th>Patangarh</th>
<th>Tirtagarh</th>
<th>Kalahandi</th>
<th>Dhangarh</th>
<th>Newapara</th>
<th>Fasubeni</th>
<th>Huch</th>
<th>Beliguda</th>
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<td>Total workers</td>
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<td>122</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>88</td>
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<td>115.22</td>
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<td>116.09</td>
<td>116.57</td>
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<td>98.6</td>
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<td>Total work-days (1000 pers.)</td>
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<td>Class Intervals (Table rank)</td>
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<td>70-12C</td>
<td>12C-17C</td>
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</table>

Source: 1. Directorate of Census Operations, Bhubaneswar, Orissa.
### TABLE 7.6.3

**Master Orissa - Sub-division-wise study of Levels of Development (1981)**

| Sub-Divisions | Polo. | $\%$ of | $\%$ of | $\%$ of | $\%$ of | $\%$ of | $\%$ of | R Yield | R Length | R Per | No. of | No. of | No. of | No. of | No. of | No. of | No. of | R. Corpo.
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<td>4</td>
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**Source:** 1. Directorate of Census Operations, Bhubaneswar, Orissa.

### Class Intervals (Total Rank)

- **20-70:** Belangir, Titagarh, Sonepur
- **70-120:** Kalahandi, Patnagarh, Phulamun, Boudh
- **120-170:** Dhenaghar, Navaopara, Beliguda
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<th>Sub. R $ of R</th>
<th>$ of R</th>
<th>Inten. R $ of R</th>
<th>R $ of R</th>
<th>Length R</th>
<th>Per R</th>
<th>No. of House R</th>
<th>No. of Schools R</th>
<th>No. of Rural Health Centers R</th>
<th>No. of Panchayat R</th>
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Source: 1. Directorate of Census Operations, Bhubaneswar, Orissa.
of seventeen variables in the district of Western Orissa for four time periods, i.e. 1961, 1971, 1981, 1990 (Table 7.6.1, 7.6.2 & 7.6.3 & 7.6.4). The minimum composite rank score refers to higher level of development and the level of development is lower with the increasing composite rank score. From the computed results it is found that the minimum Composite rank score has been assigned to Balangir Sub-division followed by Titlagarh Sub-division as against the maximum composite rank score has been secured by Baliguda Sub-division in all the four time periods mentioned above. The reasons for Balangir to be the most prospective Sub-division are, firstly, the capital of Patna state (the biggest Princely State merged into Orissa Province in 1948), Balangir is located in this Sub-division. Which is one of the most developed towns of the State. Secondly, as the then ruler of Patna state Maharaja Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo became the Chief Minister of Orissa after the merger of the Princely state and took keen interest in the developmental work of the Sub-division at all spheres. The reasons for Titlagarh becoming second prospective Sub-division are, the Titlagarh railway junction being the only railway junction in the region, which handles the exchange of goods and services between three States Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Eastern Madhya Pradesh. It lies between the Vishakha-patnam Port and Raipur commercial centre of Madhya Pradesh and handles the trade of agricultural and forest products of the entire region. Subsequently during 1984 after the establishment of Ordance factory at Saintala and Plywood factory near Titlagarh accelerated the prospect of growth of the region. Likewise, the reasons for
Baliguda remaining as the most backward Sub-division in region are obvious. This Sub-division lies with a unforourable physical terrain and infested by high concentration of tribal population. The sub-division is not properly connected by road to different parts of the region and the State Capital in the major part of the year. It is lagging far behind in all aspects of study. So, this became a depressed region with very low rate of development.

There are peculiarities in case of Sonepur Sub-division which was the third developed Sub-division under the region under study. It was a drought prone area during 1961 and afterwards by the completion of canal irrigation system of Hirakud Dam Project, major portion of the Sub-division became irrigated and the rate of development has been accelerated at an attractive pace. Birmaharajpur was declared as a new sub-division by carving out the portion of Sonepur lying on the northern side of river Mahanadi in 1987. Due to less accessibility, no irrigation facility and less degree of infrastructural development this Sub-division could not become a prospective one like Sonepur at present. But there is a brilliant future of this Sub-division which will be open up after its all weather connection to Balangir district headquarters, and Orissa State Capital after the completion of construction of a bridge on Mahanadi which is under way. This Sub-division is rich in agricultural and other allied resources.

Another interesting feature, which should be noted here, is the status of Phulbani and Kalahandi sub-division with in which
lie the district headquarters towns of Phulbani and Kalahandi districts. They could not come under the prospective region due to the mono-functional status of their captive towns (only administrative) and lower degree of accessibility, low literacy rate, high concentration of tribal population and remote location. There is a degrading trend in case of Boudh sub-division after the shifting of district headquarters from this sub-division to Phulbani Sub-division.

With these peculiarities the region has been sub-divided into three planning regions in four time periods and from the comparison the trend of growth has been visualised.

7.7 REGIONALISATION:

With assimilation of the scores of various indicators analysed in the Table No.7.6.1 to 7.6.4 under discussion, grouping of areal units is possible to depict the pattern of development through time. From the behaviour of data analysis in table no.7.6.1 to 7.6.4 it appears that Balangir sub-division has obtained higher level of economic development consistently with composit rank scores of 20, 22, 22, & 26 in 1961, 1971, 1981 & 1990 respectively. The reasons for the disparity has been specifically discussed in the earlier pages. However, in stead of analysing the sub-division-wise composite rank scores here the investigator has grouped all the areal units of Western Orissa in various time periods into three categories of planning regions according to their levels of development gauged through the composite ranking scores constructed by the analysis of seventeen developmental indicators choosen and analysed in earlier
pages. The range between the rank scores are divided into the number of groups desired and the class intervals are designed to group the areal units to demarcate the regions according to their levels of development on the basis of the constructed composit ranking scores. On that basis, three regions are delineated for the four decadal time periods as described below.

1. Region of High Level of Development.
2. Region of Medium Level of Development.
3. Region of Low Level of Development.

The areal units (Sub-divisions) grouped under the above regional structure are identified and mapped, vide figure numbers 7.7.1, 7.7.2, 7.7.3 & 7.7.4 in order to highlight the overall areal variations of Western Orissa, the region under study, for four decadal time periods, such as 1961, 1971, 1981 & 1990 respectively.

7.7.1 Region of High Level of Development:

As revealed from the analysis of the data Balangir Titlagarh, were under this region in 1961 and Sonepur was included in this region in 1971 and continues to be with in this region till 1990. This region includes the sub-divisions falling within the group with the composite ranking score of 20-70 in 1961, 1971 & 1981 and 25-75 in 1990. From the study in the preceding pages it is clear that Balangir, Titlagarh and Sonepur lie within the valleys and plains, particularly on Mahanadi Plains, Tel Plains, Ong Valley and Titlagarh Plains, with the favourable Physical terrain, this region also enjoys some other specific advantages to be placed within
the region of high levels of development. Balangir sub-division and Titlagarh Sub-division were within the territorial limit of most prosperous princely state of Orissa Patna State merged into Orissa in 1948 with its capital at Balangir and commercial centre at Titlagarh. Balangir sub-division is rich in agricultural, industrial and other infrastructural potentialities since the historical past. After independence, also, Balangir and Titlagarh were favourably treated in the political sphere, as the then King of Patna State, became the Chief Minister of Orissa. He influenced the administrative machineries to pay special attention to Balangir sub-division in particular. As regards Titlagarh sub-division it was the ancient seat of trade and commerce handling the trade of agricultural and forest products of the entire region. Being the only railway junction of the region, Titlagarh town enjoys a nodal position, as it serves as a centre of exchange of goods, services and passengers between the states of Andhra Pradesh in the South-east and Madhya Pradesh in the west. This inter-state transaction accelerated the pace of development. Besides, all these consideration, this region is also rich in the agricultural and industrial sector. In Titlagarh sub-division one Ordance Factory of Defence Ministry of Government of India was established in 1984 and a number of ancillary industries developed with industrial intertia generated from that. Industrial Development Corporatioon of Orissa established one Plywood Factory, one shoe factory and a sizeable number of small units came into existence in the private sector. In case of Sonepur the explanation is peculiar. Sonepur sub-division was included within this region in 1971. Before that it was a drought prone area with lesser degree of agricultural
development. Due to the commissioning of Hirakud Canal Irrigation system major portion of this sub-division came under perennial irrigation facility, thereby, boosting the rate of development of this region to promote this to be included in the region of high level of development. This region with all three of its areal units scored higher ranks in almost all the selected indicators of development consistently throughout the last three decades. The rate of growth is well marked in these subdivisions as compared to other sub-divisions under study. Due to this the planning measures can be successfully adopted in this region with expected results.

7.7.2 Region of Medium Level of Development:

This region comprises of Kalahandi, Patnagarh, Phulbani and Boudh according to the analysis and grouping of composite rank scores for 1971, 1981 & 1990. But in 1961 the picture was different. During 1961 Sonepur was included in this region, whereas Phulbani was excluded from this region. In 1990 Birmaharajpur a new sub-division established in 1987, was included in this region. This region is characterised by similar physical terrain, historical background and agricultural pursuits like that of the region of high level of development with wide ranging variations in industrial and infrastructural sector. Kalahandi and Phulbani are the district headquarters of both the districts and the Sadar sub-divisions with the seats of district administration. In 1961 Boudh was the district headquarters of Phulbani district and was the only urban centre in the district as per the census. So during that year Phulbani was excluded from this region due to the lesser degree of development. Likewise,
Sonepur sub-division was under this region in 1961, as it was agriculturally less developed due to the lack of perennial irrigation facility. It was a drought affected area. Afterwards during 1964-1965 after the completion of Hirakud irrigation canal system major portion of the area under different crops were irrigated permanently and the industrial sector also gained momentum during the period by the introduction of power-looms in weaving of famous Sonepuri Silk products, by that Sonepur sub-division was upgraded with higher levels of economic development and was included in the region of high level of development. Kalahandi, Boudh and Patnagarh sub-divisions were maintaining the same level of economic development throughout the entire study period for over forty years. Birmaharajpur sub-division came under the perview of this region after it is identified as a separate one in 1987. It was previously a part of Sonepur sub-division located on the north of the River Mahanadi. This sub-division is characterised by lesser degree of accessibility and lower rate of infrastructural and industrial development. Even, it is not connected by a all weather road to the district headquarters till now. From the study of the behaviour of data, it is noticed that the composite ranking scores are comparatively lower than the developed sub-divisions and sharply higher than the region with low level of development. From the analysis of the trend of growth, it is hoped that Kalahandi sub-division will be pushed forward on the lines of the high level of development as it has already attracted the attention of the Government of India for the problem of regular drought, which is high lighted in the national level news.
papers regularly. Special assistance is given from the Central Government to uplift the district of Kalahandi as a whole, under the direct supervision of the Prime Ministers. After the completion of Indravati Multi-purpose Dam Project the entire Western Orissa Region and particularly Kalahandi and Phulbani districts will be gaining much in the power and irrigation sector. The development of small industries will also follow automatically with improved power situation. So, there is a good future for Kalahandi Sub-division to develop further. But for the rest of the constituent sub-divisions like Phulbani, Boudh, Patnagarh and Birmaharajpur the transitional nature may continue to exist due to lack of any prospective economic thrust.

7.7.3 Region of Low Level of Development:

This region includes Dharamgarh, Nawapara and Baliguda sub-divisions. Phulbani was under this region in 1961, but it was uplifted again to be included under the region of medium level of development from 1971. This region covers about 31.2% of the total area of the region under study. The Baliguda Sub-division of Phulbani district remained most undeveloped throughout the study period with composite ranking scores of 167, 168, 168.5 and 178 in 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1990 respectively as compared to the ranking scores of 20, 22 and 22 and 26 in the same period for Balangir Sub-division. The reasons for the low level of development of this region are many. The main cause of its backwardness is its remoteness. This region is historically backward without any strong heritage. High concentration of tribal population, low level of literacy (lowest in the country), lesser degree of accessibility with adverse physical
terrain kept this region out of the main stream of development. Besides, these natural endowment, this region do not possess any potentiality for the development agriculture and industries. The region is rich in mineral and forest resources, which are yet to be exploited properly and reasonably. The future of agricultural and industrial growth is not prospective, as these are no supported by any infrastructure. The position of power supply and irrigation in this region is very poor. The climate is also not favourable to support the rate of growth. The region is not served by any railway line and the density of surfaced road is very less. The other characteristics of this region are low level of literacy, absence of any urban centre, low cropping intensity, low yield rate, lack of public utility services. With these bottlenecks the region is lagging for behind as compared to other parts of the study region. Still there is a hope for Nawapara and Dharamgarh sub-division of Kalahandi district to develop after the completion of Indravati Project in the agricultural and industrial sector. But, there is no positive indication of growth in case of Baliguda sub-division of Phulbani district. Owing to inadequate transport and communication links, economically and culturally backward population, uneconomic utilisation of resources, this sub-division along with the other two have always remained at the lower level of development. Besides, they are cut off and remote from the main centres of activities and suffer from isolation. As such they are not likely to catch up with other areas in near future, particularly the Baliguda sub-division. It is, therefore, suggested that a special package of development programme should be implemented with care to develop the region.
7.8 CONCLUDING REMARKS:

From the above analysis it may be concluded that the majority of the sub-divisions of Western Orissa have still remained under-developed in comparison to State and National average by the end of 1990 (Statistics available from census Directorate, District statistical offices, National Sample Survey and other such organisations). More emphasis is yet to be given for balanced utilisation of locally available resources. The rural areas are yet to enjoy the fruit of planned development. Unless these sectors are properly developed the regional disparity in the levels of development within the region under study will increase further instead of decreasing in future. It is pertinate to note here, that a detailed study has to be conducted for balanced utilisation of local resources for their proper exploitation and for the integrated rural development, may be done viewing the sectoral aspects of economy at the sub-division level or even at community development block-level, so as to give the planning a grass root approach. From the foregoing discussions, it is quite evident that the Western Orissa region is having immense potentialities for development. Despite planned developmental efforts since 1950-51, the overall achievements are quite unsatisfactory. An integrated approach to the problems above the political considerations will be right approach for the balanced development of this region.

REFERENCES:


4. **Identification of Backward Area** (1969) P.17, Planning Commission, Govt. of India.


