PREFAE

Planning is a way of thinking about social and economic problems. For regional planning has an economic bias and is primarily concerned with the centrally directed allocation of resources between regions to achieve certain objectives.

The present work was mooted with a view to study a relatively backward area with several human and physical challenges, for purpose of planned development. What has observed generally is that only particular areas / tahsils get preference in developmental activities and sizable areas are consistently neglected, for one reason or another. In order to understand the present position of Ahmadnagar district, in this respect from where I hail, it is accomplish a through study of its problems and prospects; such a study alone shall be helpful in fixing priorities etc, in future.

Ahmadnagar district is unique one in respect of geographical set-up in many ways. It occurs in the drought prone area of Maharashtra state and regional imbalances are extremely pronounced in it. The northern part of the district presents a contrast with the southern, so far as the economic development is concerned. Northern part is agriculturally more developed due to irrigation facilities, while the southern part is lacking in these facilities.
Agricultural development is one of the index of economic development. Consequently, the agro-based industries gives a momentum to its economic pattern of density of population too. The northern part of the district is more developed than the southern one, thus there are glaring contrasts between northern and southern areas.

To remove economic imbalances is the goal of regional planning and the district has selected for that sort of study. The first and foremost goal of a planner is to identify the region in all respects and suggest solutions in this light.

The author is well acquainted with the region that helped him in knowing the region and thus, has a better insight into the problems of the area. Therefore in a better position, to evaluate the conditions during the course of study.

In the present work, scientific methods are used in the laboratory. The description is based on primary data, collected in the field, and the secondary data gathered through various sources have utilised for this purpose. The work of mapping has accomplished using suitable cartographic and statistical techniques to enhance the quality of work.
Suitable statistical techniques used in the analysis of the various attributes of regional planning. The description is based upon the cause and effect model which based on factual data.

The first chapter meaning, nature and scope deals with the introduction and discusses the nature and importance of study. Meaning and concept of region, regionalism, regionalisation and socio-economic development, modernisation and gandhian approach, objectives, methodology, data-sources and design of the study, choice of study, area and processes of regional development etc. are the sub-topic of the study region.

Chapter second Geographical setting gives the vivid picture of the geographical personality of the study area that includes its physical and cultural setting.

Chapter third, Resource base appraised considers the some important resources and their potential viz. hydrological, resources, solar energy, biogas-potential, wind power potential, natural scenery and cultural heritage as a resource and population as a resource etc.

Chapter fourth, Demographic aspect, gives the picture of variation and density of population, literacy, sex-ratio, migration, urbanisation, occupational structure etc.
Chapter fifth settlement pattern, rank order and settlement system gives the vivid picture of the size of the rural, urban settlement, population, function, growth of settlements etc., as well the ranks of settlements and settlement system of the district and old and new road pattern etc.

Chapter sixth umland analysis as a viable methodology for micro level planning treats the variables used and the demarcation of various service zones based on these parameters separately for each tahsil centre of the district. Service zones of Ahmadnagar discusses further the measurement of shape and area of each service zones. Their gradient along with the eco-system; and theoretical umland.

Thus this study helps us to know the rural-urban relationships as well as rural service centres and surrounding area relationships and to understand the areas that are poorly served which need priority in adding certain inputs from the viewpoint of planning and thus this study adds a new dimensions.

In chapter seven, two models of socio-economic development have prepared for the Ahmadnagar district. Secondly planning regions of Ahmadnagar district have demarcated. Lastly conclusion is given.