INTRODUCTION

Planning in general is conceived as an allocation of resources to achieve centrally directed, defined economic objectives. Regional Planning, on the other hand is a process to integrate the horizontal and vertical space by making regional resource inventory and their allocation according to the requirements to achieve balanced regional development which includes both sectoral and spatial dimensions. Regional Planning and development studies have drawn more attention from academicians, administrators and planners, during the last three decades and a good number of serious attempts have been done in India and abroad covering both theory and practical aspects of the subject. The development of this field of study is not merely a specialization, rather it is need of the hour. These studies have become more relevant and necessary in planned economic system for the planning process and allocation of resources at National and regional levels for achieving faster balanced development. The subject matter of regional planning is by and large conceived from geography and economics.
Integrated area development approach has been recognised as an important aspect of planning at the regional level especially in the developing countries. Integrating in planning at the functional level is done through a sectoral approach and at the spatial level through one based on service centres. This approach in planning aims at an integrated sectoral development through a heirarchy of service centres and their hinterlands. Obviously then for integrated area planning the planner is required to develop a spatial frame work on the basis of which sectoral and inter sectoral investment decisions can be made.

The rural folk are mainly engaged in agriculture and allied sectors which are in a backward stage due to lack of adequate infrastructures e.g. water supply, management, fertilizers, pesticides etc., and socio-economic prerequisites. Physical and social constraints have also affected the agricultural development to a larger extent. What should be the appropriate strategy and areal unit for the rural development plans and how its implementation can obtain the desired goal of the rural development? Several such questions do arise before the planners of the present day.

Overall planning is an innovation, introduced originally in the Socialistic countries as an integral element of a new approach.
to the promotion of socio-economic development and structural change. However, the approach of integrated area development was enunciated for the first time in U.S.A. in the form of introductory policy of regional planning by G.L. Shah. In India the integrated rural development is not a new concept. Several pioneering experiments were attempted by many eminent people in the first quarter of the present century. Poet Ravindra Nath Tagore was the first to begin a planned programme of rural reconstruction of villages through Santiniketan in 1920. In 1927, F.L. Brayne tried to approach the problem of development from different corners for the development of Gurgaon district, i.e. co-operative, education, agriculture, social reforms etc. Mahatma Gandhi started constructive programme of rural reconstruction first at Sevagram in 1920 and later at Wardha in 1938.

Our planners realised the Gandhian concept of rural development which reminded us that the Soul of India lives in her villages and in rural reconstruction alone lies her salvation. Therefore they officially initiated Community Development Programme in the Country on 2nd of October, 1952. Unfortunately the Community Development Programme failed to provide appropriate results. Lack of co-ordination between various developmental programmes, lack of peoples participation and lack of spatio-functional co-ordination
were the main causes of this failure the Fourth Five Year Plan in 1969, it emphasised the urgency of an integrated approach to planning by geographers, development planners, Sociologists, engineers and other allied scientists.

During the Fifth Five Year Plan, a number of comprehensive area development programmes were launched with the main objective to provide employment, equity in living and social justice to the people and in order to reduce the gaps among several sections of the society, 'target area' and 'target group' oriented programmes, such as Small Farmers Development Agency, Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers Programme, Drought Prone Area Programmes, Command Area Development Schemes etc. were launched all over the country during 1974-77. In the Sixth Five Year Plan, these programmes have been placed into one which now appear as 'Integrated Rural Area Development'. Recently a new approach i.e. "Local peoples participation" concept has been developed for the development of that region.


**METHODOLOGY**

The present study work 'Integrated Rural Area Development and Planning of Belthra Road Tahsil' is the outcome of detailed and intensive study. Previously the name of Belthra Road tahsil was “Bahustra” which means of many layers. Since this area is the outcome of deposition of sediments through layer after layers by river Ghaghra. So, the name of this area was Bahustra which is mentioned in the novel " Banbhatta Ki Aatmakatha," by Dr. Hazari Prasad Dwevedi. Later on Bahustra was modified to Belthra Road.
It attempts to provide a comprehensive frame work for a coordinated and balanced development of the entire region based on its resource materials and its man-power.

The basic objective of this study is to provide a better standard of living and employment to the people of the region through the optimum utilization of land and irrigation potentials, proper arrangements for agricultural credit, livestock improvement, marketing facilities, provision of better health an education and development of transport system. In order to achieve these goals the quantitative as well as qualitative approach has been adopted to evaluate the development potential of the study region. The present study, except its theoretical part is primarily based on available literature, personal knowledge, official records, field observations and analysis of data and various other informations. Broad and general informations on socio-economic development of the study area was collected from District statistical office, Block Headquarters, District Industrial centre, Khadi and Gramodyog Board etc. Many other offices were also contacted for the detailed informations in this regard. Interview with head of various departments, leaders of several villages were also sought for explanation and analysis of information and data provided by them.

Collected information and data were mostly related to agricultural landuse, industrial sectors, production, cropping pattern,
education, health, transport and communication system of the region. Data related to population and their occupational structure are based on the District census Handbook of Ballia District, and provisional data of 2001. With all these, three type of questionnaires were used for collecting some primary statistics and for filling up the questionnaire, help was also taken from village leaders, School teachers, farmers, village-level workers and others. The informations and data of all categories were arranged systematically with the help of statistical techniques into classes and tables. Diagrams and maps were prepared on the basis of analysis to obtain a clear view of the analysis as well as of the study area.

Belthra Road Tahsil, the area under study is one of the backward tahsils of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. It has a predominantly agricultural economy with heavy population pressure and developed secondary sector. So, the region is facing a number of socio-economic problems. Such type of region requires intensive planning of grass-roots level for its balanced development. Of all the major elements of regional growth, industry, agriculture, health, education etc. have been taken into account for planning the study area.

The whole theme of the integrated rural development and planning have been arranged into seven chapters. Chapter-1 provides the geographical background of physical resources,
including relief, drainage, climate, soil and flood occurrences. Chapter-II analysis the human resources and cultural setting i.e. landuse pattern, biotic resource etc. of the study area. Chapter-III presents a detailed analysis of basic planning units and planning for the socio-economic services. Six functional groups with nineteen functions were identified in the study area for identification of service centres and their composite index were calculated. Chapter-IV gives an account of transport and communication centres including Post Office, telephone etc. Chapter-V presents a detailed analysis of agriculture- including landholdings, man-land ratio, rural technology, agricultural mechanisation and production. Chapter-VI analyses the scope of planning for industrial development. The industrial employment, their potentialities etc. have been discussed. Chapter-VIII first summarises the problems and subsequently put forth 'An Integrated Rural Development and Plan". It is followed by Summary and Conclusion of the whole study.

**REFERENCES**


