CHAPTER 7

CONCLUSION
CHAPTER SEVEN

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The spatial analysis of 'Regional Development of Karnataka' as discussed in the earlier chapters, has brought out clearly some of the physical diversities and economic complexities involved in regional development. The dimensions of the problems of development and the perspectives have been clearly analysed. The basic concepts involved in regional development have also been explained in order to test the efficacy of the techniques of 'economic planning' for balanced regional development, particularly in view of the spelt objectives of the Constitution of India and the Five Year Plans. The entire exercise is aimed at finding a 'growth path' and suggesting the technique of economic regionalisation as a feasible strategy for balanced regional development of Karnataka.

Ever since Karl Marx attributed inter-personal, inter-sectoral and even the inter-regional imbalances to man's failure to harness the natural resources to common good or mismanagement of resources, by man, there has been a renewed hope that some of these imbalances can be remedied by collective action. As such, strategies are formulated to bring in Government intervention to secure the welfare of the weaker sections and ensure social justice and equity. But the real experiences of such Governmental Intervention have been one of despair in the absence of a strong will to reform the existing system which is favourable to vested interests and those who control the factors of production.
Regional development is concomitant to national development and the national economic development is the function of three controlling factors: 1. the basic structure regional, social and economic; 2. the productive processes: development of human and other resources and running the full cycle of production processes; and 3. the stage of human development. over time-historical, economic, social and cultural. Here the importance of politico-administrating poverty, creating full employment and the establishment of a just social order based on equity and justice cannot be underestimated.

Thus the entire process of regional development planning needs an in-depth study of resources potentialities - both natural and human. It is the mosaic of physico-cultural landscape that has to be viewed in a relative and dynamic sense. It is unfortunate that some planners dismiss the whole concept of regional planning as a futile academic exercise in the present set-up. Quite for some, there is no absolute sense in which development can be achieved and the whole idea of achieving a 'balanced regional development' is utopian, or simply too idealistic to be put into practice. But these should not detain or make us desist us from taking appropriate steps to alleviate regional and sectoral imbalances in growth and aim at allround development.

In chapter one certain basic tenets of development and the planning concepts have been briefly reviewed and the goal is set in order to prepare a model that would suit the regional development of Karnataka. There ought to exist no constraints in proper implementation of the goals enunciated in the constitution of India, particularly the 'directive principles'; the Preamble amply justifies the need for establishing just social and economic order in society and all efforts must be directed towards this end. Hence the present thesis aims at keeping these objectives in mind while elaborately dealing with the regional planning techniques.
Several economic models have been tried since the inception of the National Planning Commission and the launching of the First Five Year Plan (1951-56). Many of these models and fiscal policies designed to achieve harmonious regional and sectoral development have only contributed to widen the regional disparities and now the time has come to review these policies. Unless the entire structure is altered to suit the requirements of the constitutional obligations, there is bound to be disparities. There is no single model that encompasses the multi-faceted regional development. None of the existing models exhibit any real solution but all of them revolve around the real problem of spatial organisation. It has been pointed out that 'cognition and utilisation of the objective economic laws of socialism is essential if the plans are to be realistic and scientifically based'. (Acchishkin 1980). This needs a careful study if the purpose of the amendment of the Constitution to redesignate India as the 'Sovereign Democratic Socialist Secular Republic' is to be meaningful. The Boudevillean and the Isardian models of regional development have only widened the gap between the sectors - agricultural and industrial, the rural and the urban. Many of the multi-million Rupee industrial projects have become the devouring monsters in backward regions threatening the very existence of the tribals for whom the projects were supposed to bring prosperity. The examples of Rourkela and Bhilai Steel Plants are glaring examples that could be cited here. Many of the economic models employed so far have come handy to increase the tempo of exploitation of the scarce resources in the name of rapid economic development without any regard for the preservation of environmental quality or the physical quality of life, of the people. In the absence of a recepient premeable structure of society the benefits of the plans have only accrued to a limited few of the unscrupulous functionaries and persons close to the seats of power and authority. This is the main cause for the growing regional disparities today.
The Soviet model of 'economic regionalisation' is still in conceptual stage insofar as the Indian planners are concerned since the latter have not put forth the necessary preliminary geographical exercises to prepare the resource inventories and budgeting the resources region-wise. This exercise involves both time and technical expertise which are not forthcoming as at present. In the absence of this, the economic planners are grouping in dark and know not how to achieve the basic objectives. They adopt deficit financing - heavy taxation - capital formation through coercive savings as appropriate strategies while these are actually causing spiralling prices and inflation followed by stagflation. The economic planners operate in an abstract space while they fail to recognise the physical space as the objective reality or an operation table where to perform their economic operations. In India, the economists are perplexed at the results of their planning. They harp on fixing the growth rates which are unrealistic to the prevailing infrastructure and human resource development levels. These observations have been put forth in order to focus attention on the 'achievements' and 'problems' of regional development.

In Chapter two, the 'Geo-economic Background' of Karnataka has been given as a background to the 'Problems' of regional development. It also serves as a clue to the whole process of development since the inherent resource potentialities of the different physiographic divisions of Karnataka and their capacity to support population are highlighted. It also forms the basis of an objective assessment of levels of development. It has been proved that the role of human interaction is far more important than that of the resources base since the ability to harness these depends on human resources and its level of scientific and technological know-how; in fact the technological level of the people determines the possibilities rather than the feasibilities.
Further, the economic goals on the one hand and the social objectives and the 'growth path' selected, on the other, also decide the tempo of growth and as such there must be a proper reconciliation between these objectives and the policies. Economic development without the necessary cultural development may not be very meaningful.

In Chapter three, a spatial analysis of regional development of Karnataka has been taken up with a view to assess the physical achievements under the Five Year Plans 1951-1979 in core sectors of our economy like agriculture, industries and infrastructural development. However, it has been realised that any in-depth analysis is prohibitive in a study like this. Hence, the plan investments have been kept as the basis on which achievements in the core sectors have been assessed as far as they are feasible. This gives us a fairly reliable account of the progress of Karnataka during the last three decades, 1950-1980. While some significant progress has been achieved in the fields of creation of infrastructural facilities, the progress in the sectors of agricultural and industrial development needs further support.

In Chapter Four, pertaining to the 'Problems of Development' it has been felt that a meaningful assessment of the levels of development is a prerequisite to understand the nature of the problems prevailing in the different physiographic regions of Karnataka. In fact, it has been the objective of this thesis to identify the problems and the regions which are most backward as also to identify the sectors in which they are leading behind and the find appropriate solutions through formulation of planning strategies.
The methodology adopted here to assess the levels of development is one of 'factor analysis' based on 39 indicators of wide-ranging, physical and human resources background; these have been grouped under seven major components viz, environment, settlement, social and manpower, infrastructure, agriculture, industry, general economy and the overall development has been assessed by the composite score of these seven major components. The factor scores, when plotted on maps, have brought out clearly areas of extremely High (EH) and Very High (VH) and High (H) development on the one hand, and the Extremely Low (EL), Very Low (VL) and Low (L) development pockets on the other. The areas of Moderately High (MH) and Moderately Low (ML) also stand out significantly.

It is this quantitative analysis that has been a major problem before our planners and huge funds are still being squandered in areas where economy could have been achieved without sacrificing development tempo; at the same time the lagging areas would have been more benefitted by mobilising resources from surpluses originating in the developed areas. This line of thinking has been absent from the beginning of planning in Karnataka. Rather, this whole exercise would help the planners to identify the problems and formulate more meaningful and fruitful programmes and this quantitative analysis would render all help to prepare the blue prints for different objectives.

There have been significant difficulties in coordinating sectoral and regional plans in the absence of a quantitative assessment of themselves of development and this problem has been overcome now by this spatial analysis. One can identify the planning problems such as agricultural backwardness and identify the factors responsible for the same in the 175 taluks of Karnataka. Different strategies can be formulated for different taluks based on the needs of the region.
In the light of this, suitable strategies have been outlined in Chapters Five and Six. In Chapter 5, the planning regions have been identified on the basis of the levels of development. Certain basic premises held at the beginning of the study here are pertinent to the study throughout. For instance, the exploitative economic policies of the British Regime has left an indelible mark on the socio-economic development and the trends cannot be altered even to-day despite herculean effort. Similarly, bureaucratic administrative organizational and management procedures and the educational system have greatly affected the plan implementation and in fact negativated the proclaimed plan goals; the increasing population pressure has had a sopping effect on the marginal increases achieved in respect of foodgrains production, or the per capita income. The deteriorating purchasing power of the rupee is yet another major constraint in eradication of poverty and reducing disparities. There has been a decline in the real value of the money at an increasing rate. It is also true that in a surging economy like that of India, there is bound to be imbalances in growth in all spheres of sectoral activity. Hence, it is felt that some of these basic factors, the parameters of development have to be sorted out before a regional development strategy is formulated. While the problem of regional development of Karnataka have been sorted out in Chapter Four and the necessary solutions have been provided in Chapters Five and Six.

One of the major dilemmas of development is the dichotomy of national and regional concepts of development. This has assumed larger dimension today. The dilemmas of national and regional development existing today have no basis at all. The basic tenents of the national and regional development are the same and these are not opposed to each other. In the regional development strategy lies the strength of national economy and a balanced regional development strategy is the fool-proof path to national development.
Hence the policies of the national government or the central Government should be to aim at an all round regional harmony. It may even disregard the tempo of economic growth of the developed regions for a short period of time. The existing restraints on scope for mobilisation of resources at regional and sub-regional levels should be removed. Enough latitude should be provided for the regions to mobilise their own resources and put them to productive processes. It has been emphasised in Chapter 6 that a suitable organisational restructuring of the existing administrative machinery to suit the development planning. Corporate management seems to be a suitable strategy in the light of autonomy and technical know-how, skill and administrative efficiency it commands when properly organised on a statutory basis. This has been suggested as a viable proposition here. A regional Development Corporation of Karnataka could bring in efficiency and economy.

In conclusion, it was the dream of Nehru to delegate the ultimate democratic power to the people and enable them to plan and administer themselves. In a sense, planning from the grass root level, i.e., the village level, or in other words, a democratic decentralisation was his aim. He could never achieve this during his lifetime as the Prime Minister of Free India. It is never too late to reorient the planning strategies some of the more important problems and strategies for development have been thoroughly discussed in the Chapters 5 & 6. The problems are both the cause and effect of geography and the solutions are sought within the geographical understanding and the Constitutional framework. Remedies are suggested in the following:

In any sound regional development planning, the plan model should incorporate the population of the region, its growth rates and structure; occupational structure and the desirable shift through budgeting and population migration policies; resource inventories with reference to level of
technological advancements; levels of development and strategies for balanced regional development with the weightage to socially depressed population mass, low level of social and cultural development, low economic potentials and development of social and manpower through impartation of skill and suitable education; economic regionalisation suitable to long term, medium term and short term goals; need-based short time-bound programmes, long term perspective plans of programmes, long term perspective plans of national and regional significance, and medium term sectoral growth plans. Alternative models are necessary to each of the above objectives.

Detailed schemes for regions and sub-regions for each of the macro-, meso-, and micro-order economic geographic space in close relation to population and resource base are to be prepared to fulfill the basic objectives of regional planning. Ultimately alleviation of poverty and misery, illiteracy and unemployment with assured incomes and economic independence to the people should be the primary concern of regional development planning. This will ultimately usher in a new era of peace and prosperity to regions and support national growth and development with people's participation in national development programmes. Thus, the twin objectives of regional growth and national development are achieved with minimum wastage of scarce resources.

"SARVEH JANA SUKHINO BHAVANTO"
'LET ALL PEOPLE BE HAPPY'