CHAPTER 1

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The Connotation of 'Development'

At the outset, 'development' means more of the good things of life and a greater fulfilment of individual happiness. But, there is no single all-comprehensive definition of the central concept of development and the connotation of development is still not very clear. To quote Parr, it is difficult to define the term 'development'. First, we do not have in the English language, the French language or the other languages of the industrialised world, a sufficient variety and number of words to describe the concept of development. Isard went to the extent of expressing the hope that twenty years from now we may be able to define 'development'. On the other hand, we in India have in Sanskrit language a variety of words which, in depth, convey the real meaning of the term. The semantics of the term 'development' is clear from the following words: Vikasa, Vriddhi, Abhivriddhi, Pragati, Abhyudaya, Unnati, each one clearly brings out the nature of development, be it in the field of economic, or social, or psychological, or overall development, connoting the aspect of human welfare in full measure. In the literature of modern economic development the term 'development' is usually defined as an increase in per capita income which occurs over some specified period of time. In fact, development is a multi-

dimensional process. It stands for the transformation of human society. It indicates a qualitative, many sided and balanced change. It is equated with economic growth and with dynamic change of society and modernisation. What economists call 'development', the political scientists call 'modernisation', and geographers call 'economic regionalisation', sociologists call 'role differentiation', and anthropologists 'cultural change'. Galbraith holds that 'development is the faithful imitation of the developed, 2. maximised economic growth, and 3. selective growth.' Adler, on the other hand has emphasised that 'the economic development of an underdeveloped country depends on the modern technical knowledge, capital, specially trained manpower, and a sound plan for using capital, manpower and technical knowledge'. If these are provided there will be progress. For Brenner, development means an endogenously produced, quantitative change rather than qualitative increase in physical output in per capita income. Development is consciously and deliberately stimulated decisions. But all these, in any way, do not ensure a balanced regional socio-economic development. Developed countries such as the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. also suffer from the regional inequalities; but this is more prominent in poor countries. In a way, it is true that development is not economic growth and the U.N.O. has defined 'development' as the attainment of a minimum annual rate of growth for developing countries of 5% of their Gross National Product (GNP) at the end of the decade.

Adiseshaiah feels that it is an expression of a faith and a programme of action.  

In the case of regional development, increase in aggregate income or increase in levels of income of the employed population indicate development. This is a perfectly acceptable view of development particularly since changes in overall economic activity within a region are frequently the focus of interest. Thus, the term 'development' is as ambiguous as it is challenging, for the whole set of people who seek for it.

As early as the 16th century A.D. when the Renaissance was at its height in Europe and through out the late 18th century when the Industrial Revolution heralded modern economic development all over the world, the affluent West had no concept of 'development' in the sense that it is vigorously pursued today. The term development connotes in a larger context, a process that leads 'to evolve' or 'bring forth' materialistic welfare since the basic aim was to alleviate hunger and banish poverty. But the erstwhile Imperialists held a more restricted version that characterised an exploitative mercantilist economy. There was no equity and distributive justice. The aspects of development emphasised individualistic material welfare, and 'survival of the fittest' in cut-throat competition, and laissez faire characterised the whole process of development. Even state intervention was sought to protect the individual from exploitation or personal economic development and this is evident even in the present day national policies and programmes of the government. These have come as a legacy of the Imperial colonial administration in India.

15. Ibid., Isard, W. P-374.
In the Indian context, the real concept of 'development' is as old as the Vedas and the Upanishads which date back to 5000 B.C. Development, here, encompasses 'universal welfare' as could be seen from the 'mantra', the recitations which conclude with 'Sarve Jana Sukhino Bhavantu', meaning 'Let All People Be Happy'. The concept is broad-based with 'universal brotherhood' as enunciated in 'Vasudeiva Kutumbakam' meaning, 'the entire mankind belongs to one family'.

Working Hypothesis

In a surging economy like that of India in general, and Karnataka State in particular, under a democratic secular socialist government, which has adopted the strategy of 'mixed economy' it offers a vast scope for individual development in the private sector. Obviously, there is bound to be a lot of disparities in development - inter-personal, inter-sectoral, and inter-regional, per se. The Five Year Plan documents repeatedly stressed these ideals of balanced regional development and reduction of the prevailing disparities as the kingpin of economic planning.

The principles of normative economics aim at maximisation of production and also profits by means of allocation of scarce resources in a selective manner. This has logically led to the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few and in a few regions. The Draft Sixth Five Year Plan 1980-85 also reiterates the need for reducing the growing regional disparities. In a developing country like India, where there is varied rich resource endowment, wide climo-edaphic differences, and socio-economic groups with different cultural and economic backgrounds, there is a need for injecting the hope of equitable distribution of national wealth and restoring natural justice in order to establish a just and peaceful social order.

The geographers are becoming aware of their ability to identify the levels of development and assess the degree of regional inter-dependence and disparities and also to organise the local resources for a more productive purpose and thereby, help planning for a more balanced regional development. This, however, demands restructuring the organisational set up of the planning machinery. Planning techniques will have to be changed and more effective strategies will have to be adopted if the main objectives enshrined in the Preamble of the Constitution of India are to be achieved.

The national interests are vitiated if the principle of 'equalisation' is not favoured and upheld in India and hence, the Government of India are committed to transform the present Indian society into socialistic structure of society that can be achieved by reducing interregional disparities. The national interests are best served where the individuals' interests as well as the local regional interests are not made to subserve the interests of a few persons, but where care is taken to serve the community at large in the national interest. Development strategies lie in preparing integrated area development plans based on a clustered and selective sectoral development approach in order to ensure maximum, rather than optimum, utilisation of regional potentialities.

A proper organisation of productive forces and a more meaningful objective of social welfare would be necessary if one has to achieve the desired goals of production and ensure optimum balanced regional development. Regional specialisation as well as diversification, wherever feasible, would help maximise production and produce linkages which would eventually help the economy to sprout.

Methodology

Modern geographical analysis has become more and more quantitative in approach. However, the qualitative approach still persists due to the poor data base. Even, where data is available, a qualitative approach is necessary, since all the significant variables should be qualitatively assessed. The mathematical methods have found a wider application in economic geography since the establishment of necessary infrastructure and many geographers have attempted factorial analysis in the assessment of regional associations and disparities. Factor analysis has been found to be very useful in a quantitative analysis of the characteristics of the different regions.

Quantification, whatever its importance for measurement, necessarily needs to be complemented by qualitative analysis which alone allows an allround assessment to be made. In other words, a qualitative approach alone is not sufficient in the modern context and a quantitative approach appears to be necessary. A certain dialectical unity of quantitative and qualitative approaches is indispensable in strict scientific methodology.

Factor analysis can show both, how the variables combine to account for the variability of the data and also how the individual units respond in terms of the first few factors to be extracted. This provides a very useful means for establishing, on the basis of most important variables, the significant differences between the areas.

Factorial analysis is now a basic tool in the kit of techniques available to the geographers. How far this tool is efficiently handled to bring out the real associations


and disparities, however. Still in a flux and many experts in India are still sceptical about it. Nonetheless, the following analysis clearly brings out that more and more such scientific analysis are necessary at present in India since such analysis will give a concrete expression to geographical description.

The concept of growth poles and growth centres as a methodology for a balanced regional development has already become a debatable issue, since such an emphasis on selected centres have led to the concentration of investible resources while this ought to have aided an equitable distribution inter-regional, inter-sectoral and inter-personal per se.

In the following, spatial analysis, 39 indicators have been selected to represent the seven major components. Each of the variables has been carefully selected in such a way that the available data could be standardised and project a meaningful association among the variables.

Objectives

The primary objective of the present spatial analysis of the economic development of Karnataka is to assess the achievements, discuss the problems, and lay down the strategies for future development. As far as possible, the latest available data has been incorporated in the study. However, the year 1951 did not cover the entire present area of the State and the Second Five Year Plan 1956-61 constitutes really the beginning for all practical purposes. The year 1978 marks the abrupt end of the Fifth Five Year Plan 1974-79 due to change in the political leadership of the National Planning Commission in New Delhi.

A comprehensive study of the all-round development of the State has been attempted in the following. Hence the various problems confronting the agricultural and allied activities,
aspects of industrial development, socio-economic development, and even the quality of the physical environment, efficiency of rural settlements, and general economy of Karnataka have all been considered in the study. Thus, it is hoped that a first comprehensive development of Karnataka down to the taluk level in its proper geographical perspective will emerge out of this study, which would eventually pave the way for a more democratically decentralized planning for a balanced regional development of the State.

Existing Literature

In these days of knowledge explosion, there is a tremendous spurt of scientific literature in almost all fields, and possibly no other science has such an avalanche of reading material as in regional science, especially in the last two or three decades. The list of contributors to the development of regional science is quite long. More prominent among them are Isard, Friedman and Alonso, Lefeber, Kuklinsky, Richardson, Clark, "Wilson, Bradley, Green, Fair, Board, Davies, Selwyn, Boudeville, Lausen, Hirschman, Meyer, Hansen, Hagget, Glassone and include many noted economists like Hicks, Galbraith, Perroux, Losch, Perloff, Christaller, et al who contributed to the development of regional theory. Many others like Berry, Brush, Pal, Misra, Nanjundappa, Prakasa Rao, Bhat, Learmonch, Sundaram, Urs have tried to present case studies, development strategies, and models. But it is significant to note that much of the contribution has come from economists, econometricians and not many sociologists or geographers. Regional economics is a growing field which sheds light on the economic strengths and weaknesses of the regions. The works of Richardson, Isard, Leontiff, et al are very significant.
It is of particular interest here that many economists reiterate the need reducing the regional imbalances and advocate the theories of Harrod and Domar Cobb and Douglas or Keynes while there are elaborate exercises of Komorov, Pokshishevskiy, Ryabshkov, aDasyuk, Kuklinski, Hermansen and others in respect of economic regionalization and particularly the works of Galina aDasyuk, Sen Gupta, M.N.Pal, L.S.Bhat, S.P.Chatterjee, Moonis Raza and others who have helped generate a geographical perspective to development planning relieving much of the emphasis of the economists that culminated in the concentration of economic power in a few hands.

But it must be pointed out that all these studies are only a pointer to the changing trends and challenges ahead and nothing concrete to alleviate the growing problems of unemployment, poverty, and misery of the poor both in the developed and in the developing nations has emerged so far. In an interdependent economic world a universal model of regional development with accent on balanced inter-personal, inter-sectoral and inter-regional development is imperative.

Data Base

As at present, the data base is too weak for any in-depth study or regional analysis. It goes to the credit of the Govt. of Karnataka, Planning Department for setting up a bureau of economics and statistics and a regional planning unit and steps have been taken to collect statistical data down to taluk level. In fact, it is this Taluk Plan Statics,\textsuperscript{21} along with the Census of India, Population Tables for Karnataka 1961, 1971 and 1981\textsuperscript{22} which forms the basis of the present spatial analysis.


\textsuperscript{22}. Census of India (1981): \textit{Karnataka - Part II A Population Tables}. 