The increasing regional socio-economic disparities in the country can be lessened only by adopting decentralized planning process. Integrated development planning is an effective approach towards this process in which by utilizing optimally the local resources, potentialities and productivity; by locating at appropriate locations the infrastructural and social facilities and by implementing special programmes for uplifting the status of the weaker sections of the society; an attempt is being made for an all round development of different regions.

The study reported in the thesis is an eloquent testimony and awareness of the backward characteristics of Colonel Banj Tahsil, District Gonda (U.P.). The foremost objective of the study is to "prepare an integrated plan for rapid development" at grass root-level through rational exploitation of various resources available in the tahsil and to raise the level of development by suggesting measures for full employment opportunities in the study region.

The scarcity of the details of the village level primary informations and unreliability of available recorded informations have designed the present study to be basically field work oriented in which the primary informations of the individual villages with regard to socio-economic infrastructural facilities / amenities have been collected / recorded with the help of a questionnaire. Besides this, several secondary informations regarding research work have been consulted at the tahsil and district headquarters.

In the present study -

Chapter 1 is a grasping elucidation of the concept, approach, process and technique of integrated development planning. It also gives a brief account of development programmes in retrospect and review of the work done in this field.

Chapter 2 describes the geographical personality of the study area, viz., physical and cultural landscape with their regional settings and levels of development.
Chapter 3 comprehensively elucidates the identification and reorganisation of planning units with the help of existing/proposed central places, their centrality, hierarchical class system and complementary regions. It also suggests corrective measures in order to remove the functional gaps for integrated and balanced development in the realm of locational planning.

Chapter 4 brings out the existing social infrastructural facilities particularly in the field of educational, medical, postal and communicational facilities and presents an alternative plan for the location of these facilities and amenities. It also gives some suggestions regarding the provision of rural housing, safe drinking water and upliftment of the weaker sections of the society.

Chapter 5 discusses the existing condition of physical infrastructural facilities like transportation and electrification in the study region and also provides a suitable framework in order to improve the present depressed condition in an integrated manner for balanced development of the study region.

Chapter 6 assesses the present agricultural conditions and analyses the potentialities for its development in the days to come. Its first part illustrates the existing landuse pattern and suggests an alternative pattern with the help of planned landuse pattern and its second part deals with the agricultural infrastructures and inputs necessary for agricultural development.

Chapter 7 focusses on rural industrialization and offers a comprehensive industrialization plan having analysed the existing industrial conditions of the study region.

Chapter 8 integrates all the above mentioned aspects with more stress on integrated development and organisational set-up for its implementation.
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