CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION
THE PROCESS OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The process of regional development can be taken as the function of the levels of regional diversity and disparity of the distribution phenomena. Regional diversity includes the distribution of natural resource endowments leading to territorial specialisation and division of labour through comparative or absolute level of exploitation of resource advantages. Regional disparity means the failure of a region to exploit development potential of its initial resource endowments and resource advantages in relation to another region comprising factors other than the natural. Vertical and horizontal are the two dimensions of regional disparity of distribution phenomena which affect the process of regional development. The former deals with the hierarchies of and interaction between the economic and social groups following the theory of economic surplus, and the later tries to overcome the friction of distance and the cost of distance – inputs supporting the theory of space economy.¹

When the concept of development is perceived within the framework of spatial organisation of the society it reflects the concept of regional development. In a rural economy the development, in fact, refers to a transformation of the institutional structure of the society. Since the human society consists of multidimensional traits, the regional development has different connotations because it is dealt with multi-
disciplinary considerations. The approaches and techniques of regional development employed by different disciplines indicate marked differences in the advancement of the discipline itself, and the gap among these disciplines has, in some cases, widened leading to further confusion in the explanation and application of the concept of regional development in planning process.

The approach, that has underlying organisations of the concept of regional development which states that the regional economy is made round a system of settlements called nodes and the latter exhibits a hierarchy. The hierarchic framework of a region is constituted by the tributary areas of nodal centres. The range of nodal centres varies depending on the nature of functions found among them. Two broad dimensions of the regional development process may be identified from these considerations. Both of these are complementary to each other and yet separate treatment can be given to both of them. The first one is related to regional economic planning and the second one to regional physical planning. The regional physical plan or the framework of the regional physical plan would serve two purposes. First, it would provide guidelines for the preparation of detailed physical plans. Secondly, it would prepare a corresponding input-output table for each of the sub-region within the state for the preparation of the economic development plans of the state as a whole. In this
way it can be said that the regional physical plan of the framework of the physical plan portrays the manner in which economic development is organised in space. Therefore, the framework of the regional physical plan emerges out as an important tool and helps in understanding and evaluating the regional development process and the regional economy. The reason is that the regional and locational studies are interdependent. The spatial organisation of the economy can and should be carried out at different regional levels ranging from the micro to macro levels. In the Indian context, a rational homogeneous tract in respect of land quality, land use, functional organization could be an ideal unit. From an operational point of review the development Block, the District and the Region comprising a group of district within a state could be the different area levels at which such studies could be attempted. 4

Regional approach in geographic studies has long been regarded as inherently geographic or rather the focal attempt of all geographic work. The aim is now to analyse the region in terms of the optimum use of regional resources, physical, biotic and human including institutional based on a political and socio-economic rationale within a general framework. A Region must be unified culturally, economically and later by conscious of thought, education, recreation etc. This aim can be achieved only by the integrated planning or rather say
regional planning, because it represents the unified development programme of a region.

The balance and integrated development of an area is a major part of regional planning. It depends upon the development of service centres and their hierarchical order. The surrounding people move from one place to another to fulfil their certain requirements, e.g., daily consuming articles, education, medical and postal facilities, etc., which are more necessary for them. The urban settlements have more specialized services and the surrounding people have to travel more distance to get these facilities. The rapid improvement in transport facilities would tend to make the new settlements as central settlements, offering centralized services for which the surrounding residents have to go to the urban centres. "Thus the process of regional development starting as a simpler one becomes increasingly complex as the areas get functionally organised around nodal centres of different ranks. This sets the stage for spatial differentiation in the pattern of development leading often to disparities in levels of development".  

MICRO-LEVEL PLANNING AND INTEGRATED AREA DEVELOPMENT

Post independence development in our country so far was based on micro-level sectoral planning. It has positively taken the nation on the path of overall development but it has created regional and social imbalances. Certain areas and
significant proportion of the population have remained outside the main stream of economic progress. These imbalances, can be corrected, as the planning commission has emphasised, by grassroot level or micro-level planning based on available local resources and the village community.6

'Micro-Level Planning' refers to the preparation of a plan for development of smaller areas, such as District, Tahsil, Community Development Block and the Villages. The village is an ideal unit for the preparation of development plans. But it is important to note that Micro-Level planning is not limited to any particular level of village or settlement. It takes a whole hierarchy of central places and its influence area as its focus. Distinction has to be made among local, regional and national levels of planning and they have to be spatially integrated. In the formulation of a spatial framework of development must be include plans for land use human settlements, socio-economic facilities/services required by the people such as education, medical, communication, banking, marketing etc. This planning considers the planning at all levels, i.e., from village level to national level. If the micro-level units are properly planned, they help in the maximum utilization of resources. The main objective of the micro level planning is to achieve integrated area development at the national level. One can visualize several sub-regions on a hierarchic scale with progressively increasing geographical area and population size
and with service centres or growth centres of increasing functional complexity. Centres of all levels in the hierarchy like central villages, service centres, growth centres and regional capital or city will be inter-linked with roads. Fast moving transport and other means of communication. It is necessary to keep this hierarchic pattern in mind for area planning.

Integrated are development and micro level planning are integral components of each other because as a multi-level concept, the integrated area development plan normally encompasses the micro-levels of space such as village, a viable cluster of villages or nyaya panchayat, block and district. The framework of area development includes land-type, land use structure, settlement structure, socio-economic infrastructures and their interrelationships, both existing and proposed. Thus, integrated area development is a planning process and strategy to improve the socio-economic life of people in an area by bringing about the necessary structural, institutional and altitudinal changes and by providing a package of facilities through extension services.

Briefly speaking, the concept of integrated area development refers to two types of integration, i.e., functional and spatial, which are themselves interrelated. Functional integration is meant the integration of all socio-economic activities which influence the life of the people. Such activities
include agriculture, industry, transport, education, medical, postal, marketing, banking and housing etc. A change in one function almost invariably brings change in another. This interrelationship is significant in area development, as it implies planning for a given geographical area in all the aspects needed for modernization and betterment of living conditions.

In India, the community development programme has as yet failed to achieve the aim of functional integration because the gap between the rural and the urban economy is still very wide. The spatial nature of functional integration has not been fully understood. Various socio-economic activities are interrelated which demand a great emphasis on their locations. The actual location of a specific function has relation with other functions which depend on several factors like demand for specific functions and their supply, accessibility to these functions in terms of road, time and distance of travelling, income level of people, cost obtaining to these functions and so on.

Spatial integration, thus, indicate the locational aspects of growth and development activities in which all settlements in space are involved. Socio-economic activities are clustered and distributed according to the hierarchy of settlements and linkage pattern of transport routes and communication. It is, therefore, when new activities or functions are proposed in the
context of development that the location of such functions becomes extremely important.

Integrated area development, thus, refers to the appropriate location of social and economic activities over a physical space for the maximum, rather optimum, use and exploitation of physical and human resources available in a region for its balanced development. The principle of integrated area development is to bring out the organic relationship of area, economic activity, population (or the place, work, folk).  

The idea of an appropriate location is by definition selective. In other words each and every function cannot be possessed by each and every settlement. It has been observed by location theorists that there is hierarchy of settlements based on the number of functions of different orders present in each settlement and their specialisation and also on the basis of the area served by a settlement. So, it is of absolute necessity that all the functions of different orders are located in most appropriate places. Our present socio-economic conditions are the criteria for the selection of these appropriate and selective locations. Integrated area development is also concerned with the development of backward areas. It is based on the idea of selectivity on the one hand and decentralization of functions on the other. Thus it provides a development programme to fill up the gap of functions between well served areas. It suggests a
framework for decentralizing economic and social activities by the location of specific functions in appropriate places.

The concept of rural area development is also an integrated area approach and its significance lies in the growth of the rural economy. Actually, integrated area development in micro-level settings generally refers to development of rural areas.10

STRATEGY FOR PLANNED DEVELOPMENT

Processing of data and their mapping facilitated the analytical study of various types of resource-use in the study area. On the basis of local resource potential, a plan for the integrated area development of the Rohtak district was formulated, taking all aspects of the life of people into consideration. The plan emphasizes the optimal utilization of resources in the study area and tries to solve the local problems in right perspective. A spatial development strategy has also been proposed for the balance sub-regional development through the identified and proposed growth and sub-growth centres in the district.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSED STUDY

The objectives of the study is to investigated the nature and intensity of the various problems of the study area in the framework of integrated area development. So the objectives of the proposed study may be summarized as follows:-
1. To achieve maximum advantages from the available limited resources such as water, land, soil, vegetation etc., by their optimum use.

2. To delineate the basic units of planning and to identify (nodal centres, growth centres, service centres and central villages) in these units, for the location of specific investments.

3. To estimate and project for each unit, requirement of agricultural production, consumption of food crops and marketable surplus.

4. To estimate and project for each unit, requirements of agricultural inputs such as improved seeds, fertilizers, irrigation, pesticides, agricultural implements and advanced technical knowledge, markets and storage facilities, and to recommend optimum locations for the provision of such facilities in the district.

5. To assess the industrial and agricultural potentials of the district and to make recommendations for establishing new industries in specific locations in the various planning units.

6. To assess the future requirements of social and economic facilities of each planning unit and to recommend locations for the various levels of these facilities.
7. To recommend an optimum transportation system for integrating the industrial, agricultural, various economic, social and administrative activities.

8. To develop a synthesis in the form of a spatial development strategy for planning at and below the district level.

METHODOLOGY

The entire study is based on primary as well as secondary data. The revenue village is the area unit for compilation and mapping. Secondary data on physical resources such as land use, cropping pattern and occupational pattern collected from the various government offices. The location of all settlements (rural and urban) is the basis for compilation and mapping of data on demographic characteristics, infrastructure facilities and amenities and of economic activities such as small, medium and large scale industries. Topographical and other related maps in the scale of 1: 50,000 and 1:250,000 used for the purpose of understanding the nature of the terrain, broad land use, spatial arrangement of settlements and their linkages and so on. Such base maps have been used for analysing the socio-economic data as mentioned above.

The household survey (based on stratified-cum-purposive sampling) for selected villages (based on degree of developments) has been conducted to collect the different
segments of their economy, educational development, agricultural utilization, inputs and level of outputs (agriculture and industrial both), flow of commodities to market, consumer behaviour and travel pattern for the other facilities and amenities, for this. In this exercise first of all sample villages were selected on the basis of stratified purposive sampling. There is no homogeneity in socio-economic condition so this was one of the criteria of may mind and others are those indicators which effect the socio-economic levels of villages such as irrigated area in percentage to net sown area, accessibility from transport routes, distance from the towns, percentage of scheduled caste population in the village, etc. have been chosen for selection the sample villages. So, 4 villages have been selected. In the sample village all the household have been classified into 5 categories on the basis of owned land i.e. below 1 hectare, 1-2 hectare, 2-3 hectare, 4-5 hectare and 5 hectare to above. 10 per cent of the household in each category was further randomly selected for intensive study. These households were studied with the help of questionnaire and personal interview from the Heads of the household. Cartographic techniques, appropriate quantitative technique, particularly those related to the measurement of areal patterns, extent of their relationship among several variables and areal differentiations have been used.
To know the agricultural characteristics and assessment of food requirement, carrying capacity of land, caloric density, intensity of population pressure and economic density have been calculated.

In this study the settlement hierarchy have been determined on the basis of central functions in this exercise. The weights to different functions have been assigned according to appropriate qualitative techniques. After having the weightage of each function the centrality of each settlement has been calculated on the basis of composite weightage of their functions. After having the centrality of all settlements plotted to know whether there is any correlation between the population size and centrality index of all the settlements, and whether there is any functional gap on the graph paper (double log graph) which could be used for classifying the various settlements in the hierarchic grades.

The village will be the smallest unit for planning forms at the lowest level of the hierarchy in an area. For the integrated area development, it would be a must that the central function must be located in those settlements which would be in easy access to their surrounding territory. It is postulated that this surrounding territory i.e. a group of villages would have a central village, which would provide some of the higher order services needed by the people. These services would, of necessity, be those which can be supported by the
LOCATION OF DISTRICT ROHTAK

REFERENCE

SCALE

FIG. NO. 1.1
total population of this group of villages. This group of villages with such central village will be known as one functional community. It is also postulated that a number of these functional communities will constitute a sub-region which also will have a Focal point. This sub-regional focal point can be designated as service centre. It will be of a higher order than the central village. In addition to the services provided by the central village, the service centre will also provide a set of more complex services. A number of these service centres will be in the influence of next higher order service centres will be in the influence of next higher order service centres or may be called regional centres and will have in addition to the services provided by the service centres, and thus the entire region will have sub-regions an hierarchic scale. Centres of all levels in the hierarchy will be interconnected and inter dependent. They will be helpful in a balanced development of the area. The idea of such functional inter-relationship would be used.

IDENTITY OF THE MICRO-REGIONAL UNIT- ROHTAK DISTRICT

Rohtak is one of district of Rohtak division, which is located in the central part of Eastern Haryana. In 2001 census, there are two tehsils Maham (31 villages) and Rohtak (115 villages) containing 5 C.D. Blocks viz. Maham (25 villages), Lakhan Majra (13 villages), Kalanaur (28 villages), Rohtak (57 villages) and Sampla (24 villages) in the district. There are 146
DISTRICT ROHTAK
ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

INDEX

DISTRICT BOUNDARY
BLOCK BOUNDARY
VILLAGE BOUNDARY
URBAN AREA
VILLAGE LOCATION
VILLAGE CODE

SCALE:

Fig No-1.2
villages and three towns namely Rohtak, Maham and Kalanaur in the district.

The decadal growth rate of population during 1981-91 was 17.70% and during 1991-2001 it was 20.99%. Sex ratio, is calculated as number of females per 1000 males, was 849 in Rohtak in 1991 census. The sex ratio declined to 847 during 2001. While the state sex ratio 861.

The density of population in Rohtak is 539 per sq. km. in 2001. The literacy rate of Rohtak district is 74.56%, of which 84.29% male and 63.19% females. Below of 6 years age group population has not been included in this.

Since the study area falls within the National Capital Region, any plan for its development is unexstrictly bound-up with the development strategy. Indeed Rohtak district has a big role to play in the fulfillment of the goals of N.C.R. plan, followed for the Haryana sub-region of N.C.R. according to the sub-regional plan, this district falls in the ring zone which unlike the satellite influence zone and has been identified as a lagging area.

For example, apart from Rohtak town the entire district has only two other urban area i.e. Kalanaur and Maham.

So far as the implication of such a rapid growth of these urban centres of the tehsil is concerned, would naturally have
to be taken into account, and therefore, the district in future would assume greater significance.

As a result of the urban growth the agriculture sector of the district is bound to be diversified and there would be a change in the overall cropping pattern e.g. there would be more land under vegetables, flowers, fruits, fodder, besides dairying, poultry farming, pig-raising and fisheries etc.

The district exhibits propensity for industrial breakthrough and building materials and minerals. Being appreciably away from the Delhi Metropolitan Area (D.M.A.) the accelerated growth of Rohtak and other proposed urban growth centres can help arrest the pattern of emigration from Rohtak District towards Delhi and immediate neighbourhood.
REFERENCES


6. Planning Commission, Govt. of India, Fourth Five Year Plan, New Delhi, pp. 229-230m 1969-74.


