

INTRODUCTION

Economic geography is a well established branch of geographical inquiry. The study of spatial aspects of economic systems belongs to the nebulous borderland between economics and geography, partially occupied by regional science.

Industrial economics is a distinctive branch of economics which deals with the economic problems of firms and industries and their relationship with society. Industrialisation is considered vital for the rapid economic development of a nation. One can proceed on the basis of detailed case studies of individual industries and macro-regional level, implying linkages and interdependence is an interregional system with the studied area. This approach chosen here is to interact through discussion and exposition of several sets of theory and methodology.

Economic geography is a very wide sense, embracing agriculture extractive industry manufacturing and the provision of services and also such related matters as transportation and trade. The increasing fragmentation of spatial economic analysis into narrow specialisation is unfortunate, since it diverts attention from the objective of developing a comprehensive view of the space economy as an integrated whole.

In the modern world growth is measured in terms of the value of production coming out of an economy. It has been found that compared to the input of labour, maximum value is obtained from the secondary sector which is mainly headed by manufacturing industries. Therefore, economic growth cannot be thought of without industrialisation of the economy. There does not exist any specific to regional industrial analysis and development which can necessarily claim to be more valuable or more instructive than to others. For every region and for every district a proper economic development should aimed at development of industries. These applies to purely agricultural areas also. In such areas the emphasis may be on a proper mixing of industries based on raw-material obtained from agriculture, forestry and allied activities along with whatever prospects of mineral based industries are there.

Industrialisation in West Bengal has been largely concentrated in their pockets. There is a largely gap between industrial development. Extensive areas have received the import of modern technological development in agriculture but are devoid of industrialisation of any mentionable extent. The plains of Birbhum, Burdwan, Hooghly and Midnapore are such tracts. Within those areas only the western part of the Burdwan district has experienced some kind of industrial development. But the

district which has made a striking progress in agricultural development during the 60's and 70's in Birbhum. It is to be noted that this district is not entirely devoid of industrial potentials because there are minerals like coal & china clay along with some other. There are important forest products which can be used in industrial and some industrial cash crops are also gaining prominence in recent times. These districts also have a tradition of housing some of the oldest metal based industries like iron & bell-metal, and other industries crafts etc. It may worth investigating into the specific constraints that have arrested the industrial growth of this district, particularly the western half and also into the possible leeways for bring about a desirable labour of industrialisation of district.

It is only recently that regional and sectional analysis has come to be concerned will not only. The more traditional concerns of regional science - what Isard (1969) refers to as situations in which planning and decision making structures are given and the aim is then one of providing the most scientific and efficient operational techniques but also the need to consider whom the recipients of the planning process are to be and what input they showed make in reaching divisions. In this sense Isard again refers that there

are no "given" no fixed institutional or political and administrative structure. These are issues which requires a great deal of systematic understanding of a whole variety of knowledge and certainly constitute a spectrum of inquiry for broader than the scope of this paper. Here the author tries to enumerate the spatial allocation of industrial activities of Birbhum District of West Bengal.

The study has been divided in some chapters which shows that the locational aspects, physiographic, hydrographic, climatic and edaphic characteristics and notes their role in the economic development of the district. To analyse the potentiality of industrialisation in a region, it is necessary to know the history of industrialisation of that region, the growth and decay of the industries of Birbhum District.

Aims of the Study

The aim of the study is to the development of industrial potentialities of the Birbhum District which would reflect their different technological adoption and industrial prospects of that area.

(1) It has also aimed at providing the industrialists with a survey of the industrial and commercial organisation of his own country and of the other countries with which he might come in contact. (2) It gives also full

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information regarding the natural resources, industrial climate in the country, situation of the infrastructure including lives of traffic, supplies of factors of production, trade and commercial policies of the governments in which he operates. (3) to evaluate the chronological growth of industrial activities, (4) to evaluate the role of small-scale and large-scale industries in the industrial geography of the area, (5) to analyse the industrial structural analysis and (6) to trace the problems and prospects of the industry in Birbhum District.

Methodology

The methodology adopted for the preparation of the thesis are various ways :

(1) Some statistical techniques have been induced to several different trends for a close follow-up,

(2) Personal interviews has been taken during the field survey in the area, and

(3) The method of sample survey has been applied elsewhere required.

Who has been interviewed

Besides these, collection of maps and data from Birbhum DIC, Settlement Office, Sericulture Offices, different block offices and some experienced persons of that locality.

The location quotient curve, linear
diagram and so many statistical tables and graphs are
explained herewith.

The study has been undertaken as a part of fulfilment of the studies in Industrial Geography for this work.