PREFACE

The interest in regional development has been perceptively increasing as there is an awareness of the fact that in economic planning the geographic space has not been given due consideration and that the national planning system in India needs appropriate changes. It is also recognised that an unchecked and uncontrolled process of growth has led to widening of regional disparities, which have been increasing despite various principles and strategies of spatial dynamics being applied to solve the problems of backward areas. The immediate objective of the regional development planning should be to lessen these disparities in the geographic space and to formulate programmes for the under-developed areas in the light of the resource available and local skills. Needless to mention that, when the growth is initiated at different points in a proper manner, keeping in view the local needs and assets, at a locationally suited and identified growth centres, then development is bound to diffuse into the surrounding area and bring an overall regional development.

The present study is on the theme concerned with applications on the planning aspects of the regional development of Hyderabad-Karnatak an area identified by the State Government of Karnataka as a backward region. The research
concentrates on the development of rural areas to integrate these with the urban centres, keeping in view the compromises and the conflicts. The area under study is situated in the northern part of the State of Karnataka and is primarily a rural area with 70 per cent of its population residing in villages.

**Objectives and Scope**

Although the studies on the concept of growth centre strategy are common, there still exists a dearth of empirical verification especially in the context of under developed and developing countries. The present study throws light on the application of growth foci strategy for the integrated area development of the study region. As the idea of growth foci is to identify places with the criteria of concentration of development and its diffusion in a region, the main objectives of the study are as follows:

1) to identify the growth foci in the region and study their hierarchic orders so that an idea about the proper growth inputs and flows can be visualised.

2) to study the spatial pattern of the growth foci and the different hierarchical orders.
iii) to work out a hypothetical system of desirable levels of functions to be performed by the different hierarchical orders.

iv) to assess the role of urban centres in the regional development of the area and

v) to make a composite assessment of the areas potentialities in terms of socio-economic infrastructural requirements.

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses are formulated:

i) the concept of growth foci provides the most tangible link between different spatial development theories for national and regional plans.

ii) the irregular distribution of resources and inadequate infrastructural facilities have led to the under development of the region.

iii) the rural settlements play a vital role in the spatial diffusion of socio-economic development.
iv) there exists a positive relationship between the population size and the centrality score of a settlement.

v) The centrality of a centre in positively proportional to the level of the functions performed rather than their total number and

vi) the spacing of growth foci tends to be more uniform among the higher orders and with the decrease in the order the randomness in the spatial pattern increases.

**Database**

To develop a growth foci for the study region most of the data used are the secondary data published in various reports of the Census of India. The District Census Handbooks provide data on the availability of different social and economic amenities at the village level. In addition to this, the unpublished data, maintained by the Block Development Offices, in the village cards, also give a host of information on market, education, health and other facilities. The data on the industrial base and regulated markets is collected from their respective offices. No attempt was made to collect primary data directly, the objective was
to assess the adequacy of readily available data and to what extend can they serve the purpose for such studies when there is lack of statistical data at micro level.

**Methodology**

Both the quantitative as well as the qualitative techniques have been employed in the study to arrive at meaningful conclusions. Techniques that are developed by quantitative geographers and other scientists have been used with suitable modifications to suit the nature of the region. Details of the tools used such as Gravity Model Nearest Neighbour Analysis and Population Thresholds etc., provided in the respective chapters of the study.

**Organisation of the Study**

The different chapters of the dissertation are organised in such a manner that a logical consistancy is maintained. There are eight chapters in all and the first chapter makes an attempt to review of the selected literature on the work in the field of spatial development theories, their relationships and application. The chapter concludes with the view that if the growth pole theory is to provide a basis for the framing of effective and feasible regional planning policies it needs more empirical verification and has to be modified
to suit the under developed and developing countries.

The second chapter examines the concept of region, the different ways to demarcate them and their hierarchy. The chapter also makes a survey of the region's resource potentialities.

Chapter III brings under focus the role of urban centres in regional development when they are viewed as growth foci. The occupational structure and the functional nature of the towns are studied with the help of Webb's method of functional classification. The study compares the results obtained when the 1971 functional classification of the Census of India is applied with that of results of the new scheme of functional classification as adopted by the Indian Census in 1981.

The fourth chapter discusses the different methods used so far to identify the growth centres and their hierarchical orders. A suitable method is then arrived at and the growth foci in the region are identified. The total number of variables chosen for 1971 was twenty three and in 1981, this is increased to forty three keeping in view the development that has taken place during the span of these ten years. The service and centrality indices are computed for 213
settlements in 1971 and 366 in 1981 that qualified to be the growth foci in the region. Hierarchical orders were classified with use of a scatter diagram and the breaks in the distribution. The relationship between the centrality index and the population size of centre is also studied in the chapter.

Chapter V makes an attempt to discern the spatial pattern of growth foci and the different hierarchical orders. The nearest neighbour analysis has been applied as it has the advantage of being more precise and is suitable when the number of observation is large. In order to have a comparative picture the spatial pattern, their variations are studied over a period of two Census decades (1971-81).

The chapter sixth demarcates the complementary areas of the service centres, growth points and growth centres. The gravity model has been employed with a different version, in the sense that the centrality indices are treated as the mass of the centres instead of population size. The spheres of influence of the growth points and growth centres are also delineated with the help of population and centrality index used together in the formula to get a more precise result.

Chapter VII proposes an expected growth foci after studying the existing. The population threshold for the
different central functions are calculated with the help of the Read-Mueunch method and on the basis of these threshold the different settlements and the number suggested for extension of the services in different hierarchical orders. The comparison of the existing pattern with that of the theoretical models gives some interesting similarities and differences.

The last chapter presents the conclusions derived from the entire study and gives suitable suggestion and proposal for the development of the region.