PREFACE

Underdevelopment, the concept is derived from the development that characterises the rich countries. It can be best represented in terms of such of its facets and bring out its backward looking reality. The single most representative facets of the economies is the per capita income. The material prosperity of the countries is possible over a period of time because of many and varied factors including fuller utilisation of resources. The backward economies, symbolically, are represented by their poverty or to be more exact by very low per capita income. This situation, in most cases has resulted from such an interplay of forces or process in the long past that obstructed the development of these countries living many physical and human resources unused. These elements constitute the essence of economic backwardness.

Indian economy as well as the economy of Orissa are in the phase of big changes. They have shed off some elements of backwardness and have acquired quite a few characteristics of developed economies but with the paradox of growth and massive poverty. There are inequalities of income with a very few cornering a very large chunk of total income and a very large number getting a very small proportion. Lying behind and also partly responsible for these inequalities, is the ownership of assets like land heavily tilted in favour of the very small number of the wealthy people. Phenomenon of inequalities is to be seen not only in respect of persons but also between the urban and the rural areas as also among the different states.

The fact of the gross inequalities of income and massive poverty is very much evident from the various estimates and enquiries made from time to time. Much income disparities exist among the states like Punjab, Delhi,
Maharastra on the one end and Assam, Bihar and Orissa on the other end. Planned efforts have been made since the inception of five year plans in 1951 to bridge income gap, reduce regional disparities and to have balanced economic development.

Despite the long years of planning the economy of the state of Orissa continues to enjoy the status of the poorest state in the country. This study is simply an attempt to delving deep into the pattern and the growth of development expenditure of the state and to diagnose the defects and to supplement and complement the development efforts with desirable prescriptions.

Shanti Rani Dash
(Shanti Rani Dash)