CHAPTER – 2

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK
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2.1 CONCEPT OF REGION

The idea of region is linked with the subdivision of earth surface into different segments. When such a segment is distinguished from other one by its own identity having homogenous character is referred to a region which is specified by boundary and demarcated based on certain criteria. (James, P.E, 1980, p.459-460). The concept of region generally linked with space and has spatial dimension though it is sometimes used as something subjective or space less. Region is not an object either self-determined or nature given, rather an intellectual concept, an entity for the purpose of thought, created by the selection of certain features that are relevant to an areal interest or problem and by the disregard of all features that are considered to be irrelevant (James, P.E., and Jones, C.F.1954, p.30). The region is associated with nature and nature is always dynamic, so the concept of region is a dynamic not static one. Due to the dynamic nature of region, its delineation process is difficult task unlike the political or administrative regions. Thus regions are not actually exist, rather made of human intellectual based on certain criteria. (Minshull, R.E.1967, p.17.)

Regional description was started with the writings of Strabo who explained about the configurations of earth surface and human adaptation in different geographic phenomena. Greeks gave the birth of the idea of regional geography. Travelers from different part of earth surface were coming in Greece for business purposes and explained about the land, climate and people of their home land. (Claval, Paul. 2002 (first Indian reprint), pp. 09-12).

Eighteenth century gave a more exact and richer description of the region as the segment of earth surface were demarcated with clear boundaries and presented on maps. During this time instead of defining the originality of each geographic compartment by ethnographic features, there was an approach of perceptible realities of relief, rocks and types of life style. At the same time, the main weakness in the regional study was that the boundaries were concerned to be described not quantitative. The geographers of eighteenth century did not understand what to gain from the natural region rather their attempt were only descriptive. (Claval, Paul. 2002 (first Indian reprint), pp. 12-16)
The nineteenth century witnessed the classical phase of regional geography. Alexander von Humboldt, at the beginning of this century seemed the importance of the division of earth surface into zones of latitude and longitude and impact of relief on climate and human activity, but he could not achieve regional analysis in which all those elements were integrated. But the philosophy of Vidal de la Blache was a decisive breakaway in the history of regional approach in geographical study. The idea of natural region became central. Geographers of the Videlian School of regional studies emphasised on the specific nature of areas referring to the dominant natural conditions and the life style of the inhabitants of that area. They gave prominence to the small unit of land which referred to as Pays (Claval, Paul. 2002 (first Indian reprint), pp. 16-17). A distinctive assemblage based on the physical environment and its human response. Thus Pays was the representative of cultural landscape with more or less defined boundaries having distinctive characteristics. Thus during this period the regional analysis seemed to be the core of geographic discipline.

The success of regional concept in geographical study appeared to be total in the years following the First World War. Up to the industrial revolution in Europe, the concept of region was only a natural region representing the man-nature interaction. Such kind of region refers to the formal region which is a geographical area having homogenous in terms of selected criteria such as similar topography or climate, economic criteria such as similar per capita income level, similar production structure, similar consumption patterns, uniform employment situation etc. (Glasson, J. 1978, (2nd Edition), pp. 37-38). The definition of such region may be in terms of single features or in terms of a well-defined association of several selected features. The concept of formal region was highly linked with the agrarian economy.

After the industrial revolution which was the landmark of transformation of economy from agrarian base to industrial base, the concept of region was also changed. Due to the industrialisation and urbanisation the concept of region became more complex. People and resources were tending to flow towards the focal point. Such kind of urban centre or nodal centre with high functional gravity represents the interdependence and interaction between the nodal centre and its surrounding area. Consequently, the heterogeneity of phenomena emerged and formal region representing homogenous phenomena changed into functional region.
Functional region exhibits system of relation between the service centres and its hinterland. To understand the actual dependency of people on a particular nodal centre, the delineation of functional region is very essential. It has been observed that movement of the people does not conform to any administrative limit. Therefore, functional region is delineated using both the quantitative and qualitative techniques. Quantitative techniques give only the boundary of region but it can’t give the actual flow and direction of people, goods and services. To understand the ground reality of flow and direction, interaction and interdependency the empirical observation is essential. Based on the consumers traveling pattern, the delineation of functional region is very much authentic, informative and significant for planning purposes. But due to the emerging needs of people and the development of transportation and communication people move further more distance to obtain goods and services. The boundary of functional region is not fixed rather it is more flexible.

**Concept of Regionalization**

Regionalization is the process of delineating regions. This process may take several forms depending on the purpose of regionalization, the criterion/criteria to be used and the availability of data. Systematic process of identification of regional unit and analysis of their spatial structure may be termed as regionalization.

Regionalization can also be defined as a means of arranging the number of points on the earth surface and to observe the uniformities and regularities of phenomena upon it and to establish definite theories, models, systems, and structure. It permits the application of statistical techniques for assessing data regarding spatial units and to help in the scientific establishment of the regional grid, which is the division of territory into integral parts. Regionalization has acquired key place in the spatial organisation of natural and social phenomena. Therefore, it should be made carefully with appropriate methods and techniques.

Before the industrial revolution, the purpose of delineation of region was to find out the homogeneity of phenomena. The delineation of homogenous region or formal region was based on the selected criteria depending on the purpose of regionalization. The delineation of formal region involves the grouping together of local units which have similar characteristics according to certain clearly defined criteria, but differ significantly from units outside the region on the basis of the chosen criteria.(Glasson,J.1978, (2nd Edition), pp. 41).
The process of delineation of homogenous region is very simple if the criterion is simple like area with mean monthly temperature of more than 20°c. but the delineation of homogenous region become complex when it is delineated based on variety of criteria like rate of urbanization, irrigation intensity, cropping intensity, fertilizer consumption and crop productivity. In such cases several techniques are used to delineate formal regions. (Glasson,J.1978, (2nd Edition), pp. 41). Two more sophisticated techniques are, the Weighted Index method in which certain quantitative weights are assigned to the variables and homogenous regions are delineated based on mean and standard deviation technique. Another technique to delineate the homogenous region is the Factor Analysis method which is most significant to isolate the basic factors leading to regional variation of phenomena.

After the industrial revolution when the agrarian economy became industrial and commercial base the need of human beings also started rising up. To fulfill needs they started to move to a certain place where goods and services are available and where they can approach easily. Thus, the interaction and interdependence between the centre having goods and services and its surrounding area led to the heterogeneous phenomena. To understand the ground reality of actual dependency or heterogeneous phenomena the need of delineation of functional region came into being. The functional regionalization involves the grouping together of local units which display a considerable degree of interdependence. Delineation of functional is based on two basic approaches, one, Flow Analysis is used to demarcate regional boundary based on the direction and intensity of flow between dominant centre and its surrounding area. The boundary of functional region in this method, exhibit the minimum intensity of flow. The flow may be movement of people, goods, government expenditure, newspaper circulation and telephonic call. Gravitational Analysis is another approach which explains ‘that the interaction between two centres is directly proportional to the ‘mass’ of the centres and inversely proportional to the ‘distance’ between the centre.’ (Glasson,J.1978, (2nd Edition), pp. 46). ‘By calculating the potential for the centres in a study area, contour lines of equal potential can be plotted on a map, illustrating the relative attractiveness, spheres of influence of the various centre. From such lines, functional regions can be identified.’ (Glasson,J.1978, (2nd Edition), pp. 46).

Besides the formal and functional region, on the basis of territorial extension or scale of sizes three types of regions are as follows;
(i) Macro-Regions

Macro region is the biggest in size. It may be entire world, or entire country or entire state. Within the macro-region a high degree of mutual dependency exists, rather than ones with homogenous characteristics. In other words, each macro-region should be characterized by a high degree of internal cohesion, forming an economic system by itself and having the ability to generate exchanges between it and the other regions within the country. The macro region should possess a high degree of self-sufficiency in matters such as food, level of employment, and a potential ability to produce goods and services which can be exchanged with other areas in order to meet the tertiary needs of both rural and urban life. (Misra, R.P., Sundaram, K.V. and Prakash Rao, V.L.S. 1976 (reprinted), pp. 78-80).

(ii) Meso-Regions

The meso-regions are the sub-divisions of macro regions. They really form the secondary economic units for the purpose of planning. If India as a whole country is seen as the macro-region the meso regions will be each state, or if whole the state of the country is assumed as the macro region its each district will be the meso region.

The main objective of delineating meso-region is to carve out viable areal units for the effective exploitation, conservation, and utilization of resources. (Misra, R.P., Sundaram, K.V. and Prakash Rao, V.L.S. 1976 (reprinted), pp. 81).

(iii) Micro-Regions

It is the sub-division of meso-region. For example, if the district of a state is taken as the meso region, its each community development block would be micro-region.

At the micro-level, region should have some unifying problem or interest as a core. The areas within a micro-region should be characterized by absence of serious conflicting interests between them. Its population should share certain basic attitudes, values, needs and desires. The micro-region must be designed to present the dynamic types of production, market relationship, and supply of labour and demand. In this way, they will contain the best possible combination of structural, organizational, and functional factors.
For the better clarification of basic problems and requisition of socio-economic development and the basic needs of human beings, and also for the optimum utilization of local resource base, the micro-region is the best unit of study. Micro-region approach is more crucial in developmental planning as it provides more detail information of each and every aspect at local level, that can’t meso region or macro region. Therefore micro-regions are considered as suitable units for the formulation, mechanization and implementation of regional developmental plans, as it is close to the grass roots and affording opportunities for direct interaction between the inhabitants and the administration in deciding the key issues related to area development.

2.2 CONCEPT OF PLANNING

Planning in any form cannot be dispensed with by any society aspiring to uplift the standards of living of its members. Almost all countries of the world have now adopted planning as a tool for socio-economic development. Planning is a contemplated process of thinking with the basic objective of socio-economic development. It implies a process of conscious and deliberate centralized economy for transforming the social structure and utilizing the national resource in order to fulfill certain preconceived goals. Planning is such a technique for socio-economic development as an adjustable means to the changing pattern of socio-technical environment of the society.

The economists and other social scientists as well as researchers perceived the process of planning in different ways so they suggest a set of prerequisite of successful planning, like existence of central planning authority, strong and efficient government, honest and sound administration, fixation of objectives and targets, adequate statistical data, well formulated and integrated plan, socialistic economic organization, mobilization of financial resources, flexibility in planning, public cooperation, economic control, maintenance of proper balance, proper development policy, economy in administration, proper education and the theory of consumption. (Ghosh, B.N.1977,p.271).

‘Planning is primarily a way of thinking about social and economic problems, planning is oriented predominantly toward the future, is deeply concerned with the relation of goals to collective decisions and strives for comprehensiveness in policy and programme
wherever these modes of thought are applied, there is a presumption that planning is being done.’ (Friedman, J.1964,p.61).

‘Planning is a continuous movement towards desired goals and, because of this all major decisions has to be made by agencies informed of those goals and the social purpose behind them. Even in considering a five-year period, forward and long-term planning has always to be kept in view. Indeed, perspective planning is the essence of the planning process. As this process develops, there is a certain rhythm of expansion in the development of the people, and a sense of enterprise and achievement comes to them. They are conscious of a purpose in life and have a feeling of being participants in the making of history.’(Misra, R.P. Sundaram, K.V. and Prakash Rao, V.L.S.1976,p.11).

Planning is identified as the future-oriented problem-solving process. Major features of general planning include a sequence of actions which are designed to solve problems which possibly may arrive in the future. ‘The planning problems vary but tend to be primarily economic and social; the planning period, the time horizon of ‘the future’, also varies according to the type and level of planning; but all planning involves a sequential process which can be conceptualized into a number of stages, such as:

- the identification of the problem;
- the formulation of general goals and more specific and measurable objectives relating to the problem;
- the identification of possible constraints;
- the projection of the future situation;
- the generation and evaluation of alternative courses of action; and the production of a preferred plan which in its generic form may include any policy statement or strategy as well as a definitive plan.’(Glasson, J.,1978.,p.19).

Within the general planning framework, there are various types of planning.

i) Physical and Economic Planning

The physical planning is mainly concerned with the Planning of area’s physical structure- land use, communications, utilities and so on, and has its origin in the regulation and control of town development. Economic Planning is concerned more with the economic structure of an area and its overall level of prosperity. (Glasson, J.,1978.,p.19-20).
ii) **Allocative and Innovative Planning**

Allocative planning is concerned with co-ordination, the resolution of conflicts ensuring that the existing system is ticking over efficiently through time in accordance with evolving policies. It is also known as regulatory planning. (Glasson, J., 1978., p. 20).

Innovative planning, on the other hand is more concerned with improving/developing the system as a whole, introducing new aims and objectives attempting to change on a large scale. For this reason it is sometimes known as development planning.

iii) **Single level and Multi-level Planning**

Planning processes can also be differentiated on the basis of the territorial levels of which planning are done. In many countries, specially of the underdeveloped world, plan formulation is done at the national level alone. Lower territorial levels involve themselves in the planning process, only at the implementation stage. This is partly because of the absence or inadequacy of technical know-how and leadership at lower levels and partly because of the lack of an institutional framework developed for the purpose. (Misra, RP., Sundaram, KV. and Prakash Rao. V.L.S., 1976., p. 09). Such type of planning is referred to the single level planning.

On the other hand, planning can be attempted at several territorial levels. This may be called multi level planning. How many levels of planning will there be, is determined by variety of factors, such as the size of the country, its administrative pattern, physical geography and regional structure.

iv) **Indicative and Imperative Planning**

Indicative planning merely lays down general guidelines and is advisory in nature, imperative or command planning involves specific directives.

v) **Short-term and Long-term Planning**

From the temporal point of view planning can be short term and long term. Short-term planning is designed to solve certain pressing problems which do not require large-scale changes in the social and economic order. It may be used to increase production and employment opportunities; to adjust production to market demand and supply, and to meet
the targets set by long term plans. Long-term planning sometimes erroneously called perspective planning, aims at the institutional and structural changes necessary for achieving the long-term social and economic goals of the society.’(Misra, RP., Sundaram, KV. and Prakash Rao. V.L.S., 1976., p.02).

vi) Sectoral and Spatial Planning

Sectoral planning is designed essentially for special purpose, like, to develop the various sectors of the economy such as agriculture, industry, transportation, power, etc., either individually or simultaneously.

‘The order in the process of development is not however confined to functional sub-systems; it is equally profound in the spatial incidence and spread of economic development and manifests itself in the formation of spatial sub-systems or regions’. (Hermansen, T. 1971, p.01). Spatial planning processes is different from sectoral planning process. Whereas in the latter, development as evident in space is the consequences of sectoral plans, in the former, sectoral developments emanate from an integrated spatial plan.

2.3 CONCEPT OF DEVELOPMENT

‘Development’ is a relative concept and there is neither any clear and agreed definition nor a single measure acceptable to all. The idea of development has been interpreted differently by different scholars depending upon the context in which the term is being used. When we use the word ‘development’ in the study, it implies an improvement in the material well-being of its people. Material well-being of a region can be identified with the increase in the real production, availability of amenities and services, infrastructure facilities, better conditions of living, increased employment opportunities and so on. Any change for betterment in these parameters indicates development. (Hussain, Majid. 1994, p.205).

‘The concept of development as applied to a society is a complex one. Development is not the same as societal change. The latter includes changes in society which may be detrimental as well as beneficial, whereas development tends to be equated with beneficial side only, with progress or improvement - for example, improvement in living standards, the adoption of new technologies, the establishment of new institutions.’ (Glasson, J., 1978., p.31). The concept of development varies from person to person, place to place and time to time as
development for one person may not be for other person. It is a multi-dimensional process involving the reorganization and reorientation of the entire economic and social system. Development involves the implicit and explicit value judgment about the direction and speed of change. In the planning for development the notion of development has the common and ultimate goal of enhancing the levels of living and the general condition of human welfare.

The conceptual basis of development does not lie only in quantitative growth but it is also related to qualitative assessment. While taking its quantitative aspect, it concludes with a basic objective of development, i.e., welfare of society. In order to assess the landscape of economic development, one should also observe the economic and social welfare rather than production and distribution. However, the concept of welfare involves value judgment regarding various aspects, but it still can not be neglected altogether. Thus it is obvious that development means an upward movement not merely of national but also of the entire social system.

The concept of development as applied to the society is a very complex one. Although it includes economic growth as an essential aspect as it carries forward the society according to the prevailing value judgment. Till 1960s the term ‘economic development’ was often used as a synonym of economic growth in economic literature. Now economic development is no longer considered identical with economic growth. It is taken to mean growth plus progressive changes in certain crucial variables which determine the well-being of the people. Mahbub-ul Haq, a leading Pakistani economist remarked, ‘the problem of development must be defined as a selective attack on the worst forms of poverty. Development goals must be defined in terms of progressive reduction and eventual elimination of malnutrition, disease, illiteracy, squalor, unemployment, and inequalities. We were taught to take care of our GNP because it would take care of poverty. Let us reverse this and take care of poverty because it will take care of the GNP. In other words, let us worry about the content of GNP even more than its rates of increase.’(Haq Mahbub-ul.,1971,p.06). Thus economic development is regarded as a process whereby the real per capita income increases along with the reduction in inequalities of income and satisfaction of the preferences of the masses as a whole.

While in, simply, the economic development is growth of economy reflected in the increase of per capita income and consequent purchasing power, higher economic output etc.,
on the other hand, the social development may be defined as the change of social structure reflected in the raising of living standard of people, literacy rate, ideal age and sex ratio. Both these concepts deals with society as a whole and it may include and increase the growth of output and national income, reducing of disparities in the distribution of national income and regional level of living, prediction in unemployment and provision of employment opportunity etc. All these processes are complexly interrelated and interdependent to each other.

2.4 CONCEPT OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Regional development may be defined as the process of development in a particular region. In other words, the development within the framework of spatial organization of the society is perceived as regional development. Regional development is ultimately the result of the location of economic activities in response to differential regional attractions. Shifts in the location pattern have direct repercussions on income, employment and welfare. Since spatial organisation is a function of activity and interaction patterns, regional development is simply an expression of these patterns.

‘Regional development is often used in a relative context, comparing problem regions with the prosperous regions, or with the national context, on the basis of a variety of socio-economic indicators’.(Glasson,J.,1978.,p.32-33). In a rural economy the development, infact, refers to a transformation of the institutional structure of the society. Since, the human society consists of multi-dimensional traits, the regional development has different connotation, because it is dealt with multi-disciplinary considerations.(Bhat,L.S.,1973,p.24).

The regional concept provides answers to the assurance and persistence of spatial variation of development. The definition of disparities in development as implied in the regional concept can be stated as the areas or region whose economy is organized around places outside their boundaries tend to be less developed. (Bhat,L.S.,1973,p.27).

Regional diversity and disparity affects the process of regional development. Regional disparity indicates the inequality in the levels of exploitation of development potential among different regions, taking the factors other than natural. India, with its sub-continental size, and the chronological depth of its tradition, presents a spatial variations of development which enables scholars to abstract generalization of significance in terms of inter-regional diversities as well as disparities with a view to utilize them for the analysis of
problems and to the formulation of policies relating to regional
development.(Raza,M.,1988,p.09). The aim of regional development is to improve the level
of well being of the people of area.(MC.Carty,Iowa Stat University

2.5 REGIONAL PLANNING IN INDIA

In the initial stage, in 1930’s the regional planning was generally understood to mean
natural resource planning, and thus its role was confined to determine the ways and means of
developing the natural resources of a region. However, with the passage of time, the
emphasis on natural resource planning was reduced considerably as new dimensions of urban
and metropolitan planning, environmental planning, human resource and community
planning, planning for problem areas, etc., considerably enlarged the scope and content of
regional planning.

Since 1951, the year when the first five year plan was launched, Indian Planning is
normative single–level with greater emphasis on the sectoral approach. Sectoral plans,
integrated into a single whole and fitted into the framework of national goals and objectives,
have been prepared and implemented. Indian planning is also marked by centralized at the
national level. Until very recently, no serious attempt was made to prepare plans at lower
territorial levels such as the state, district, development block or region with the same
competence and seriousness as at the national level.(Misra,R.P.,Sundaram,V.K.and
Rao,Prakash V.L.S.,1976,p.10)Sectoral macro-level approach failed to attain the target
achievements of five year plans. Consequently, the planning process got decentralized to
state level Planning and now emphasis is laid on planning for regional

EMPHASIS OF PLANNING FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DURING
SUCCESSIVE PLANS

The concept of Planning in India was much known not only after the independence in
1947, rather even before the independence. In 1938, M. Visvewaraya prepared a Ten Year
Plan for industrialization of the country with an objective to double the national income in
ten year period. In 1938, a committee chaired by Jawahar Lal Nehru was set up by Congress
for the purpose known as National Planning Committee. In 1946, an Advisory Plan Board was appointed to make policy and formulation of the National Planning Commission.

After independence, the government of India set up the Planning Commission in 1950 under the chairmanship of Prime Minister J.L. Nehru, to assess the country’s needs of materials, capital and human resources to formulate a Plan for their more balanced and effective utilization. The extra constitutional and non-statutory body was set up a resolution of the union cabinet by J.L. Nehru himself to formulate an integrated Five Year Plan and to act as an advisory body to the union govt. Since 1951, different national plans are as follows;

**First Five Year Plan (1951-56)**

During this plan period, due to the partition of India, problems were (i) influx of refugees, (ii) severe food shortage, (iii) mounting inflation, (iv) disequilibrium in the economy caused by the Second World War. In such situation this plan laid the emphasis on - (i) rehabilitation of refugees, (ii) rapid agricultural development to achieve food self sufficiency, (iii) control inflation, (iv) initiation of a process of all round balanced development which would ensure a rising national income and steady improvement in the living standards over a period of time.

It was highly centralized operation due to following factors:

- The country had little experience in planning and it was imposed from the top.
- One party was in power both at the centre and in the states. The party’s policies at the centre were largely carried out by the states with little conflict.
- The state had little experience in plan formulation and project proposal.
- The Central government was supplying bulk of the finance required for plan implementation in the state either in the form of grants or loans. (Government of India, ‘First Five Year Plan’, Planning Commission, 1952).

**Second Five Year Plan (1956-61)**

It was based on socialistic pattern of society. The target of the plan was to raise national income and per capita income by 25 percent and 11 percent respectively. In the context of regional planning two surveys were conducted, namely Pilot Regional Survey of the Mysore state during 1956-58 and a Diagnostic Survey of Damodar Valley Region in
1957, for making an appraisal of existing resources and suggesting strategies for regional development.

During this time ‘Intensive Area Development Programme (IADP) was launched in 1960 in seven selected districts of seven states. In 1956, Elwin Committee recommended the approach for tribal areas. Consequently in 1957, ‘Tribal Development Block’ (TDB) approach was adopted.

Due to wide regional disparities in India, the planners emphasized on the balanced regional development ever since the initiation of the planning process in India and perceived that, the pattern of investment must be devised as to lead to balanced regional development. (Government of India, ‘Second Five Year Plan- Summary’, Planning Commission, 1956).

**Third Five Year Plan (1961-66)**

Third Five Year Plan set the goal of raising the national income by 30 percent during five years making expansion of basic industries and development opportunities. Because of the wide regional disparities, some serious concerns to the problem of balanced regional development were taken for the first time (Government of India, ‘Third Five Year Plan- A Draft Outline’, Planning Commission, June 1960).

**Annual Plan (1966-69)**

It is referred to as the ‘Plan Holiday’ was adopted by the Planning Commission due to odd circumstances like, India-China War (1962) and India-Pakistan conflict (1965) accompanied by two successive droughts in 1965 and 1966, and devaluation of Rupee for three years, and consequently the Fourth Five Year Plan should start in 1969.

**Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-74)**

This Plan laid emphasis on to accentuate the process of industrial dispersal and stimulated the economy of the less developed area through regional and local planning process. In this plan, introduced a number of other schemes for the benefits of the rural poor such as:

- Small Farmer’s Development Agency (SFDA)
- Marignal Farmer’s and Agricultural Labourer’s Development Agency (MFAL)
- Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP).
- Crash Scheme for Rural Employment (CSRE)
Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Projects (PIREP).

Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP) since a large number of rural poor live in relatively less developed regions, all these programmes were expected to benefit the less developed regions more in comparison with the developed regions. Some programmes were concerned with identification of backward regions for purposes of granting concessions and financial assistance to industries established in such areas and weightage to backward states in the allocation of central assistance. (Government of India, ‘Fourth Five Year Plan- A Draft Outline’, Planning Commission, August 1966).

In this plan period the Multi-level Planning was started stressing up on the formulation of plans at district and lower level to provide adequate infrastructure facilities. Simply, the planning for socio-economic development at several territorial levels, instead of at a single national level is known as multi-level planning. In a multi-level Planning system, lower-level regional plans form the basis for higher-level regional plans and the higher–level regional plans provide the framework for lower-level regional plans. The higher-level regional plans offer a common framework for the plans at the next level in a system of second-level regions, and the lower-level regional plans provide the details for more generalized planning at the next higher level. In a multi-level regional planning set-up, people become direct participants in planning and development. The goals and objectives of national planning percolate down to the smallest units through the channels formed by the hierarchy of regions. These very channels transmit the feedback which is conspicuously, absent in our present planning system. (Misra, R.P., Sundaram, V.K. and Rao, Prakash V. L.S.1976, p. 39.)

**Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-79)**

The Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-79) was terminated a year earlier on April 1978 to usher in an area of rolling plan scheme formulated by the government led by the Janata Party in the Centre. The strategy of the removal of regional imbalances of Fourth Plan were kept continued in the Fifth Plan also on treatment to the approach of concepts of ‘growth centre’ and ‘Central Place’ strategies. (Government of India, ‘First Five Year Plan’, Planning Commission, 1975.)

**Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85)**
In this Plan greater emphasis was given on most of the above programmes. To provide an integrated approach to the problems of regional inequalities, the mechanism of area planning was adopted. The main objectives of this plan were to eliminate unemployment, raising standard of living of the people below poverty line, and providing services to the masses with a distinctively rural bias. In this plan special importance was given to follow the decentralization of district level planning into block level planning in order to eliminate the inter and intra-district socio-economic inequalities.

District plans were supposed to be followed on the line of backlog cum problem oriented concept as per guideline formed by the state planning processes were the function of (i) resource analysis, (ii) provision of communication services and (iii) formulation of spatial plans and Planning for target groups, i.e. various scheme for the welfare of labour, scheduled castes and backward classes, and programmes relating to women and children. (Government of India, ‘Sixth Five Year Plan- 1980-85’, Planning Commission, January 1981).

Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90)

The Seventh Five Year Plan correctly recognized that two critical determinants of a region’s economic status were agricultural productivity, and human resource potential and reduction in inter-regional disparities would help greatly in the task of reducing regional imbalances in the country. (Government of India, ‘Seventh Five Year Plan’, Planning Commission, Vol. I, Nov.1985,p.44). To reduce unemployment and consequently the incidence of poverty, social programmes like Jawahar Rojgar Yojana were initiated in addition to existing programmes.

Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97)

This plan was launched immediately after the initiation of structural adjustment and macro stabilization policies which were necessitated by the worsening Balance of Payments position and inflation process during 1990-91. In this plan emphasis was given on economic growth and its allied sector to overcome deficiency of balance of payment, and also to significant growth of trade and commerce.

Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002)

It was launched in the 50th year of India’s independence. This plan was based on a careful stock taking of the strengths and weakness of past development strategies in order to provide appropriate direction and balance for the socio-economic development of the
country. Apart from basic objectives of economic development, the emphasis was also made to develop the social infrastructure like health and education sectors by launching various schemes and programmes.

**Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007)**

This was approved on October 5, 2002 by unveiling a tough six points reform agenda to push the annual growth from a stagnant 5.5 percent to 8 percent. The other highlights of the plan include the development of regions by ensuring the socio-economic development, in order to ensuring the harmony with an environment for developing an optimal spatial organisation of the society. (Government of India, *Tenth Five Year Plan*, Planning Commission, Dec. 2002.)

The Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) and the National Capital Region (NCR) are the two significant regional planning efforts of the country. Though the partial success of the DVC and distinguish poor performance of the NCR was achieved, but reveals the official apathy to the spirit of regional planning in India.

73rd and 74th amendments to the Indian constitution have a new hope for the grass root level planning in India. These amendments have given a new direction to the planning process in the country. These are aimed to collect local resources and demands of people at village level.