

## **IV Unit**

### **Regional Imbalances and Inequalities before Independence Period**

- Colonial Development
- Enclaves or pockets became centres of economic activity
- Raw material based industries
- Historical factors
- Migration and investment of capital
- Age structure
- Capital markets in the backward regions further depress economic activity
- Banking system
- Transport
- Industrialization
- Urbanization
- Per capita income
- Lifestyle
- Literacy
- Employment etc.

### **Regional Imbalances and Inequalities After Independence Period**

- Employment
- lifespan
- Irrigation
- Agriculture growth and development
- Urbanization
- Industrial growth
- Per capita income
- Private investment
- Illiteracy, corruption and lack of political vision
- Literacy
- Transport
- Power
- Communications
- Cultural development
- Economic development
- Resource imbalances etc.

### **Asok Mitra's Study**

Based on the 1961 data, Asok Mitra, the then Registrar-General of India, conducted a pioneering study on 'Levels of Regional Development in India'. Though, as noted above, Mitra's study was based on a simple method of 'assigning and adding up ranks' to highlight regional disparities, it was a pioneering study since it was the first study that used district-level data and which attempted to include a mammoth wealth of data. The indicators used by

Mitra were divided by him into the following six blocks and information collected on them for each district of India:

Block I: a. Geology, Topography, Rainfall, House types, Language, and SC and ST

b. Soils, crops, and yield of rice

Block II: Agricultural Infrastructure

Block III: Participation Rates in traditional sector

Block IV: Potential of human resources

Block V: Distributive trade, manufacturing and infrastructure

Block VI: Organized industrial activity in the modern sector

Mitra's analysis shows that out of the total 327 districts in India, 79 were at the lowest level of development and the number of districts at the highest level of development was 84.

## **Process of Urbanization**

Urbanization is the process of becoming urban. It is a demographic process whereby an increasing proportion of the population of a region or a country live in urban areas. It is a characteristic of economically advancing nations, where it is occurring at much faster rate than it did historically in the developed (western) world. Urbanization is linked to industrialization.

Administrative definition (India): Towns (places with municipal corporation, municipal area committee, town committee, notified area committee or cantonment board); also, all places having 5000 or more inhabitants, a density of not less than 1000 persons per square mile or 400 per sq km, pronounced urban characteristics and at least three fourths of the adult male population employed in pursuits other than agriculture.

In general, urbanization is associated with the concentration of population in towns and cities. There are, however three linked concepts which are associated with urbanization;

- i. demographic phenomena
- ii. structural change in society and
- iii. urbanization as a behavioural process.

As a demographic phenomenon, urbanization is interpreted as a process involving the absolute and relative growth of towns and cities within a defined areas (usually a country). This is often represented as taking place in two stages;

- first, an increasing proportion of the population is resident in urban places, and
- second, the proportion living in the largest places increases.

The end of the sequence is presented as an almost completely urbanized society, with the great majority of its population living in a few large places.

Linked with the demographic process is the structural change in the society, consequent upon the development of industrial capitalism. Cities are presented in the foci of the exchange processes that are central to this mode of production. With the latter, the search for increases in productivity led to the development of urban factories to reap the economies of scale and the advantages to be gained from the processes of concentration and centralization.

The third concept associated with the urbanization is that urbanization as a behavioural process. Urban areas, especially large cities, have been identified as centres of social change; attitudes, values and behaviour patterns are modified in the particular milieu of the urban place, characterized by its size, its density and the heterogeneity of its inhabitants (urbanism) and then spread to the rest of the population of diffusion through the urban system.



## The Causes of Urban Growth

### **Push Factors**

- Lack of educational facilities
- Lack of job opportunities
- Lack of health facilities
- Lack of Sui gas, electricity and sewerage system
- Land lord system
- Unequality
- Low living standard
- Old traditions



### **Pull Factors**

- Better and higher educational facilities
- Better and more of job opportunities
- Better health facilities
- Availability of Sui gas, electricity and sewerage system
- Better living standard

### Effects of Urbanization

#### Positive effects

- Reduced transport costs, exchange of ideas and sharing of natural resources
- Cities act as beacons for the rural population because they represent a higher standard of living
- Cities offer opportunities to people not available in the countryside
- Social and religious taboos/sanctions disappearing
- Education is tool to eradicate social evils
- Industrialization, urbanization, education, legislation, secularization-sequence of development
- Diffusion of urban culture to rural areas

#### Negative effects

- Public health issues resulting from contaminated water and air and the spread of communicable diseases due to overcrowding
- Unemployment and under employment
- Severe shortage of housing
- Transportation-commuting issues, lack of public transport, no adequate investment
- Social effects- poverty, lack of opportunities, psychological problems, alcoholism, drugs, crime, violence and other deviant behaviours

## Problems of Urbanisation

Problem of urbanization is manifestation of lopsided urbanization, faulty urban planning, urbanization with poor economic base and without having functional categories.

Hence India's urbanization is followed by some basic problems in the field of :

- 1) Unemployment
- 2) Housing
- 3) Slums and squatter settlements
- 4) Transport
- 4) water supply and sanitation
- 5) water pollution and air pollution
- 6) inadequate provision for social infrastructure ( school, hospital, etc ).

## Regional Planning in Agriculture

Agriculture forms the backbone of Indian economy and more than 70% of the population of country depends on this sector for its livelihood. So a large number of agricultural development programs keeping in mind the backward areas as well as the target groups were introduced in the post-Independence period. A real beginning in these directions were made on 2 October, 1952 when the **programme of community development** was launched.

### 1. Community Development Programme (CDP)

Although the basic aim of all community development programs is 'Man' and all efforts are geared towards using this input in the best possible way to bring about an integrated development of the community life. It is a programme 'of the people, by the people and for the people' wherein the role of the government and administrative authorities is to help the people to help themselves. The programs under Community Development Programme which were related to Agriculture and its allied fields were as follows;

i) Reclamation of available virgin and waste land

ii) Provision of

- a) Irrigation facilities
- b) Seeds and manure
- c) Improved agricultural implements
- d) New agricultural technology
- e) Veterinary aid

- f) Credit and marketing facilities
- g) Breeding centres for animal husbandary
- h) Plantation of forests

## **2. High Yielding Varieties Programme (HYV)**

A team of experts sponsored by the Ford Foundation was invited by the government of India in the latter half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> five year plan to suggest ways and means to increase agricultural production and productivity. This necessity arose out of the need for increasing the agricultural production in the face of continuing stagnation of production on the one hand, and rapidly increasing demand on the other. The team suggested 'intensive' efforts for increasing the agricultural production and productivity in selected regions of the country with stress on modern inputs, especially fertilizers, credit, marketing facilities etc.

## **3. Intensive Area Development Programme (IADP)**

On the recommendation of Ford Foundation team, the government introduced an intensive development programme in seven districts selected from seven states in 1960 and this programme was named Intensive Area Development Programme. The plan was basically for the increase in agricultural production and productivity.

The seven districts selected under the programme were; Godavari (AP), Shahabad (Bihar), Raipur (MP), Thanjavur (TN), Ludhiana (Punjab), Aligarh (UP), and Pali (Rajasthan). The first four were selected for rice, next two for the wheat and the last one for the millet.

## **4. Intensive Agriculture Area Programme (IAAP)**

Later with the success of the programme IADP, it was extended to one district in each of the state and it is now labelled as Intensive Agriculture Area Programme (IAAP). It certainly helped to increase the productivity and the foodgrains output which was 72.35 million tonnes in 1965-66 shot up to 95.08 million tonnes in 1967-68. But the growth rate was not similar in all the states. Punjab reported a growth rate of 8.35% per annum, Haryana 6.66% per annum but Odisha, Maharashtra and some other states performed very badly.

## **5. Programmes of Rural Employment and Development of the Rural Poor**

Since HYVP technology was costly, it naturally benefited the large farmers. The majority of the small and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers did not experience improvement in their economic welfare. Keeping these things in mind, the government of India introduced a number of special programmes for the rural poor in the fourth plan. The important programmes introduced were;

- Small Farmers Development Agency (SFDA)
- Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers Development Agency (MFAL)
- Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)
- Crash Scheme for Rural Employment (CSRE)
- Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Project (PIREP)

SFDA does not extend credit to the small farmers directly but functions as an agent for stimulating the flow of credit for the existing agencies such as cooperative banks, land development banks, commercial banks etc.

MFAL also helped in recognizing small and marginal farmers with land holdings below the limit prescribed for them. They also helped to identify agricultural labourers.

For Rural Employment some programme like Rural Works Programme (RWP), whose aim was to provide work for an average of say 100 days in a year for about 2,5 million persons, and if possible more.

Crash Scheme for Rural Employment (CSRE) was introduced in 1971 to generate employment for 1000 persons on average per year in every district and production of assets of a durable nature in consonance with the local development plan,

Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Project (PIREP) was initiated in 15 blocks of the major states in oct 1975. It helped to make available employment for the remaining number of unutilized mandays in project such as construction of drinking water wells, school buildings, houses etc.

National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) was introduced in 1980-81. It was the redesigned form of food-for-work programme.

Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), was launched in 1973, its chief strategies were;

- (i) Development and management irrigation resources
- (ii) Soil and moisture conservation and afforestation
- (iii) Reconstructing of cropping pattern and pasture development
- (iv) Change in agronomic practices
- (v) Live stock development
- (vi) Development of small and marginal farmers and agricultural labour.