

REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN ANDHRA PRADESH*

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ONE of the important features of the economic and social policies of the developing countries is that they are oriented towards an "integrated society". The need for such orientation arose because of the differential rates of development of regions and sections of population. Some regions are more prosperous than others and some sections of population are more prosperous than others. Both natural and historical factors are responsible for the differential rates of development. Some regions are endowed with favourable natural resources than others like the delta districts of Andhra Pradesh and historically some regions have received better attention from the government in terms of development of the region. To achieve national integration and development, it is necessary on the part of the planners to take into cognizance the regional variations and there is enough of theoretical and operational justification to consider region as a base for implementation of plan programmes.

In this paper an attempt is made to study the regional integration in Andhra Pradesh. The objectives of this paper are (1) to classify the districts into regions on the basis of economic criteria (2) to examine and measure: (a) The relative position of each region to that of the State, and (b) The disparities among the regions during the decade 1955-66, and (3) to measure the extent of integration of the backward regions with that of the developed region.

Formation of Clusters :

The 'minimum distance'¹ has been chosen as an index to form clusters of districts in the State. The districts having the minimum distance are thus considered to be 'Close' with one another. The criterion of forming the clusters is that the average distances within the cluster should be less than the average distances between the clusters.

The Indicators and the data for forming the clusters are shown in table 1. Distances are computed among the districts on the basis of the proportions of the State average by using the formula given below.

$$\Delta_{rs}^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{10} (Y_i^r - Y_i^s)^2 \quad (r, s=1, 2..20)$$

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