

## **Inter-District Variation in Industrial Employment: Its Main Causes — A Case Study of West Bengal**

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### **Section - 1**

'Industrial development' has become synonymous with the term 'economic development' though both of these terms have their different connotations. While the terms 'economic development' is a generic one encompassing all sorts of economic activity that serve to further the development of a spatial unit, industrial development is more specific in its connotations and use; however, now-a-days, economic development of a country is so dependent on industrial development, the distinction between the two terms is most often lost. According to Sutcliffe, industrialisation is the outcome or accompaniment of economic development, a set of policies, which more than any one set of policies, is a means toward economic development (1). It has been argued that in developing countries with a backward agriculture and vast population there is little choice but to give priority to the development of industries. Industrialisation, Rosenstein Roden has opined, is the way of achieving a more equal distribution of income between different areas of the world, by raising income of the depressed regions at a higher rate than the rich areas (2). In fact, this same opinion also holds good in the case of an individual country, suffering from the problem of inter and intra-regional disparities of development.

Over the years, it has been observed that industrialisation which is the major catalytic agent of economic development, gets concentrated in some urban centres and hence the disparities have cropped up between the regions of a country. This disparity which is the product of urban biased strategy of development, has become the most important reason for class conflict in developing countries like India where a very small number of developed regions are surrounded by vast island of backward regions, characterised by chronic unemployment and under-employment.

Historically, the cities of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras etc., had large industries. Raw material sources like Hoogly, Asansol, Jamshedpur also attracted industries to be agglomerated there. After independence, government adopted the policy of economic development to reduce the disparity in development, though the problem of disparities, still remains. However, the comparison of industrial development among the states would not clearly reveal the true