

## **Future Directions of Industrialisation In West Bengal**

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Economic planning in most developing countries attains crucial dimensions since their economies are plagued by conditions of employment, poverty and creeping stagnation in almost all fronts. With such a situation at the backdrop the present paper attempts to provide a pragmatic approach for economic planning in a typical developing economy, West Bengal, keeping in view its problems and prospects. The identification of priority areas and the choice of appropriate technology within the existing socio-economic set up are the issues that have been dealt with in the present case.

### **1. Introduction**

Economic planning in LDC's is experiencing a continuous state of crisis brought about by inappropriate modalities for development formulated during post-war years. Alarming rates of unemployment, mass poverty and above all the widened socio-economic disparities are the visible consequences of the faulty policy formulations. Among the traditional theories that guided economic planning, the neoclassical growth theories lacked the employment orientation. The later theories of growth were more or less imitations of the western thought and thus lacked the socio-economic relevance. With this, at the backdrop, the present work attempts in providing a pragmatic approach for planning regional development in a typically developing economy keeping in view its problems and prospects. For this purpose the industrial economy of West Bengal has been chosen as a case study.

West Bengal, a premier industrialised state in the country at the beginning of the planning era, was the seat of industries which claimed a position of national significance. Majority of the firms catered to items for export markets and public sector demand goods. The striking feature of the industrial structure was its close interwoven nature resulting in an induced impact on the industries having close linkage with the dominant ones.