

1. THE MARATHWADA REGION

Multi-level planning currently enjoys wide acceptance in planning for economic development of large economies with a wide range of diversity in resources and institutional set-up. The approach merits particular relevance when due to historical circumstances, the national economy is afflicted with economic and technological dualism dividing it into modern leading regions confined to metropolitan areas pulsating with impulses of growth and vast lagging regions which remain more or less isolated from the forces of development.

This calls for a special development effort for putting the lagging regions on a path of sustained development. The present study is an attempt to suggest a design of economic development for Marathwada, a lagging region in the Maharashtra State, which is, industrially, the most advanced State in India. The basic approach adopted in this exercise may be called a resource development approach based on the generalization of scientific management and development of the productive resource for sustained increase in the levels of living of the community as a whole. The resource endowment in the region coupled with the people of the region thus becomes the basic twin parameter on which the design of development is built.

In the scheme of the study, therefore, to start with, the resources and the population of the region, are described and the region is put on the economic map of Maharashtra in order to get some idea of both the challenges as well as the opportunities involved. The approaches to regional planning currently adopted are evaluated and the suggested approach to regional planning and the methodology of the present study are then discussed.

The study proceeds to review the developments in the agricultural sector in Marathwada particularly since the formation of the Maharashtra State in 1960. On this background, policy measures for ensuring sustained agricultural development are indicated. The size and the nature of the existing secondary activity in the region are reviewed and reasons for non-growth of the industrial sector are discussed. The industrial potential of the region is assessed and areas of industrial development along with the organizational effort required are charted out. Appropriate urban-economic infrastructure to support the suggested agricultural and industrial development is then worked out. In conclusion, financial implications of the suggested development along with the expected benefits in terms of income and employment are indicated.