

(REGIONAL PLANNING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT)

UNIT - ONE

TOPIC

Regional Planning: Concept, Merits and Limitation



⇒ Introduction

Regional Planning is the instrument through which we can ensure the optimality of

"Optimal utilization of Space"

"Optimal distribution pattern of Human Activities"

→ In those countries where the basic objectives of "Regional Development" are incorporated in the National plans, regional planning assumes a more POSITIVE and ACTIVE Role & responsibility. Questions such as "WHAT is WHERE and WHY - and so what" are decided with the help of Regional Economics and on the basis of this knowledge, regional planners seek to,

→ Improve ~~and~~ "distribution" pattern of Human activity, &

→ Reduce the "disparities" between the rich and poor regions of the Country.

- Also, within the overall framework of a National Plan, REGIONAL PLANNING is designed to formulate measures
- to assist the growth of certain regions while restraining the growth of others (if necessary),
 - assist the governments in examining the regional implications of undertaking Infrastructural Developments, and
 - lay down detailed plans for economic activity in the different regions of the country.

→ In the Initial stages of its development in the 1930s, Regional Planning was generally understood to mean the 'Natural Resource Planning' and thus its scope was confined to determining the ways and means of developing the natural resources of a Region. eg → classic example of this belief were the TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority) ^{-USA} & DVC (Damodar Valley Corporation) ^{-India}.

However, ~~in the days~~ with the passage of time, the emphasis on Natural Resource planning reduced considerably as new dimensions of planning has emerged. eg → Metropolitan planning, Environmental planning, Planning for problem areas etc., considerably enlarged the scope and content of Regional Planning.

Now a days, the inclusion of

economic and social aspects eg → problems of economic and social development, provision of Education, Health and other social services, Equitable distribution of Income and wealth etc., has made the idea of Regional Planning so comprehensive as to embrace all Economic, Geographical and social behaviour in a given region.

⇒ Definition of Regional Planning

Regional Planning is the planning for a geographic area that transcends the boundaries of individual governmental units - but that shares common social, economic, political, cultural and natural resources and transportation characteristics.

→ According to R.P. Mishra, K.V. Sundaram & V.L.S. Prakash Rao,

"Regional Planning is concerned with the ordering of human activities in 'Supra Local Space'. It aims simultaneously at economic development, social justice & environmental quality".

→ According to D.G. Tungase,

"Regional Planning is planning for development of a region which is demarcated on geographical or economic considerations and designed for the development of the resources of that region".

