

REGIONAL ECONOMIC IMBALANCES AND NATIONAL SECURITY IN INDIA: AN OVERVIEW

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Abstract:

India, the second most popular country in the world with its substantial amount of natural resources, has the potential to development into a major power. Hence, national security for a large developing country like Indian does not merely means safeguarding geographical boundaries but to ensure rapid economic development for cohesive egalitarian and technological society. Rapid economic development which is essentially vertical in character has very little scope for development of wide technological society, unless periphery of the country develops better access to the modern technology. This can be possible, throughout the grand strategy at national level that is the territorial integrated economic development. Keeping this view in mind the researcher attempted to study the Regional economic imbalance and national security in India. This approach will not merely achieve the wide use of modern technology at periphery level but it will also help to consolidate the territorial integrity of country, which is more important in view of security of the nation.

It is a major task before newly independent and developing countries to consolidate different forces, sub-national for the nation building. India, having its different social and ethnic groups whom have regional affinity, are to be mold into more cohesive society.

Key Words : Economic Imbalance, cohesive egalitarian, National Security

Review of Literature:

The disparities in the regional economic development, during last thirty eight years are increasing further rather than decreasing. This acceleration in the territorial economic imbalances is definitely hinder the nations development and security. Certainly it will manifested into a regional political conflicts. Prof A. Kundu and Prof Moonis Raza, in their book on Indian Economy (1982) categorically maintained that, the tensions and strains generated through disparities in the levels of regional development in the Indian polity are essentially a function of the unfinished task of nation building and reflects the inadequacy of the strategies evolved since independence to correct the distortions brought about by the colonial rule. Of late these have acquired alarming proportions and are threatening to shrike at the every root of that sustain the national economy.

Aim and Objectives of the Study:

The aim of this study is to study the regional economic imbalance and national security in India. To accomplish the aim of the study researcher keeps following objectives

- To assess the economic imbalances through levels of development
- to look into the vital problems of economics imbalance and
- To highlights the consequences and possibilities of such growing phenomenon of economic imbalance in view of national security

Economic Imbalances and Levels of Developments :

In order to assess the economic imbalance, the three components of economic development i.e. agricultural development, industrial development and urbanization, have to be taken into account.

Imbalances in Agricultural Development:

A study carried out by Prof. G. S. Bhalla, Chairman of Agricultural Price Commission in collaboration with planning commission has revealed that regions with high productivity high growth rate are confined to a small area in the north western part of the country i.e. Punjab, Eastern Harayana and Western U.P., which achieved growth rate of output more then five percent per annum. That is mainly because of large scale irrigation, with intensified application of the new technology. The extensive area of the country in the states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu have shown much lower rate of agricultural production.

The study also reveled that 31 of the low level productivity districts and 26 of the medium level productivity districts had registered negative growth rates. There are 75 districts 1/4 area of country falls in the category of regional of sub — marginal subsistence.

They are mostly in the central and southern dry parts of India together with the same part of east Bihar and Orissa.

Imbalances in Industrial Development:

Industrial development in India during the colonial period was concentrated only at port - centers - Bombay, Calcutta and Madras — of course, few industries established in other pocket like Jamsetpur because of geographical constraint. The economic ties of hinterland areas were directed towards port — centers, which were basically centrifugal in character and secured the subordinate position in world capitalist market. independence the course of industrialization and direction of economics ties changes they increasingly acquire a centripetal character. The new industrial belts have come up at (i) Chandigarh, () Amrutsar — Ludhina belt, (iii) Hardwar — Rishikesh area, (iv) at Rahand in South East , U.P.,(v) Kota in Rajasthan , (vi) Ranchi in Bihar, (vii) Baroda — Ahmadabad belt (viii) Coimbatore — Madurai mode, (ix) Vishakpatnam complex and (x) Always

Cochin Complex. But these industrial development do not support proportionately to interior backward areas in the country for example Calcutta city gets more than 40 per cent of its investment from its hinter land agriculture sector and returns only 4 to 5 per cent in terms of tractors and some agriculture equipment and fertilizer.

Imbalances in Urbanization :

Urbanization is systematic and cumulative expression of spatial consequences of agricultural and industrial development as well as structural changes taking place in society. The study of Chapman and warmali highlights the inadequate provision of urban places in Bihar and U.P. the good provision of such features are in Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Hariyana and western Part of Maharashtra and some part of Gujarat . Most of the cities have immigration from rural areas, is mainly because of completion of push factor.

The flow into the urban industrial concentrations include Calcutta conurbation, Bombay — Thane, Pune Gujarat, Plains, Saurashtra , Malwa plateau, Western district of Maharashtra. Godavari —Krishna delta, western Tamil Nadu, and dispersed districts such as Delhi, Kanpur and Bangalore.

The areas of out migration which essentially backward in character included Ganga, Plains in Utter Pradesh, North Bihar, North Punjab plains, North-East Rajesthan, and coastal tracks of Tamil Nadu, Orissa and Konkan. There are also minor outflows from Bundelkhand plateau, parts of western Himalayas, Rayalaseema, Rah plains of West Bengal and North Mysore plateau.

Levels of Development :

The above assessment of Agricultural development industrialization and urbanization indicate the presence of marked territorial (regional) inequalities in the development in India. For the better understanding of the disparities in the regional development in India can acquired by adding the score of these three factors. This compound score of the development categorized into four groups-high, Medium, Low and very low levels of development , by K.V. Sundaram by using composite index method. His study revealed that the regions in height level of development are 29 districts lying in the states of Punjab, Hariyana and Delhi in the North — West, Bombay —Pune and Thana in the West in Maharashtra, and Surat, Baroda, Rajkot in Gujarat, the Southern Kerala costal plains from Trichur to Kanya Kumary and Kalikat District in North Kerala, Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu and Cooing in Karnataka.

The areas falls in the category of medium level of development are around large urban centers like Madras, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Indore and Calcutta, The contiguous areas of medium to high level of development are in five areas

- (i) in the West and South, extending from Gujarat down through Maharashtra which is further linked up with Karnataka, Kerala and the whole of Tamil Nadu in the South.
- (ii) in the North-West including Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Western, U.P. and pass of Rajasthan

and (Ganganagar and Bikaner district).

- (iii) in west Bengal extending from Calcutta to Damodar valley, industrial belt.
- (iv) the Mahanadi and Krishna Godavari Deltas,
- (v) in the other parts of central and eastern India certain pockets of medium level of development were also prominent around the urban nodes of Ajmer, kota, Gwalior, Ujjain, Bhopal, Agra, Kanpur, Lucknow, Allahabad, Patna, Rurkela, Jabalpur ect..., Thus the development in these areas is 'spoty' with no diffusion in the rural areas.

The areas in very lowest level of development were the district of Bastar, Sidhi, Surguja, Panna, Tikamagarh, and Jhabua in Madhya Pradesh, Koraput and Kalahandi in Orissa. Pulamau and Purnea in Bihar, Jaisalmer, Barmer, Jalore, Jodhpur, Durgapur and Bhuwaneshwar in Rajasthan and Punch, Riasi and Udampur in Jammu and Kashmir.

Contradictions in the Development :

This, imbalanced development of regions generated several contradiction and problems which further hindered the functioning of the countries economic organism.

The functioning of the countries economic organism is extremely uneven, which is essentially product of imbalanced development, i.e.

- (i) The traffic flows of broad — gauge railway lines out going from Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi and Madras, exceed 30-60 thousand tons per kilometer, while the traffic flows of narrow — gauge railways in the vast regions of North — West, Central, North and North — East India drops below 5 -10 thousand tons per kilometer.
- (ii) Contradictions in resources and development is that India's most rich areas in mineral resources South — North — West Orissa — East Madhya Pradesh is still remains one of the most backward region of India.
- (iii) Port — cities like Calcutta have developed very artificially. In the normal process of Urbanization and industrial development, more percentage of the work force, contributes to the secondary sector, at higher stage of development work force gradually shifts over to tertiary sector (Service sector) In Calcutta major proportion of work force engaged in tertiary sector (service) are not engaged in white scholar jobs as it is in European cities (which is one of the indicator of higher stage of economic development). They are mostly engaged in transport activities porters and rikshow pullers. This is not the development but the degradation of the society. Along with those contradictions there are several problems which became obstacle in the integrated balanced economic development.

Problems of Development :

- Parochial tendency of People : Having possibilities of economic development, the state governments are striving for an accelerated formulation of economic complexes on their

territory. This frequently results in a policy detrimental to India as a whole and it also obstructs the rational use of resources, and retards the nation-wise territorial economic integration. Moreover location of the industries and state projects is often determined not by the rational technico-economic considerations, but by political pressures of this or that stage.

- Problems of Non-Cooperation among states: The non-cooperation among states is one of the hindrance in the National economic development. On the border territory of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, Electric power transmission lines which are close to each other remain unlinked. This is very un- economical that every
- state continues to prefer building transmission lines within the boundary of their respective territory, in spite of persisting shortage of steel.
- The more acute problem is the problem of joint use of rivers. Narmada valley. Projects foundation stone has lead by late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in 1950, but the project yet to be complete because complicated and prolonged negotiations have been continued between Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. In the South many states have been drawn into the controversy about the division of Godavari water. These water disputes in the obstacle in the development of concern areas. Suggestions, Consequences and Possibilities of Economic Imbalances:
- The states has developed parochial tendency towards their own development and at the same time loosing comprehensive development approach to country as a whole.
- The sharp differences in the economic development of various regions have generated political tensions, for example sugar lobby of western Maharashtra, and non-sugar lobby of Vidharba and Marathawada regions. (Wells Province in in Britain).
- Division of work force is difficult to generate in backward areas, where enormous manpower goes unutilized because of seasonal unemployment in rural areas.
- Continuous economic deprivation of peoples in particular areas may generate serious threat of diminishing the national morale, as H.J. Morgenthau (1973), stated that, any segment of the population with feels itself permanently deprived of its wrights and full participation in the life of the nation will tend to have a lower national morale, to be less Patriotic' then those who do not suffer from such disabilities:

(v) Historical-Geographical Community, may develop separatist tendency for more autonomy or full autonomy if economic imbalances increase beyond certain degree such Tendency apparat in Jarkhand Movement in most backward connected areas of Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh, Andhna Movement in Railsima. Mizo, Naga, movement in North East India.

These all consequences and prospects and prospects of regional economic Imbalances are direct internal threat to our national security and obstacals in our national grand strategy. I would

like to suggest that, in order to protect our national security, there is a need to study in details the realities of territorial economic imbalances; and to evolve more explicit and adequate strategy to achieve not the blanket type development of the regions but to achieve aspired balanced development considering natural resources and potentialities of the regions.

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