

### **CHAPTER – III**

#### **Identification of Backward Areas.**

The study attempts to assess the spread effects of development process in Bihar with a view to identify the regions of iniquitous distribution of development. Identification of forces adversely affecting the process of development requires to be made for evolving criteria for identification of backward areas in the country. Studies by various Committees constituted by Planning Commission, Government of India have been made in this connection.

2. These Committees are :

- (a) Study Group Constituted in the context of the formulation of the Draft Fourth Five Year Plan (1966-71) to identify areas with high density of population, low level of income, employment and living conditions etc. in the country through a set of indicators of regional development.
- (b) The Pande Committee with the intention to ultimately suggest a strategy whereby regionally imbalances could be minimized or even eliminated by arranging establishment of industries of all sizes in selected backward areas or regions through financial and fiscal incentives.
- (c) The Wanchoo Committee was the second working Group appointed by the National Development Council in 1986 to make a careful study of the issue of regional imbalance.
- (d) Committee on Backward Areas under the Chairmanship of Prof. Sukhamoy Chakravorty in October 1972.
- (e) National Committee on the Development of Backward Areas (N.C.D.B.A.) under the chairmanship of Shri B. Shivaraman was appointed by planning commission in November, 1978.
- (f) Planning Commission appointed another committee on 6.2.1997 to evolve criteria for identification of 100 most backward poorest districts in the country. This committee was headed by Dr. E.A.S. Sarma.

The criteria recommended by these committees for identification of backward areas can be summarized as follows:

- (i) Density of population per sq.km. of area.
- (ii) Percentage of agricultural workers to total workers.
- (iii) Percentage of literate population.
- (iv) Percentage of school going children.
- (v) Total per-capita income.
- (vi) Per capita income from agriculture.
- (vii) Sex ratio, industry and mining.
- (viii) Availability of infrastructural facilities.
- (ix) Per capita consumption of electricity
- (x) Chronically drought prone areas.
- (xi) Chronically flood prone areas.
- (xii) Length of surfaced roads per 100 sq. km. Of area.
- (xiii) Public health care system.
- (xiv) Safe drinking water facility.
- and(xv) Poverty rates.

With a view to reduce regional imbalance and to bring equality in distribution of fruits of development a Group of Members of Planning Commission had submitted its report on 11<sup>th</sup> October 1996.

This group recommended to evolve a built in system in planning system to ensure performance and accountability. It had further recommended that the plan assistance for basic minimum services should not have loan element in it. It had felt that the objective of the development planning should be raise commitment through greater participative character planning.

On the basis of the aforesaid criteria for determination of pockets where fruits of development efforts have not been realised so far, we have attempted to suggest ways for equitable distribution of gains of development in the state.