

Regional Planning & Development

Part 1 of VI Parts

Concept of Region

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Regional Planning & Development—MSW Community Development Syllabus

1. Concept of Region - Functional and Formal Regions - Techniques of Regional Delimitation.
 2. Classification and hierarchy of regions - Regionalization in India - Concept of Rural- Urban Continuum.
 3. Definition. Scope and Content of Regional Planning - Regional imbalances and inequalities in India – Backward Area Development – Industrial Estates and Clusters – Sub plan approach
 4. Methods and techniques of regional analysis and development- Export Base Model - Neo-classical Model - Input –Output Analysis.
 5. Central Place Theory. Growth Pole Hypothesis - Myrdal's Theory of Cumulative Causation,
 6. Directions in Regional Planning. Town and Country Planning - River Valley Planning- Resource Planning - Multi –level Planning - Need and Methods of Micro-level Planning. Relevance of micro-level planning in community development.
- Tamilnadu - Planning Regions in Tamilnadu - Regional Planning in Tamilnadu. Resources of Tamilnadu - Rural and urban development with reference to Tamilnadu.

United Nations Centre for Regional Development

UNCRD



Concept and Meaning of Region



Region means a tract of land; any area; a portion of earth's surface.

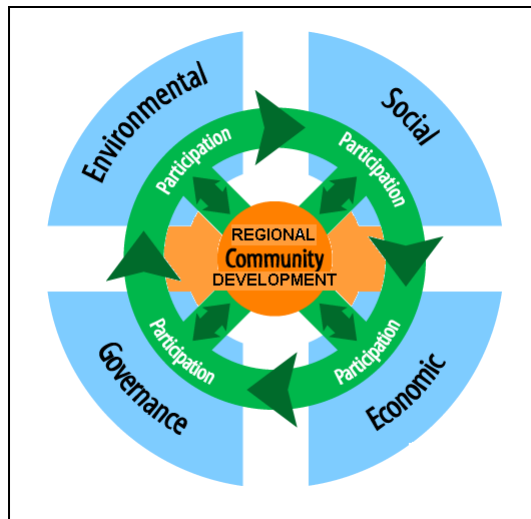
There are two aspects of Region

- 1) Spatial dimension-objective reality
- 2) Non spatial dimension-subjective idea-mental construct-spaceless

Region-area larger than the community

Three locality groups

1. Neighbourhood: A group of people experiencing social interaction with in a localized area with one or two social institutions as the local point or means by which the area can be identified physically is thus a neighborhood.



2. Community is the first social group in modern life that approaches self sufficiency (a group is self sufficient when it possess most of the (important) major social institutions.

3. Region

Use of the concept-

1. To divide the space into relatively homogenous units
2. To further our analysis and understanding of specific studies

Purpose of the concept:

1. Delineation of the space into homogenous units
2. To study the human association with in a specific regional environment
3. To facilitate comparison

Definition of region is limited by the purpose

- A large tract of land; a country; a more or less defined portion of earth's surface, as distinguished by certain natural features, climatic conditions, a special fauna and flora or the like.

- An area, space, or place of more or less definite extent or character.
- Any portion of space considered as possessing certain characteristics-Mill
- An area of earth's surface differentiated (from adjoining areas) by one or more features or characteristics which give it a measure of unity, According to the criteria employed in differentiating regions are termed as physiographic regions, political regions and economic regions.
- An area homogenous with respect to certain announced criteria-James
- Any portion of earth's surface where physical conditions are homogeneous can be considered to be a region in the geographic sense-Joerg
- A region is a complex of land, water, air, plant, animal and human beings, having spatial relationship, which constitute a definite portion of earth's surface-Herbertsor
- An area with in which historical and environmental factors have combined to create relatively homogeneous social structure and a conciseness of individually.

Identification of regions

Special Regions (each one being unique)

Generic Regions (containing a number of similarities)

Synthetic Regions (made up of a number of contrasting though related parts)

Homogenous Regions- based on the similarity of one or two or combination of phenomena, alike in all its parts; emphasis similarity-formal regions

Nodal Regions-based on the centrality-emphasis interdependence-functional regions

Programming/ Planning Regions-based on administrative convenience-emphasis uniformity and convenience, Planning and Programming Regions

Types /Classification of Regions

Homogeneous Regions	Nodal Regions	Administrative Regions
Formal Region Single Factor Region	Heterogeneous Regions Functional Regions	Planning / Programming Regions
Geographical area which is homogeneous in terms selected criteria Geographical criteria (topography, soil, climate)	Functional regions emphasis interdependence. It composed of heterogeneous units such as cities, towns and villages which are functionally inter related	A combination of homogeneity, nodality and administrative convenience
Economic criteria (per capita income, similar production styles, consumption patterns, uniform unemployment	The functional relationship is usually revealed in flows of people, factors, services, commodities and communication	Large enough to make substantial investment decisions, but small enough to comprehend the problem as a whole
Social/ political criteria (party allegiance)	Distribution area of retail and household goods Freight and passenger movement Telephone communication density News paper circulation areas Domicillary origin of students in educational institutions Labor catchment areas	Contiguous area Socio-cultural homogeneity Special data collection unit One administrative agency Optimum size Narrow disparity Consensus in defining problem and solving it Enable direct peoples participation Should have a growth point

Definitions of Region

Definitions of region on the Web:

- the extended spatial location of something; "the farming regions of France"; "religions in all parts of the world";
- area: a part of an animal that has a special function or is supplied by a given artery or nerve; "in the abdominal region"
- a large indefinite location on the surface of the Earth; "penguins inhabit the polar regions"
- domain: a knowledge domain that you are interested in or are communicating about; "it was a limited domain of discourse"; "here we enter the region of opinion"; "the realm of the occult"
wordnet.princeton.edu/perl/webwn
- In European politics, a region is the layer of government directly below the national level. The term is especially used in relation to those regions which have some historical claim to uniqueness or independence, or differ significantly from the rest of the country.
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Region_\(EU\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Region_(EU))
- The region (sometimes known as Government Office Region) is currently the highest tier of local government in England. The powers of the regions are very limited and there are no elected regional governments. Historically the primary subdivision of England was into counties, which still exist in modified form. In addition, many local government functions are the responsibility of boroughs.
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Region_\(England\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Region_(England))
- An area having some characteristic or characteristics that distinguish it from other areas. A territory of interest to people and for which one or more distinctive traits are used as the basis for its identity.
www.geographic.org/glossary.html
- A larger-sized territory that includes many smaller places, all or most of which share similar attributes, such as climate, landforms, plants, soils, language, religion, economy, government or other natural or cultural attributes.
www.nmlites.org/standards/socialstudies/glossary.html
- A group of districts, located within a geographic area of a state
www.nejaycees.org/about/jargon.asp
- large and indefinite part of the earth
www.epa.gov/reva/glossary.htm
- An area of the Earth having a distinctive plant or animal life.
biology.usgs.gov/s+t/SNT/noframe/zy198.htm
- linguistic landscape of a particular region. They show which languages are spoken where, explain how this particular situation came about historically, and discuss language-political issues relevant in this region.
www.routledge-ny.com/ref/linguistics/
- A region of the world. For example, North America or Europe.
www.summary.net/manual/glossary.html
An area with one or more common characteristics or features, which give it a measure of homogeneity and make it different from surrounding areas.
www.pueblo60.k12.co.us/Standard.NSF/0/4e1a7298cefa0ed08725648d0055c0f6

Elements of a region:

1. Relative homogeneity
2. Uniqueness, distinctiveness and identification
3. Blurred boundaries

Types / Classification of regions

1. By using indicators

Single factor regions e.g. Physiographic, Agriculture, Economics

Composite regions e.g. backward regions

2. Based on relationship

A. Macro e.g. India B. Meso e.g. South India C. Micro e.g. Tamilnadu

3. Based on administrative convenience

Region making forces

1. Geographic and physiography 2. History 3. Culture

Regional Approach to the study of Rural Populations

Studies of Rural Region

(Its origin-contribution of various scholars Especially Margin & Taylor)

Rural regions of the United States:

Cotton Belt

Corn Belt

Range livestock region

Wheat Belt

Specialty crop region

General and self sufficing region

The Cotton belt

Hot weather...economic and social activities attuned to the rhythm of cotton cultivation...busy seasons and slack seasons...Hospitality is the by product of slack season...sharply defined class system-conservative and resistance to social change is due to the difficulty of mechanizing cotton crop-illiteracy.

The Corn belt:

Richest agri regions...deep fertile soils plentiful and dependable rain fall... farmers are ambitious to get ahead...democratic atmosphere...prestige attaches to successful farming rather than land ownership-believes and use latest technological methods...consider himself as a superior one...hard workers, good managers, intelligent and moral persons...relatively high level of formal education...frequent contacts with industry.

The range live stock region:

Rugged topography...sparsely settled areas...cultural complexity...reverence for good horse man ship and distinctive cowboy boots...schools and churches are small...lesser number of central places-sentimental attachment to the wide open spaces-

The Wheat region:

Low density population...mechanization of agriculture...work load is heavy during the short seeding and harvesting periods...small numbers of rural schools...children are put up in boarding schools...cohesive neighborhood... opposed market forces which operated to their disadvantages...believes in that success depends upon one self

The Dairy region:

Close to large population centers...twice a day milking...because of this meetings have to be organized during the middle of the day...arduousness of his tasks made him to practice scientific and mechanized farming...level of living is relatively high...steady income...stability in school and church attendance-encouragement to co-operative approach.

The western specialty crop region:

Productivity depend upon the control of water by human effort...commercialization and mechanization of the agriculture...uncertainty in farming is absent...perishability of the crops...co-op system has emerged... materialistic philosophy of the region is the out come of speculation.

The general and self sufficing region:

Relatively little commercial production...isolation of the area is a detriment to commercialization ...family ties are very strong...attachment to home and locality

Utility of the rural social areas;

Effective dissemination of information

Overcoming the limitations

Concept of Region, Regionalization Factors that promoted Regional Studies Regional Planning / Regional Development

Region & Regionalization: Uncertainty of Definitions and Evolution of Ideas

After World War II, the interest towards regional studies has greatly increased all over the world in connection with the tasks of planning. Such studies are being undertaken by representatives of not only geography, but also of other sciences, primarily economics and community organization. Concepts of Regionalization have also been evolved.

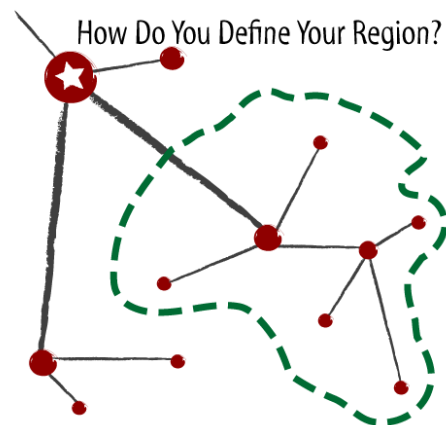
The absence of a generally accepted interpretation of the basic notion of region is a major terminological difficulty. A wide use of this term in every day life-by politicians, journalists and in private life-makes the picture still more complicated.

‘The use of one and the same technical term in different senses is inconvenient, but in no science can it be altogether avoided. The “merits” of academicians themselves in confusing the matter are also great. In the 1930s the American geographer, H.T Odum and H.E.Moore gave 41 (sic) different definitions of region. Early in the 1950s another geographer, George Kimble described his colleagues dealing with regionalization as people **“trying to put boundaries that do not exists around areas that do not matter”**.

Stressing the difference between the generally used, non-committal word “region” and the geographic terminological concept, James writes. **“Earth space can be indefinitely subdivided into segments of various sizes. When such a segment of earth space is set off by boundaries it is known as an area. Here it is necessary to distinguish between areas that are arbitrarily separated segments of earth space and a special kind of area known as a region.**

A region is identified by specified criteria, and its boundaries are determined by these criteria. This is a rather general and vague definition of region, which hides quite different interpretations of its essence, including, the basic one: is region just an intellectual category or is it an objectively existing reality reflected in our minds?

“Any segment or portion of the earth surface is a region if it is homogeneous in terms of such an areal grouping. Its homogeneity is determined by criteria formulated for the purpose of sorting from the whole range of earth phenomena, the items required to express or illuminate a particular grouping, areally cohesive. So defined a region is not an object, either self-determined or nature given. It is an intellectual concept, an entity for the purpose of thought created by the selection of certain features that are relevant to an areal interest or problem and by the disregard of all features that are considered to be irrelevant.”



Acceptance of the region as an objective reality has been increasingly criticized by geographers, and is flatly rejected by several academicians.

In the post-war period, when regional planning acquired importance in capitalist countries and became widely spread in developing ones (in socialist countries regional planning is the law of social development) concepts of regional development began to be particularly actively elaborated and the interest in regionalization was revived.

International Geographical Conference distinguished principal categories of regions delineated on the basis of different purposes.

1. Regions- areal units, including statistical areas (the basic tool for research)
2. Regions-tools for action (organizational, e.g. administrative or planning regions)
3. Regions- the goal and results of research i.e. objectively really existing regions which should be studied and delineated.

This simple and clear classification, uniting diverse, usages, interpretations and readings of the concept of “region”, is undoubtedly an achievement of the IGU commission. Summarizing the result of the commission’s work, its Chairman, prominent Polish Geographer Kazimiers Dziejowski stressed that the question of an objective existence of regions remained disputable. He wrote: “for some affirmation of their existence becomes a point of honor, for others it is a point of deep skepticism (it is very difficult to identify them), or even of complete agnosticism (it is impossible to find them). Eventhough region is an elusive concept, it is used as a base to build geographic ideas/theories

Even though there is a lot of research is conducted on regionalization, new entrants to the field seems to ignore the earlier work and proceed in their own way.

One often comes across the situation when representatives of economic, social and other sciences related to geography get to the study of regional development problems and of regionalization, not taking trouble to know the already, found solutions.

Some claim that there is no particular mystique about identifying them and working with them as units of analysis. There are ordinary, common practical geographic areas of which social and economic improvement programs have been conceived, planned and under region. ‘River basins, agricultural zones trade zones, metropolitan regions, and areas of ethnic and cultural communities, areas inhabited by tribes, autonomous administrative territorial units etc. all these are given as examples of regions. There are two essentials stand out in the criteria of the region’s delineation; 1) an awareness of regional problems and opportunities, 2) and an anticipated capacity to do something about them through planning and development activities.’”

The following categories of regions are listed:

“Single purpose” or “limited purpose”

1. **“Single purpose” or “limited purpose”** regions are defined as areas of an intensive development of a specific natural resource-a river basin used mainly for the purpose of irrigation is given as the most typical example of such regions. e.g.Vaigai-Periyar Command Area

Frontier regions

2. **Frontier regions**-usually sparsely populated areas having rich natural resources. An intensive exploitation of these resources, creation of heavy industries and new towns are characteristic of the development of such regions (for instance, Guyana in South America, Aswan in Egypt. Etc). North-eastern Frontier Region. Arunachal Pradesh

Depressed regions

3. **Depressed regions**-‘Problems areas’ distinguished by much lower living standards than the country as a whole (North Eastern Brazil, South Italy, Comilla in Bangladesh).BIMARU States in India

4. **Metropolitan regions** and their hinterland (the Capital City Region-New Delhi).

5. **Economic regions** or administrative-territorial units established under a nationwide plan of regionalization. Export zones

To conclude there is no universally acceptable methods of regionalization

Reason for the popularity of the concept

Lavrov and Galina Sdasyuk assigned several reasons for the growth and popularity of the concepts related to regions i.e. regional studies/ regional planning/ regional development.

1. **The failure of the socio-economic development and the realization about the necessity to change priorities and the look for compromises led to a new thinking i.e. Growth and Equal Conditions of Life (or qualitative growth).This new thinking emphasized ...**

--Provision of equal living conditions in different regions including employment, housing and social security

--Guaranteeing an appropriate infrastructure equally distributed and brought close to residential areas

2. **The concept of ‘Spatial Social Justice’ (D. Harvey) led to a new thinking on social and economic equality. This resulted in “Core-Periphery concept” (core areas-advanced industrialized nations, industrially developed areas, big cities-peripheral areas –backward areas, villages etc)**

3. **New emphasis on the quality of life or social development**

The term “quality of life” began to be widely spread in the west in the 1970s. Destabilization of social conditions and primarily sprawling unemployment, inflation and stagnation of the economy, as well as deterioration of the environment and the growing concern of the broad public, determined the need for politicians and specialists in the field of planning to try to tie up the programs of development (including regional ones) with the concept of quality of life.

This term is very ambiguous and vague. It means “both peoples living conditions and the goals of urban and regional planning.” But among many utilized indices, a common denominator can be discerned, namely, “accessibility of its inhabitants to employment alternatives, educational and medical facilities, essential public social services, a

representative range of commercial and culture service and ‘nature’, or extensive recreational open spaces”.

On the whole, the quality of life concept includes a set of material, economic, social and ecological conditions of life, which is considered to be indispensable, proceeding from the ideas common for the given society and region about what is needed for a full and happy life. These ideals are quite different in socialists, advance capitalist, and former colonial and dependent countries. The greatest contrasts in the ideas about the necessary things and still more important, in the real needs are found between the rich and the poor, between those living in advanced capitalist an in developing countries.

4. Emergence of the new concepts like ‘development from below’/ “agripolitan development’ as an antidote for polarized development. this was the outcome of the growing recognition of the growing discontent on the part of sub-national social groups (including local and regional ones) i.e. mass living in periphery, feeling powerlessness and defenseless to shape their own destiny against the ‘omnipotent’ core

Since the mid 1970s development from above is more and more often characterized as dogmatic, alienating, anti-human, irrational, senseless, destructive etc. To counter balance it, a concept of ‘development from below’ is put forwarded in Eric Trist’s book ‘New Directions of Hope: Recent Innovations, Interconnecting Organizational, Industrial, Community and Personal development’

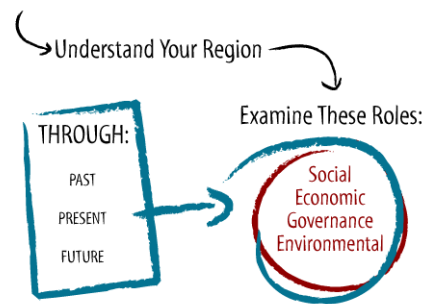
Grassroot Experience

Eric Trist presents the experience of four local “societies of innovation” found in economically deprived regions of advanced capitalist countries and striving on the basis of local initiative to break away from the closed circle of a depressive state. These are (1) The Jamestown Area Labour-Management Committee in the West of the New York State of the USA functioning since 1972; (2) The Greater Philadelphia Partnership functioning since 1978 (Southeast of Pennsylvania, USA); (3). The Society of Sudbury 2001 (Northern Ontario, Canada); (4). The Craigmillar Festival Society (Edinburgh, Scotland, Great Britain), functioning since 1963.

With all the difference, these organizations have the following characteristics in common:

- (a). They are set up in a critical situation when it becomes evident that “the crisis is chronic and requires long-range remedies”;
- (b). The problem to be met is not merely local but is rather a microcosm of major societal problem, so, locally taken actions, if they are effective, “soon begin resonate widely through the social fabric” of the country.

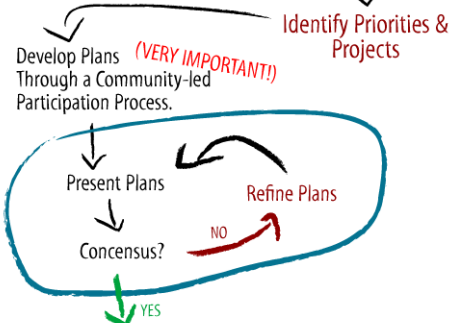
STEP 1: Understanding Regional Context



STEP 2: Define Your Region



STEP 3: Develop Your Plans



(c) At the same time this “meta-problem” is strictly local and to be solved, requires profound and diverse knowledge and work both under current conditions and from the point of view of a long-term perspective etc.

Many things become clearer if concrete examples are taken. Let us consider in greater detail on of the four examples given by the author- the Craigmillar Festival Society, which is one of the oldest (functions since 1963) original and most effective societies of this kind.

Craigmillar is a small town (25,000 residents) near Edinburgh, which failed to make use of the successes of development in the 1950s and 1960s but which acutely felt the crisis of the 1970s. The level of unemployment among the grown-up population is between 22 and 30% there, while it is still higher among the females. The gap between the level of development of this town and that of the growing centers increasingly deepens. The activity of the local society began with the organization of local arts festivals, which began to be held as an antipode to international festivals in Edinburgh. The success of the local festivals inspired the town residents, according to the author, it allowed to overcome the inferiority complex, which they had developed. In the process of the organization of these festivals the Society itself became “an all-round community development organization”. In 1978 they brought forward “The Craigmillar Comprehensive Plan for Action” which covers all aspects of community life and must now be negotiated with the various authorities concerned”.

Besides the organization of festivals, the society secured the foundation of a high school and a community centre. An important side to the activity of the Society is organisation of social self-service by local forces. Hospitalization of elders in this town became less expensive than in other similar centers, more children began to attend schools. The author pays special attention to the activity of the Employment Working Party organized here, and also expressed hope that the society will be able “ to create more industry in Craigmillar and fill the Industrial Park the Society has acquired”. They also make attempts at providing such conditions that unemployed would be able to be trained professionally and to find the application of their skill in the “Market economy”. The activities to the Society in Craigmillar culminated in the securing of a grant from the regional development fund of the common market. One can hardly build the concept of a cardinal renovation “from below”as in Craigmillar.

The experience of local societies is raised up to the highest level of generalization and is announced to be a panacea against many troubles.

Trist compares the main features of the modern social systems of western society with those, which in his opinion emerge in the process of the local innovation societies, believing that they will “become one force which will help push Western society to wards a new paradigm”.

The above said is summed up in a table:

Basic features

Present	Emerging
Policies Centrally formed Statutory bodies allocate Resources Party politics Passive electorate Organizations Technocratic bureaucracies External controls low q. of life for the many Domains Discreet problem solving Independent objectives Competing interests Individuals Privatized dissociated Powerless though autonomous	An innovative periphery Power is share with Non-statutory bodies Community politics Active participation Democratized organization forms Internal controls High quality of life for the many Meta-problem appreciation Interdependent objectives Collaborating interests Shared values Network conceitedness Empowered, socially responsible

Kundrakudi Experiment in Micro Regional Planning