Concept of Regional Planning

Regional Planning is multidisciplinary approach aims at holistic development of a region. According to Mackaye “Regional Planning is an attempt at discovering the plans of the nature for the attainment of Man’s ends upon the Earth”.

According to Muniford, “Regional Planning asks not how wide an area can be brought under the aegis of the Metropolis, but how the population and civic facilities can be distributed so as to promote and stimulate a vivid and creative life throughout a whole region”.

Regional Planning is a specific type of planning, based on, specific planning structure for inducing public action aimed at societal well being. It implies that Regional Planning is concerned fundamentally with the society in the context of space.

Regional Planning considered as a geo-technology for comprehensive development of regions through rational transformation of regional space. It seeks to recognize space more rationally with a view to achieving greater regional integration

Regional Planning at different spatial levels ensures the fuller development of the potentialities of the smallest unit, consisting a region. Regional Planning should viewed as essentially a means to strength the national economy through the mechanism of Regional Planning by evaluating the potentials of sub regions and to develop them to the best advantage of the nation a whole.

Thus, the basic goals of Regional Planning are;

- Building the resource base of an economy
- Strengthen the economic opportunities
- Diversifying the national economy
- Providing strength and balance in the economic development of the nation
- Environmental improvement and protection
General welfare of the people

Regional Planning processes intended to use the collective intelligence and foresight to chart direction, order, harmony and progress in public activities relating to the human environment and general welfare. Regional Planning strive to develop as a broad base of regional economic activities as it natural and human resources can economically sustained.
Regional Planning does not work for regional self sufficiency but for the balanced and harmonious national development.

Need and Importance of Regional Planning

Instruction: Start with a definition of Regional Planning

The need of Regional Planning can be discussed under the following broad theme;

1. **To minimize the Regional Disparities:** There are wide Regional Disparities in the levels of resource utilization as well as in the levels of development. In order to minimize the Regional Disparities, the developmental processes need to be channelized in the right direction and need to plan properly. Such developmental processes shall yield best results if these are based upon the principles of Regional Planning.

2. **To resolve the Critical Problems:** broadly speaking, the way the environmental conditions are being degraded and are posing a serious threat to the human welfare, Regional Planning is becoming more and more of necessity rather than a matter of choice.

3. **To address the problems of rapidly increasing population:** The rapidly increasing population, particularly during the last 3-4 decades, has increased the pressure on world resources tremendously. This has also altered the population-resource relationship in many areas. Some of poorly endowed resource region are heavily populated now. This phenomena posing serious threat to not only human habitability but also to the physical environment. To ensure better habitability conditions as well as for the survival and continued welfare of physical environment, the developmental processes should have to be based upon the principles of Regional Planning.

4. **To ensure the integrated development of Functional Regions:** the regional boundaries of many functional regions(display strong functional Unity) do not conform with administrative boundaries. The City-periphery regions and the drainage basin region are typical examples. The NCR of India has its areal spread into four
states; similarly, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has its spread in seven states of USA. In order to achieve an integral development of all such regions without wasting the limited resources, all developmental planning should have to be based upon the principles of Regional Planning

5. **To recognize the futuristic Regional Realities**: Rapid development in the field of information and communication technology all over the world resulted in (a) revolution in the field of transportation and communication, (b) broken the rural isolation and has increased the interaction between rural-urban communities (c) increased the volume of traffic and trades (d) increased the population mobility both inter regional and intra regional (e) finally given rise to new regional boundaries with intensified integration. All these developments necessitate the futuristic planning efforts. We must recognize these regional realities. The Principles of Regional Planning are becoming more and more critically important to recognize these regional realities.

6. **Regional Planning for less developed Countries**: Most of the developing nations are poorly endowed and have innumerable task in hand in the process of economic reconstruction and transformation. Appalling poverty, poor living condition, unemployment, urban overcrowding, inadequate and inefficient health and sanitation, education, housing, etc., these are some of the characteristics of these nations. Moreover, they are technologically backward as well. Since Regional Planning addresses itself to the host of problems, it has special significance for the less developed countries.

7. **Regional Planning for Newly Independent Countries**: The 20th century witnessed the creations of newly independent countries. These nations have their own aspirations priorities and problems. Their colonial infrastructure sometimes fails to meet the requirements of the changed scenarios. The developmental processes based upon the fundamental principles of Regional Planning alone can take care of the changing conditions in all such newly independent nations.

8. **Regional Planning needs arises due to failing of all other types of Planning**: It has already been realized by the world community that all other types of planning i.e. sectoral planning, functional planning, area planning etc has failed to deliver the desired result. Regional Planning has displayed its multi-purpose usefulness.
Aims and Objectives of Regional Planning

- Conservation of life
- Conservation of Resources
- Conservation of Human Energy
- Community Education
- Sustainable Development
- Renationalization of Land Use
- Rationalization of Population Distribution
- Reconstructing the Environment
- Creating Neighbourhood Units
- Perfect Regional Mobility System
Types of Regional Planning

Instruction: Start with a definition of Regional Planning
Planning may of following Types

- Sectoral Planning
- Functional Planning
- Area Planning
- Short term - long term Planning
- Micro, Meso, Macro Planning
- Regional Planning

There are Three Types of Regional Planning
1. Inter Regional Planning
2. Inter local Planning
3. Locational Planning

1. **Inter Regional Planning:** It is part of National Planning along with Sectoral and Global Planning. All three are interrelated field of National Planning. Through inter regional planning, the planner try to solve;
   a. The problems of allocations of tasks and means of every region of the country
   b. It also aims at outlining the role of each region in the formulation and implementation of national objectives

There are two approaches of the central planning agency to the inter regional Planning
   a) Passive or Ex- Post Approach
   b) Active or Ex Ante Approach

In passive approach, the interregional planning remains passive since the basic decisions are made anyway within the broad framework of global and sectoral planning.

In active approach, the interregional planning is active agent of planning process. In such condition the national planners accept the regional dimension as one of the important decision making criteria for all planning activities. In this approach the global and sectoral planning are influenced by the interregional considerations.

2. **Inter-local Planning:** There is an important difference in scale between interregional and inter-local planning. Interregional planning is activities at national level while the inter-local at the regional level. These type of planning needs to be developed within the institutional framework of regional administration or government. Inter-local planning agencies formulate different planning objectives for a given areal unit based
on different models and methods depending upon the socio-economic and political structure of the region.

**The Inter-local Planning** agency performs two functions;

a. **Primo:** To rationalize the needs of given region in relation to the central planning agency and its policy.

b. **Seconduo:** To rationalize the allocation of tasks and means among different localities within the region

The position and activity of Inter-local Planning is determined by (a) relation between Central and Regional governments (b) relation between different forces of planning process (c) Nature of the region in a given country; Weak or Strong region

3. **Locational Planning:** **Interregional and** Inter-local Planning activities are considered as explicit spatial dimensions of the planning system. However, these planning activities are very weak without the cooperation and support of sectoral agencies, institutions, and enterprises which promote the development in sectoral perspectives. The locational Planning, the implicit dimension of the planning system is very often more important than explicit dimension.