

**Addendum related to point No. 1**

**1A.**

From our review of literature we see that only a few studies on regional disparities in socio-economic development in West Bengal have been undertaken by scholars. The studies done by Bose (1969), Sarkar (1973), Banerjee and Ray (1969), and Bhattacharjee (1998) have thrown light only on a few selected aspects of regional disparities in socio-economic development in West Bengal. None of the studies has looked into the problem taking into consideration of all economic and social sectors. Therefore, there is a huge gap in knowledge and research in the area of study. The present study has been undertaken to fulfill this gap by taking into consideration all economic and social sectors.

**1B.**

**The Conceptual Framework:**

Regional disparity in economic and social development has been a major problem in the post-independence India. This is also true at sub-national level. Not only there are disparities in development among the states of India, but also there are inter-district disparities within a state. There are many causes of these disparities; some of which are within the control of state authorities and some are beyond their control. Economic development is said to be primarily a function of the social process of growth in material production (Misra, 1985). But this process of growth is not spatially uniform in a developing country like India. It varies from one region to another and from one area to another within a given region. It varies spatially because neither the level of development in productive forces nor the social intercourses of these forces in the process of production (i.e., relations of production) are uniform over space. The spatial variations in the development of productive forces and in the social intercourse of these forces in the production process lead to spatial variations in the rate of growth and also in the level of development.

The existence and persistence of spatial variations in the level of development at national or sub-national level is one of the basic structural

characteristics of a developing country like India. The spatial variations in development in a country or in a state within a country indicate that a few regions have experienced a high rate of growth over a time and so they have acquired relatively high level of development in comparison to those which have experienced a slow rate of growth and exhibit a low level of development. The characteristics of high growth rate and high development level as found in developed and developing regions are essentially on account of the existence of a high level of development in the productive forces and favourable social conditions to use them in the process of production. But the prevalence of slow growth rate and low development level in a region refers to the existence of low level of development in the productive forces and unfavourable socio-economic condition to use the new productive forces there and the region is categorized as backward. The larger the number of regions having the low level of development in productive forces and the unfavourable socio-economic conditions to introduce and use these forces in the process of production, the greater the regional disparities in the level of development in a country and vice versa.

With the above conceptual framework of spatial variations in development, the regional structure of a developing country may be decomposed as follows:

- a) The regions having a high level of development in productive forces and favourable social conditions to use them in the process of production,
- b) The regions where new productive forces are introduced but are slowly adopted in socio-economic life due to lack of progressiveness on the part of people,
- c) The regions with low levels of development in productive forces and with unfavourable socio-economic conditions to use them in the process of production.

The first one characterizes developed region; the second one is the region in transition for development and the last, the backward region. Both (b) and (c) dominate in a developing country like India which causes underdevelopment alongside development and gives rise to the phenomenon of regional disparities either in the national or sub-national levels. Thus the

question of overcoming underdevelopment and regional disparities in development is in fact a question of how to develop the new productive forces and to create favourable climate to use them in the process of production. It is the process of national and regional planning which conceives the idea of and aims at reducing regional disparities in development. In other words, balanced regional development is urgently necessary. Any planning process has a time frame to achieve the desired goal of balanced regional development. Therefore, regional planning policies and strategies need to be formulated to bring about deliberately a balanced regional development within a given time frame. Spatial equity in development should be the goal of development decision-making process.

The review of literature that we have done indicates that so far no studies have been undertaken to investigate on the problems of regional disparities in West Bengal in its totality, taking into consideration all economic and social sectors which is required accordingly to the conceptual framework developed above.

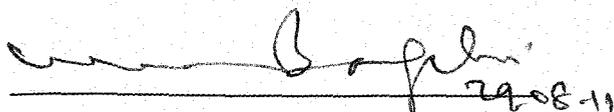
Thus, we felt the necessity of making a holistic study of the problem of regional disparities in socio-economic development of West Bengal.

**Corrigendum related to point No.2**

As per the observation of the honourable examiner research hypothesis numbered 1 (one) is deleted.

**Addendum / Corrigendum related to point No. 3**

As noted in chapter 1 of the thesis the study is based on secondary data. Hence, there is no scope and necessity of a chapter based on micro-level investigation.

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