

P R E F A C E

Reduction in the regional imbalances in economic development in India has been recognised as an explicit objective behind our national plans, especially after the Second Five Year Plan. Both the Planning Commission and the Finance Commissions have recognised that there exists a considerable divergence in the level of economic development as reflected by the differences in the levels of per capita income and productivity from State to State. However, there is a serious dearth of scientific studies relating to the analysis and explanations of such disparities in India. The present study makes an attempt to fill in this gap.

Behaviour of the interstate income inequalities over a period of time is an important field of investigation because it allows us to judge the degree of success achieved by the policy instruments over a given period of time. A detailed study of the interstate variations in economic growth, it is felt, may throw some light on the fundamental issues involved, and hence, may provide useful guidelines for future policy in this regard. The present study, it should be pointed out, is merely a first step in this direction, and is

undertaken primarily with the hope that others will join to help achieve the goal.

Though the nature of the present study is largely fact-finding, for a fresh person like me in the field of economic research, the vastness of the subject itself^{makes} it quite a challenging task to accomplish. But for the effective guidance and active interest of my elder brother Dr. Bakul H. Dholakia, it would have been only a dream for me to write a Thesis in time, and in the present form. Like all events of the past in my life, he has stood by my side infusing me with fresh enthusiasm while I was writing this Thesis. I have been fortunate in getting his invaluable help at each stage of my work - from the stage of data collection to making some constructive comments on the first draft. It should be gratefully acknowledged here that the fifth Chapter of this Thesis is largely an outcome of detailed discussions with him, although responsibility of any probable errors in the Chapter rests entirely with me. When it comes to the acknowledgement, I must frankly admit that whatever I am today, is probably only due to Bakul, and it has been my endeavour throughout that he does not have to be ashamed of this admission on my part.

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