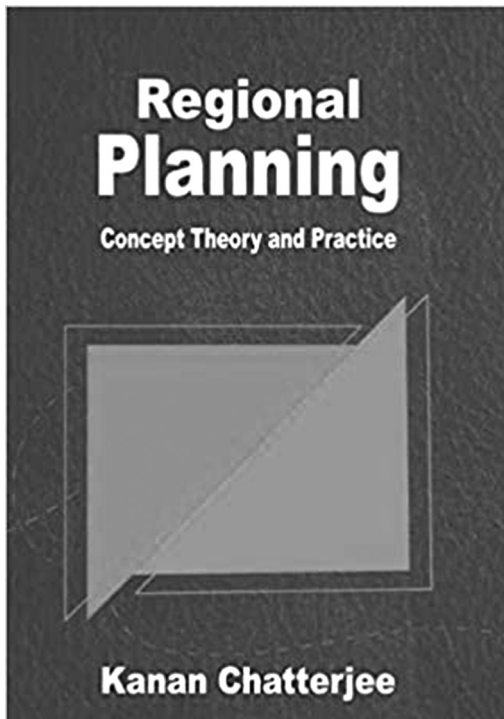


Book Review - 1

Regional Planning: Concept Theory and Practice

Kanan Chatterjee (2017), Concept Publishing Company Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, 221 p.,
Price Rs. 200/-



The book under review is a timely publication on a theme that has attracted serious attention from geographers, economists and planners ever since regional planning was accorded a prominent place in the overall planning process. In some countries, regional and spatial planning have been effectively used to reduce spatial disparities and imbalances. Despite introduction of this planning in India

since 1950s, there has been little progress in achieving this broad objective. Nevertheless, the concept and practice of regional planning continues to hold immense potential in several areas including urban planning. Regional planning is a broad subject that has to be addressed in conjunction with social and economic aspects. Kanan Chatterjee's book on Regional Planning is a welcome addition to the already voluminous literature on the subject with fresh ideas of regional planning and development for a country that requires planned intervention to rising tides of spatial inequality and regional imbalances. Whether large or small, meso or micro, geographers's contribution to the concept of regions holds the key for a more balanced economic and social development of a country like India. These regions provide the framework for determinist research on the man-environment relationship. The author is right when she says that "to speak of a region is to understand its past, to grasp the attachment, to explain its economic, political and social functioning in a local and world context; it is to address the prospects for its future".

The book is arranged in seven main chapters further divided into a number of small sub topics relevant to the main theme of each of the chapter. After introducing

the concept of region the book traverses through various aspects and theories of regional planning enabling the reader to grasp the subject at a proper pace. Chapter 1 introduces the reader with basic concepts, scope, content, objectives and principles of regional planning. Chapter 2 discusses the aspects of regional planning with respect to planning prerequisites, and management of resources at regional level. Understanding basic theories of regional growth are essential for understanding their relevance in regional planning and this aspect is well explained in chapter 3. Citing a number of projects at national and regional levels, the chapter four briefly discusses the importance of the practice of spatial development planning. Chapter 5 is devoted to the rural and urban components of regional planning. This chapter also presents the main highlights of a number of schemes and projects run at rural and urban level along with the community development programme, national extension service and concept and planning of metropolitan region in India. An additional treat for the researchers is provided in chapter 6 which is exclusively devoted to the regional planning case studies in Indian context. This chapter opens with a brief overview of applications of Remote Sensing and Geographical Information System to the field of planning and discusses the complex webs and crafts of building of planning support systems. Six separate case studies are dealt with in this chapter addressing the spatial aspects of industrial zones and land use dynamics. The last chapter deals with the developmental strategies and possibilities of regional planning.

The author has done well to keep the first three chapters extremely lucid for the readers to understand the basic concepts and

aspects of regional planning. The book stands out as a result of introduction of RS and GIS techniques and its relevant application to the spatial aspects in the developmental studies of regional planning. Another highlight of the book is the inclusion of case studies which constitutes the most outstanding contribution and provides fresh perspectives to the process of regional development planning in India. These case studies definitely distinguish the book from other such books on similar theme of regional planning. However, the book could have been more illustrative as far as the diagrams and images are concerned. The images presented in the case studies section are rather blurred and thus fail to depict the necessary changes in the land use pattern. However, these are well explained in the text. Coloured images along with a few better graphics would have made the book more attractive.

Nevertheless, the book by Kanan Chatterjee is indeed a good source of knowledge and information for the students and researchers. The case studies outlined is expected to aid the students in adopting new technology for regional planning studies. With an affordable price, modern approach, clear language and methodical presentation of the concepts, this book will surely be a great asset to the body of literature on the subject.

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