8. Review and Literature:

Studies on planning for regional development using suitable tools, techniques and models are inspired by the pioneering works of Von Thunen (1826), Christaller (1933) and Losch (1944). Most of the Indian geographers and social scientists pertaining to geographical studies are based on the derivative ideas of aforesaid scholars.

On the basis of philosophical essence of Christaller’s central place theory, Wanmali (1970) studied the hierarchy of central places and delineated their complementary region using socio-economic indicators. A report of 'pilot project' of the Ford Foundation (1973) studied settlement planning for integrated area development with geographical approach.

Dahiya (1982) adopted suitable models to analyse the direct and indirect effects of specified combination of policy instruments and constraints on several important aspect of economic behaviour like distribution of income and alleviation of poverty. Rao (1983) tried to estimate the composite index of agricultural development at taluk level based on the technique of ‘Principle Component Analysis’. Sundaram (1985) based on holistic approach studied the socio-economic conditions and suggested that the countries like Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines and India experiences vast inter-regional disparities in resource development. Sita and Phadke (1985) tried to identify the major trends of research in Indian settlement geography which appear to have emanated from the central place theory to understand the functional hierarchy of settlements. Tiwari (1985) based on the technique of composite index, attempted to assess the existing scenario of inter-state disparities in the levels of development in India in temporal perspective and suggested to assign top priority for infrastructural development to remove it. Rao (1985) attempted to analyse the extent of inter-state disparities in development measured in terms of per capita state domestic product. Maithini (1986) used the principle of Christaller’s central place theory to formulate a micro-level planning for socio-economic development. Rai (1988) adopted Mather’s model of mean spacing and ‘Nearest-Neighbour Index’ to study the spatial distribution of existing socio-economic facilities and tried to formulate a micro-level plan for the socio-economic development in rural areas. In order to formulate a micro-level planning, Babu (1988) made an endeavor to estimate the population threshold of socio-economic facilities, centrality score of central places and spatio-functional gaps of facilities and finally, recommended required socio-economic facilities to overcome the inadequacy of existing facilities.
Pawar and Lokhande (2000) analysed the spatial distribution of market centres and correlated it with the demographic and agricultural determinants. Mallikarjun (2000) used (i) simple averaging method, (ii) taxonomic method and (iii) principle component method to estimate the composite index of development and to highlight the regional disparities in socio-economic development. Durai, et al. (2000) expressed an idea that in the developing countries like India, where majority of the population lives in rural areas and depends on agriculture, rural roads act as catalyst for development of village as well as enhancement of inhabitant's life style. Bharkar and Bhargava (2003) carried out a study to examine the extent of disparities of infrastructure in Rajasthan. Pawar and Lokhande (2004) analysed the spatial distribution of market centres and examined their relations with area, population of inhabited villages and net sown area to focus on the role of market centres on the levels of socio-economics development.

Hassan (2007) adopted ‘Principle Component Analysis’ and Composite Index methods to examine the regional inequalities in the infrastructural, industrial and agricultural development. Yasenovskiy and Hodgson (2007) are of the opinion that the patrons always travel to the closest facility and that distance minimization best serves them. They tried to combine the concepts and methods from hierarchical spatial system, spatial interaction modeling and location-allocation modeling to derive optimal hierarchical facility system. They finally presented a new model that incorporates a spatial choice interaction model attributing attendance and benefits to facility size, distance and neighborhood accessibility. Debapriya and Mohanty (2008) comprehended the importance of education and health care facilities in the quality of life of people and tried to evolve a sound statistical methodology to measure the regional imbalances in the levels of educational and health care development.