
5.2 SOCIOLOGICAL APPRAISAL OF FIVE YEAR PLANS

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Planning is a commitment to resolute action. Through economic and social planning, national governments make adjustments to new socio-economic and political realities. According to Ram Ahuja (1999, 447), social planning aims at: i) change in social organization, and ii) community welfare. For example, improving educational facilities, increasing employment opportunities, doing away with evil social practices, etc. For a plan to be successful there should be few conditions. For example: 1) The plan must stem from the people themselves, 2) People's participation is extremely necessary, 3) initiative for implementing the plan is to be taken not by the planners but by the activists in different walks of life, 4) priorities have to be decided in advance, and 5) arbitration in decision-making must be by a person who has technical knowledge and is a trained professional because he has the capability of visualizing alternative solutions.

Indian planning was advocated by M. Visveswaraya in the 1940s. The Indian National Congress appointed a National Planning Committee on the eve of the Second World War (1938–39) to frame an all-India plan. However, it was the Bombay Plan, also known as the Tata Birla Plan, which made the people planning-conscious in India. The Government of India set up in 1943 a committee of the Viceroy's Council, known as the Reconstruction Committee of Council (RCC), which was assisted by Provincial Policy Committees to bring out plans for reconstruction. In 1944, the Department of Planning and Development was also created. However at this stage, government plans were not concerned with definite economic targets. They were mainly concerned with issues like raising the standard of living, increasing purchasing power of the people, stabilizing agricultural prices, developing industries, removing wealth disparities and raising the standard of backward classes. There was no resource budget and no priorities. Thus, it could be mentioned that, induced social change and development was not possible in pre-independence India. This was due to several factors, such as: 1) No priorities for development were determined through adequate planning, 2) no adequate statistics were prepared regarding the need of production, national income, etc. 3) limited foreign exchange was available for development purposes, 4) private entrepreneurs were reluctant to invest huge amounts in industrial development because of the government's policies, 5) there was no facility for getting raw materials, machineries and capital goods from abroad, 6) no serious efforts were made to check the growth of population, 7) planning mechanism was not possible in the absence of proper co-ordination among the provincial and the central committees, 8) inflation had increased owing to world wars, and 9) administrative machinery was developed mainly with a view to discharging policing function of the state. Bureaucrats were not trained to take interest in development schemes (Ahuja 1999, 447–48).

As stated by Uma Kapila (2011, 81), achieving higher living standards for the Indian people was seen to be a major goal after Independence. A great deal of

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thought and discussion in planning for independence focused on the need for rapid economic growth and raising the living standards. Nehru and Gandhi had, indeed, differed on what economic policy should be, but the two leaders agreed on the centrality of economic developmental goals as a top priority after independence. After India gained independence, the newly formed Government appointed a Planning Commission in 1950 to coordinate all state and central plans. The Commission was to look into the following factors: 1) determine priorities, 2) plan balanced utilization of country's resources, 3) make an assessment of the material, capital and human resources of the country, 4) assess the progress achieved from time to time and recommend readjustment, and 5) identify factors which retard economic development (Ahuja 1999, 448). The development campaign in the country in every sector is carried out through the Five Year Plans which are prepared by the Planning Commission. The Commission not only lays out the broader plans but also meticulously monitors the execution of those plans and makes efforts so that both the Centre and the States work with proper coordination. From the 1950s till date, the Planning Commission has so far prepared eleven Five Year Plans focusing on different objectives. As found from the Planning Commission of India sources, the different objectives and focus areas of the Five Year Plans along with the sociological appraisal can be discussed below.

5.2.1 The First Five Year Plan (1951–55)

The primary objective of the first Five Year Plan was to improve the standard of living of the people. The sectors targeted during this period included: industrial sector, energy, irrigation, transport, communications, land rehabilitation, social services, development of agriculture, etc. The Government during this period had taken serious steps to rehabilitate the landless people who were depending solely on agriculture. Agriculture was considered as one of the important areas for development. There was an evolution of good irrigation system. The government also made significant efforts to improve transport and communication networks, like posts and telegraphs, railways, roads, civil aviation, etc. Adequate attention was also given to the industrial sector while simultaneously taking measures for the advancement of the small-scale industries. This was significant since the society and economy in India in post-independence period was very fragile and the poverty situation was grave along with inadequate infrastructure.

5.2.2 The Second Five Year Plan (1956–61)

By the second plan, Indian economy had reached in a comparatively stable position. In this period, industries got more importance and the focus was primarily on heavy industries. The Government encouraged manufacturing of industrial goods in the country. This was done primarily to develop the public sector and make it economically viable. The second Five Year Plan functioned on the basis of 'Mahalanobis model', following the name of P.C. Mahalanobis. His model addressed different issues concerning the economic development in the country. This period was socio-economically very significant because it had started a serious

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journey on the path of industrial development. As many as five steel plants including the plants at Durgapur, Jamshedpur and Bhilai were established. The 'Atomic Energy Commission' came into existence during this period so also the 'Tata Institute of Fundamental Research' that gave a boost to scientific research. During this period, the living standard of people was improved and several land-reform measures were also introduced.

5.2.3 The Third Five Year Plan (1961–66)

Unlike the previous plan, this plan gave utmost importance to agriculture to improve agricultural productivity in the country. This was to make India a self-sufficient country in agricultural production to reduce dependence on other countries for food products. The High Yield Varieties of seeds were introduced in agriculture in the country to enhance productivity, something named as the 'Green Revolution'. The States played a significant role and were given more importance. Education sector got a boost with different primary schools opening in the rural areas. Various bodies were also formed to develop the secondary level-education in the country. Literacy was in a bad stage during the post-independence period and therefore such a step during this plan period was very significant in this context. Besides, to promote democratic environment, *Panchayat* level elections were also commenced with the introduction of institutions like *Panchayats* and *Zilla Parishads*. This period also emphasized to minimize the unemployment situation in the country. From sociological point of view, this plan period was very significant because it tried to address some important socio-economic problems like hunger, illiteracy, unemployment and so on. However, following the Sino-India war during this period, there was increase in the prices of different commodities leading to high-level inflation.

5.2.4 The Fourth Five Year Plan (1969–74)

This period was also a stepping stone for the socio-economic development of India. The war situation in 1962 and again in 1965 had made situation worse in the country. Famine and draught situation had made economic condition of the country critical. Therefore, without giving much attention to several long-term objectives, the Government tried to take measures to overcome the crisis situation of the time. However, as mentioned earlier, Green Revolution brought self-sufficiency in food production with increase in rice, wheat and other agricultural products. However, this period also witnessed a situation where the gap between the rural and urban areas was created and rather widened. So there was a change in the socio-economic structure of the society.

5.2.5 The Fifth Five Year Plan (1974–79)

With the world economy in a troublesome condition and inflation soaring high due to increase in food and oil prices, the fifth Five Year Plan gave priority to the sectors like food and energy. The prime targets in this period were: to reduce the

discrepancy between the economic development at the regional, national and international level; improve the agricultural condition in the country through the implementation of land reform laws; improve self-employment opportunities through well-integrated programmes; to reduce unemployment situation in both urban and rural areas; develop the small scale and cottage industries, etc. Nonetheless, due to the improvement in infrastructural facilities, foodgrain production during this period was improved significantly.

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5.2.6 The Sixth Five Year Plan (1980–85)

The sixth Five Year Plan was to some extent an exit from the *Nehruvian* model. It brought a lot of changes right from improving tourism in the country to developing Information Technology. The transport and communication sector witnessed some improvement. The National Highways were also built during this plan. Construction of better roads enhanced the traffic system in the country. Reforms were introduced for first time in the economy with the Government going ahead with the economic liberalization policies. Along with it, for the first time, 'Family Planning' was implemented in the country during this plan period. This helped creating awareness among the people about the problems of population explosion and introduced the small family norm. However, many of the political leaders were opposed to the reforms introduced by the Government, due to which the economic growth was affected.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

1. What are the conditions required for the success of a plan?
2. Provide the historical basis of planning in India.
3. Give the reasons why development and social change could not be induced in pre-independence India.

5.2.7 The Seventh Five Year Plan (1985–89)

This period followed the developmental path of the preceding period which had set the development vehicle by increasing the production in the agricultural and industrial sectors. The seventh plan could focus on industrial development. It emphasized the introduction and application of modern technology, development of the people belonging to all the sections of society and improvement of the weaker sections, development of agriculture, reduction of poverty, etc. Adequate care was taken to establish harmony in all the sectors and bring overall development in the economy. From the sociological point of view, significant measures were also taken to spread education in the country with special emphasis on women literacy. Serious steps were taken to promote social justice and removal of the oppression of the weak. Along with it several anti-poverty measures were also taken. There was improvement in the productivity of the small and large-scale farmers.

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5.2.8 The Eighth Five Year Plan (1992–97)

This was the first plan after India adopted the economic reforms and liberalization in 1991. The basic targets of the eighth Five Year Plan were modernization of the industrial sector by focusing on the technological development, rise in the employment level, reduction of poverty situation and self-reliance on domestic resources. The objectives of this plan included: prioritizing specific sectors that required immediate investment for generating full-scale employment, promoting social welfare measures like improved healthcare, sanitation, communication system and provision for extensive education facilities to eradicate the menace of illiteracy, checking the growth of population through mass awareness programmes, encouraging growth and diversification of the agricultural sector, achieving self-reliance in foodgrain production and producing surpluses for increasing exports, developing scientific and technological capabilities, giving emphasis on the private initiatives in the development of industrial sector in the country, creating opportunities for people to get involved in different developmental activities by building mass institutions. One of the achievements during this plan was the rise in employment level. By this time India was self-sufficient in foodgrain production and there was subsequent reduction of the poverty situation.

5.2.9 The Ninth Five Year Plan (1997–2002)

The ninth Five Year Plan was proposed with the main objective of attaining speedy industrialization, human development, full-scale employment generation, reduction of poverty, etc. Besides, the plan also tried to prioritize agricultural sector and emphasize on the development of rural areas, generate adequate employment for the vast labour force in the country and reduce poverty, to ensure food and nutritional security among the people, to provide for the basic infrastructural facilities like education for all, safe drinking water, primary healthcare, proper transport and energy supply, to check population growth, to promote women empowerment for ensuring gender equality and to create a liberalized, market friendly atmosphere to facilitate private investments. During this period, the service sector showed faster growth rate.

5.2.10 The Tenth Five Year Plan (2002–07)

This plan had the objective of transforming Indian economy into a fast growing economy in the world having the target of 10 per cent annual economic growth. More particularly, the plan period wanted to make India a more investor-friendly economy, encourage involvement of the private sector, development of infrastructure, mobilize and optimize all financial resources, etc. One of the most important steps during this period was that schooling was made compulsory for children.

5.2.11 The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007–12)

The Indian economy was in a much better position during the beginning of the eleventh plan than it was few years ago. The plan has several aims to meet with the

socio-economic problems that the country is undergoing. To eradicate the unemployment situation in the country, the plan period has set the target of creating 70 million new jobs and reducing educated unemployment to below 5 per cent. For the education sector, the plan objectives have been set to reduce the dropout rates of children from elementary schools by 20 per cent, increase literacy rate for persons of age 7 years or more to 85 per cent and minimize the gender gap in literacy to 10 percentage points. The plan has also the target of raising sex ratio which gradually is becoming worse day by day in some states. It also has set the objective of ensuring that at least 33 per cent of the direct and indirect beneficiaries of all government-funded schemes are women. So, the eleventh Five Year Plan has some socio-economic targets which if implemented carefully shall bring an inclusive development in the country.

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5.3 SOCIO-CULTURAL REPERCUSSIONS OF GLOBALIZATION

Globalization refers to the growing integration of societies, economies and cultures around the world. In recent times, it has become one of the most hotly debated topics and key area of research among the policy-makers, statesmen, corporate, politicians and academia. Globalization literally means the process of transformation of local/regional phenomena into global ones. It is described as a process by which people around the world are amalgamated and unified to form a single global society. Rapid economic growth and poverty reduction in China, India and other developing countries that were poor two decades ago, has setup profound prospects for globalization. However, at the same time increased inequality, exploitation, marginalization and environmental degradation, most particularly the now much-hyped and alarming 'global warming' along with others that have resulted due to the process of globalization, have also generated significant national and international opposition to the very process of globalization.

Anthony Giddened (1990, 64) defines globalization as, 'The intensification of world-wide social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring many miles away and vice-versa. This is a dialectical process because such local happenings may move in an obverse direction from the very distanced relations that shape them. A local transformation is as much a part of globalization as the lateral extension of social connections across time and space.' Similarly, Held et al. (1999, 15) defined globalization as 'the processes of change which underpin a transformation in the organization of human affairs by linking together and expanding human activity across regions and continents'. As to Thomas Friedman (1999, 110), 'Globalization is the integration of markets, finance and technologies in a way that is shrinking the world from a size medium to size small and enabling each of us to reach around the world farther, faster, and cheaper than ever before.'

Globalization is a very complex process and it involves multiple factors. Likewise, the impact of globalization on societies and cultures is bound to be

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different in different time periods and places. The socio-cultural repercussions of globalization vary from place to place and country to country and even in the same country from time to time. Owing to its multiplicity and complex nature, different scholars have interpreted globalization differently looking at its both positive and negative outcome. Those skeptical to the process of globalization, see it as a 'calculated imperialist design of hegemonization in economic, political, ecological and cultural terrains, threatening loss of economic, self-reliance and political sovereignty, erosion of democratic structure and damaging of plural cultural identities' (Mishra 2004, 8). They argue that globalization process leaves the poor countries with little capabilities to compete with developed and rich countries and the motto of the multinationals is to grab power and profit rather than the welfare of the masses. Contrary to what has been said and promised as the free-market mantra, liberalization policies have wrongly and unjustly bestowed all economic power on big corporate houses, like the Transnational Corporations (TNCs) which benefit from the global trade. Poor farmers from impoverished countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America fail to compete in the global economy and live in most disadvantaged conditions. Adding to it, Ritzer and Ryan point out that in the globalization era there is a fear that indigenous culture is being undermined and overwhelmed by either a global culture or one associated with another nation especially America (2004, 298), something that is called as Americanization. According to Kelvin Robins, the development of the world market has far-reaching consequences for cultures, identities and life-styles where there is focus on a single-commodity world and where local cultures and identities are uprooted and replaced with symbols from the publicity and image departments of multinational corporations (cited in Malik 2004, 41). Samir Amin (1997) in similar vein argues that the global capitalist system has proved to be exploitative and destructive for the Third World countries. This creates underdevelopment, marginalization, disintegration, exclusion, polarization, inequality, etc. of income and wealth. Therefore, rejecting the apparent inevitability of globalization in its present form, he advocates that underdeveloped countries in the Third World need a new strategy of development and asserts the need for each society to negotiate the terms of its inter-dependence with the rest of the global economy.

On the other hand, there are different groups of scholars who argue in favour of the globalization process saying that, it opens up the geographical borders to transnational trade leading to global competition. As they say, developments linked with globalization have opened up boundless possibilities for human development, enormous new opportunities and enhanced quality of life for many people in the third world countries (Sinha 2004, 192). Jagdish Bhagwati (2004, 64) while advocating for free trade and globalization observes that 'freer trade is associated with higher growth and that higher growth is associated with reduced poverty, therefore, growth reduces poverty'. Illustrating India and China, he argues that 'according to World Bank estimates, real income (gross domestic product) grew at an annual average rate of 10 per cent in China and 6 per cent in India during the two decades ending in 2000 and the Asian Development Bank data

show, poverty declined from an estimated 28 per cent in 1978 to 9 per cent in 1998 in China and poverty fell from 51 per cent in 1977–78 to 26 per cent in 1999–2000 in India according to an official Indian Source. He says, this is in contrast to what happened in India during the quarter of a century prior to the economic reforms and the abysmally low annual growth rate of 3.5 per cent. During that period, the poverty rate remained stagnant, fluctuating around 55 per cent' (Bhagwati 2004, 65). Many protagonists of globalization argue that the process brings emancipation and is instrumental in eradicating orthodox practices and superstitious beliefs. It gives the spirit of freedom and rationality. It brings immense dynamism in human life and promotes vertical mobility. In religious sphere, it promotes ethics and rationality. Economically speaking, globalization promotes interdependence between national and international markets. In political sphere, globalization brings activism, and encourages active concern to remove poverty, malnutrition, environmental degradation, terrorism, etc.

To discuss the case of India, it can be stated that after the country gained freedom, Mahatma Gandhi, the father of nation, favoured the revival of rural economy and cottage industries and endorsed his economic theory of '*Sarvodaya*' meaning the universal uplift or progress of all the people. The Mahatma and his followers viewed urban industrial development more as a polluting blight than a liberating force of modern society, while hand labour and locomotion by foot were encouraged as the healthiest sources of economic strength. Further, India's rural masses were taught to take pride in the simplicity of their daily lives and to use their idle time in productive handicraftsmanship (Wolpert 1991, 223–24). However, country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and most of his party colleagues favoured to develop industries and make India economically self-sufficient and a progressive nation. Nehru, who was convinced with the Five Year Plans of the then Soviet Union, initiated the same in India in 1950 being the first chairman of the Indian Planning Commission. Since then the Government of India has been pursuing its developmental agendas through successive Five Year Plans. However, during the last part of the 20th century several critical macro-economic situations erupted in the country due to the longstanding controlled economic regime by the Government and many more reasons following which in 1991, the Government of India followed the Structural Adjust Policies (SAP) and economic reforms bidding farewell to its earlier suppressive 'license raj'. In fact in June 1991, India came close to defaulting on its international debt commitments, with balance of payments deficit running high, foreign exchange balance going precariously low (enough for only 13 days of normal imports) and high fiscal deficit which prompted major reforms in 1991 through liberalization (Basu 2006, 66). The strategies involved 'a sharp devaluation of the rupee; removal of quantitative restrictions on imports, reduction of import tariffs and a unification of the exchange rate as the rupee was made convertible for current-account transactions and on the domestic front the strategies like removing the system of industrial licensing, minimizing the number of items in the list reserved for the small-scale producers, etc. were also followed and besides the programme also saw fiscal reforms though the maintenance of

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important subsidies, particularly on the agricultural front, continued to plague the budget' (Mazumdar and Sarkar 2008, 2; Ahluwalia 2002; Joshi and Little 2000). Since liberalization was introduced in Indian economy and with the onset of the process of globalization, Indian society and culture have witnessed several changes. Although in several sectors, the impact of globalization has been fruitful and encouraging, its harmful and damaging repercussions have raised concerns at various levels. The integration of Indian economy with that of the world economy has helped in raising the country's exports. Many Indian companies have become successful business players in foreign countries. Nonetheless, at the same time, poverty, malnutrition, gender inequality, etc. have become greater challenges before the country. The intervention of multinational corporations in the forest lands and the natural habitats of indigenous peoples has affected their livelihood and also raised environmental concerns. Although globalization is an irreversible process and one cannot stop it, planned measures can be taken to minimize the negative consequences and harvest its advantages.

5.4 SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF INFO-TECH REVOLUTION

Information technology (IT) can be defined as the study, design, development and/or management of any information systems that are computer-based, more particularly relating to software applications and computer hardware. Through IT, one can create, exchange, store and use information, data and images in the easiest and fastest way. The information technology has not only made human life faster, but also made the whole world a virtual reality and turned it into a single global village. The information technology used for communication, otherwise known as Information Communication Technology (ICT) in particular the mobile telephony, internet, wireless networks, etc., has been instrumental in today's world and affected the social life of people dramatically. Technological change has immense role in bringing social and cultural change. During the present times, the technological change is so rapid that it has multidimensional effects on people and culture. Deepak Kumar (2006, 35) writes the scope, rate and diffusion of technological changes has been so dramatic during the past century, especially in the field of warfare, transportation, communication and medicine that experts have come up with many theories to take stock of this unprecedented transformation. The dominant element in these theories is the technological determinism that asserts that technological changes account for changes in culture, politics and economics as well. However, a modified version of this theory is technological interactionism that claims that the relationship between technological and social changes is mutual. Thorstein Veblen, for example, argued that the technological change is modified and restrained by social beliefs and structures (cultural lag). He further argued that when an innovation is introduced to another society, it is freed from cultural constraints and alters other institutions and practices. As Kumar (ibid, 36) writes, more positive assessment of the technological change emphasizes the rational nature of

technological changes and their liberating impact. Freed from the constraints of culture and tradition, economic production can be organized more rationally and effectively, thus alleviating poverty and providing expanded opportunities for leisure and assuring better health to the large majority. Technological changes conceived as progress is an assumption of the 19th century thinkers like Karl Marx. A somewhat different set of advocates of technological change emphasizes the positive aspects of some technological changes which is also known as 'people's technology' or 'soft technology'. Scholars like Marshal McLuhan supported the change technological innovation brings which come in personal use of people like computers, radio, etc. He argued that technological change can encourage democratic principles and promote equality and common understanding.

The term 'revolution' is frequently applied to IT and the 'IT revolution' is often compared in its social significance to the Industrial Revolution. The socio-economic and political implications of the ongoing IT revolution have been taken up by many researchers for study and thorough investigation. India has been one of the leading software manufacturers. It has produced millions of computer engineers who are working worldwide making India a software giant. Cities like Bangalore, Delhi, Hyderabad are now hub of global software production following the information and technological advancement in the country. Software export from India earns billions of rupees. Several state governments have also adopted the programme of e-governance for faster delivery of services by using modern information technology.

Many of the impacts of info-tech revolution are already visible in day to day life and each and every human being is affected by it. However, scholars are divided on the nature of impact of the info-tech revolution on society. Those going against it claim that due to the introduction of information technology, millions of jobs have been lost. Much of the works that were handled manually and generating employment for huge labour force are now carried out by computers and other modern technologies pushing millions out of their jobs. Development of varieties of new software may also create further problems in job markets. Although technology makes life faster, it creates unemployment too. Besides, it also leads to increasing gaps between the rich and the poor people. It creates social gaps between people and countries. Another important factor which needs to bring attention is related to environment. Technological advancement creates large-scale environmental degradation throughout the world. It destroys the natural world significantly. Not only huge amount of toxic materials are discharged while producing computers, laptops and other products, but also these products after their use turn into e-wastes adding further to environmental damages. At personal level, technology revolution has led to the loss of privacy of individuals since interlinked data base contains all the personal information of an individual. Fast life-style and faster rate of information flow due to info-tech revolution has strained the culture and makes the future unpredictable. Following the advancement in information and communication technology, there has been rise in the percentage of cyber crimes and increase in delinquency among children too.

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On the positive note, IT revolution brings power in the hand of individuals. It empowers people in society. Personal computers and the Internet have in an enormous way strengthened the authority of individuals. The development of information technology has influenced the social life of people in a society. Computers, Internet, mobile telephony and many such technological inventions have helped people interacting among themselves quickly, instantly and easily. It has helped in strengthening the interpersonal relationships among people. Through e-mail, internet chat, SMS and mobile telephone people can establish contacts with peers and with strangers living in any part of the world in the mere fraction of a minute. Besides, modern communication technology along with helping in setting up inter-personal relationships, empowers the differently abled and the physically disabled people too. They easily enjoy access to the sources of information and knowledge through the modern communication technology. The visually handicapped in particular can now easily read books and other information thanks to computer-generated systems and software.

In case of India, the IT revolution has brought in changes in both social and economic spheres. The Government of India is also using the modern technology to reach out to people, deliver services and monitor the implementation of developmental programs. In rural area in particular, farmers through the 'Krishi Vigyan Kendras' (KVKs) are informed about local climatic conditions and other information through mobile telephony and SMS services. This eradicates the information gap that existed among the rural people especially the poor and illiterate farmers. As discussed by Sharma (2011, 189), through the 'Community Information Centres' also the government is trying to make the best use of modern technology for public cause. The program is designed especially for providing the Internet access and IT-enabled services to the citizens through which the interface between the Government and the citizens can be set up. These centres connect seven northeastern states namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. Further, it helps to gain the connectivity at the time of unsuitable environmental conditions. The centres are generally situated at the schools, colleges or governmental offices.

The spread of modern communication technology especially the mobile telephony has empowered rural masses and women significantly. Rural women artisans are using the Internet to market their handmade goods. Mass media like radio and TV have been used to communicate with people on various educational and health issues like women reproductive health, child care, sexually transmitted diseases and also on the benefits from different governmental plans and policies. This has helped people getting informed about their rights and responsibilities. Such a development has drastically reduced monopoly of the implementing agencies and officials and helps in reducing corruption. The proposal of the Central Government for setting up of a 'National Knowledge Network' has also a big social significance. The primary objective is to bring together all the stakeholders in science, technology, higher education, research and development and governance.

Covering the areas like agriculture, education, health, etc. the National Knowledge Network will be a high-capacity countrywide infrastructure at higher education level to support education and research applications. Through a high speed data communication network such a facility will interconnect institutions of higher learning in the country. This will facilitate creation, sharing and exchange of knowledge among the participating institutions. This has great significance for students and researchers of interior areas who don't have access to mainstream educational institutions of the country.

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CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

4. What were the factors that were analyzed and studied by the Planning Commission set up in 1950?
5. What was the focus of the first Five Year Plan?
6. On whose model the second Five Year Plan was formulated?

5.5 DEVELOPMENT AND DISPLACEMENT

In the first and second units, you have learned about development, indicators of development, changing conceptions of the concept of development, etc. Development refers to improvement in the quality of life and advancement in one's state of condition. It may refer to improvements in one's well-being, living-standards and socio-economic opportunities. For quite some time now, development and displacement have been key areas of research for sociologists, anthropologists and even environmentalists. Forced migration or displacement has largely been occurring due to development-related projects and that is why displacement is often called as development-induced displacement. Such displacement refers to the process of forcing the communities and individuals out of their homes and homelands for the purpose of economic development in the region. Primarily, displacement in India is associated with the construction of dams for power generation and irrigation, mining, establishment of big industrial units, etc.

During the 1990s between 90 and 100 million people were displaced by the so-called development projects, while countless others fled economic impoverishment. Another 30 million were refugees across international borders or in refugee-like situations within their own countries (Cernea and McDowell 2000, 2, cited in Colson 2007, 107). At the beginning of the 21st century, large number of people continue to be displaced because they stand in the way of economic enterprises that uproot individuals and communities as land is taken for new urban developments or urban renewal programmes, or for road construction, the damming of rivers, the creation of national parks or mining. Rarely do such enterprises benefit the displaced either economically or socially. Often, displacement is associated with a radical reduction in economic and social resources and therefore

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with increased political vulnerabilities. Whether they are officially settled or forced to fend for themselves, those displaced face new political environments even though they remain within their homelands. As Colson (2007, 108–18) further states, in most of the cases, the displaced are subject to brute force. Even those who are told to leave because their land is wanted for others for economic reasons, and who are given assistance to resettle elsewhere, know that displacement symbolizes nothing but their weakness. They may be asked to agree to being uprooted but they are unable to prevent it. Those violently uprooted, or who leave because of the fear of persecution, are only too conscious that they live in a dangerous world (ibid, 118–19).

In India like elsewhere, there is large-scale resentment against displacement. The Narmada Bachao Andolan led by Medha Patkar against the Sardar Sarover Dam, movement against the Vedanta steel plant and POSCO in Orissa and the opposition to the TATA NANO project in Singur, West Bengal are the prominent examples. In India, large dams are the single largest cause of displacement since the country got independence. The World Bank notes that though large dams constitute only 26.6 per cent of the total WB-funded projects causing displacement, the resulting displacement makes up 62.8 per cent of the total number of people displaced (Cernea 1996). According to M.P. Lama (2000), in India there are four broad categories of displacement. They can be discussed below.

- (1) **Political causes, including secessionist movements:** (i) Since independence, north-east India has witnessed two major armed conflicts—the Naga movement primarily led by the National Socialist Council of Nagaland and the Assam movement led by the All Assam Students Union and now largely taken over by the extremist United Liberation Front of Assam. The violence and retaliatory responses from the Government and other forces opposed to the secessionists continue to generate a steady flow of displaced people. (ii) In Kashmir's 'war' between state forces and militants, the killing of Kashmiri Pandits by fundamentalist secessionist groups, the widespread anarchy created by political instability and the continuous violation of fundamental human rights by both the state and militant groups, have led to large-scale displacement, mainly of Kashmiri Pandits (estimated at 2,50,000), to Jammu and cities like Delhi. Despite the election and restoration of a popular government in 1996, those displaced have not been able to return due to the continuing reality of sporadic massacres in Kashmir.
- (2) **Identity-based autonomy movements:** Identity-based autonomy movements, such as in Bodoland, Punjab, Gorkhaland and Ladakh, have also led to violence and displacement. This has happened in Punjab and more recently in the Bodo Autonomous Council area of western Assam. 'Cleansing' of non-Bodo communities by the Bodos,

through plunder, arson, massacre and persecution, has forced a large number of non-Bodos to flee. They now live in camps.

(3) **Localized violence:** Internal displacement has also arisen from caste disputes (as in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh), religious fundamentalism (as in urban riots in Bombay, Coimbatore, Bhagalpur and Aligarh) and aggressive denial of residency and employment rights to non-indigenous groups by supporters of the 'son-of-the soil policy' (as in Meghalaya by the Khasi students and in Arunachal Pradesh against the Chakmas).

(4) **Environmental and development-induced displacement:** In order to achieve rapid economic growth, India has invested in industrial projects, dams, roads, mines, power plants and new cities which has been made possible only through massive acquisition of land and subsequent displacement of people. According to the figures provided by the Indian Social Institute, the 21.3 million development-induced IDPs include those displaced by dams (16.4 million), mines (2.55 million), industrial development (1.25 million) and wild-life sanctuaries and national parks (0.6 million).

There have been a number of protests against the compulsory acquisition of land for construction of dams, industrial units, mining, etc. The effect of displacement on the displaced is enormous. They lose the traditional means of employment, their family life is destroyed and disrupted, community life is affected and they face several uncomfortable situations in day to day life due to the change of environment. Various social problems including crime and delinquency crop up in the newly settled areas or refugee camps. Women among the displaced are the worst victims. Although Government and respective industrial units offer compensation for resettlement and rehabilitation, these are often too small and are not distributed fairly. Many such compensation packages are nothing in comparison to the losses the displaced people bear. At the same time, it can also be mentioned that development process cannot be derailed since it has direct impact on the country's economic progress. However, the development process should not hamper the environment, displace the indigenous people or the tribes, and should not cause massive internal displacement. The planners should rethink the model of development and should promote the one that affects none but benefits all.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

7. In which Five Year Plan, the concept of Green Revolution was started in India?
8. Define globalization.
9. Give the meaning of Information Technology.

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5.6 SUMMARY

- Planning is a commitment to resolute action. Through economic and social planning, national governments make adjustments to new socio-economic and political realities.
- Globalization refers to the growing integration of societies, economies and cultures around the world. It is described as a process by which people around the world are amalgamated and unified to form a single global society.
- Information technology (IT) can be defined as the study, design, development and/or management of any information systems that are computer-based, more particularly, relating to software applications and computer hardware.
- Development refers to improvement in the quality of life and advancement in one's state or condition.
- Displacement refers to the process of forcing the communities and individuals out of their homes and homelands for the purposes of economic development in the region.

5.7 KEY TERMS

- **IT (information technology):** A term that encompasses all forms of technology used to create, store, exchange and use information in its various forms (business data, voice conversations, still images, motion pictures, multimedia presentations and other forms including those not yet conceived).
- **The Mahalanobis model:** A model of economic development, created by Indian statistician Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in 1953. Mahalanobis became essentially the key economist of India's second Five Year Plan, becoming subject to much of India's most dramatic economic debates.
- **Dialectic process:** Reasoning in which question-answer approach (dialectic) is used to examine the correctness, legitimacy or validity of an assumption, idea, opinion, etc.
- **Globalization:** Name for the process of increasing the connectivity and interdependence of the world's markets and businesses. This process has speeded up dramatically in the last two decades as technological advances make it easier for people to travel, communicate and do business internationally.
- **Americanization:** The term used to describe the movement during the first quarter of the 20th century whereby the immigrant in the United States was induced to assimilate American speech, ideals, traditions and ways of life.
- **Capital intensive:** A business process or an industry that requires large amounts of money and other financial resources to produce a good or service.

- **Free market:** Business governed by the laws of supply and demand, not restrained by government interference, regulation or subsidy.

5.8 ANSWERS TO 'CHECK YOUR PROGRESS'

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1. The following conditions are required for the success of a plan:
 - (a) The plan must stem from the people themselves, b) People's participation is extremely necessary, c) initiative for implementing the plan is to be taken not by the planners but by the activists in different walks of life, d) priorities have to be decided in advance, and e) arbitration in decision-making must be by a person who has technical knowledge and is a trained professional because he has the capability of visualizing alternative solutions.
2. Indian planning was advocated by M. Visveswaraya in the 1940s. The Indian National Congress appointed a National Planning Committee on the eve of the Second World War (1938–39) to frame an all-India plan. However, it was the Bombay Plan, also known as the Tata Birla Plan, which made people planning conscious in India.
3. This was due to several factors, such as: a) No priorities for development were determined through adequate planning, b) no adequate statistics were prepared regarding the need of production, national income, etc. c) limited foreign exchange was available for development purposes, d) private entrepreneurs were reluctant to invest huge amounts in industrial development because of the government's policies, e) there was no facility for getting raw materials, machineries and capital goods from abroad.
4. The Commission was to look into the following factors: a) determine priorities, b) plan balanced utilization of country's resources, c) make an assessment of the material, capital and human resources of the country, d) assess the progress achieved from time to time and recommend readjustment and e) identify factors which retard economic development.
5. The primary objective of the first Five Year Plan was to improve the standard of living of the people. The sectors targeted during this period included: industrial sector, energy, irrigation, transport, communications, land rehabilitation, social services, Development of agriculture, etc.
6. The second Five Year Plan functioned on the basis of 'Mahalanobis model', following the name of P. C. Mahalanobis. His model addressed different issues concerning the economic development in the country. This period was socio-economically very significant because it had started a serious journey on the path of industrial development.
7. Green Revolution was initiated under the third Five Year Plan. This plan period gave utmost importance to agriculture to improve agricultural productivity on the country. This was to make India a self-sufficient country

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in agricultural production to reduce dependence on other countries for food products. The High Yield Varieties of seeds were introduced in agriculture in the country to enhance productivity, something named as the 'Green Revolution'.

8. Globalization refers to the growing integration of societies, economies and cultures around the world. In recent times, it has become one of the most hotly-debated topics and key area of research among the policy makers, statesmen, corporate, politicians and academia.
9. Information technology (IT) can be defined as the study, design, development and/or management of any information systems that are computer-based, more particularly, relating to software applications and computer hardware.

5.9 QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

Short-Answer Questions

1. Write a brief note on the main focus areas of the first Five Year Plan.
2. What are the most specific areas of concern during the current Five Year Plan?
3. On what grounds a certain school of thought favours globalization?
4. How do the individuals get empowered because of the IT revolution?
5. Write a short-note on the political causes of displacement.

Long-Answer Questions

1. Write a note on the sociological appraisal of the Five Year Plans of India.
2. What is globalization? What are the socio-cultural repercussions of globalization?
3. Write elaborately on the social implications of info-tech revolution.
4. What is development? Discuss with suitable examples the development induced displacement in India.
5. Discuss the issue of development and displacement by giving suitable examples.
6. Critically analyze the social implications of info-tech revolution.

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