

Course Title: Regional Development & Disparities Spatial Reference to Himalayan State

Course Code: GE (N)-222

Credits: 4

This course intends to introduce the students with the regional planning and development, a sub-branch of geography. This sub-branch of geography deals with the regional diversity, development and disparities and development models and theories dealing with these for proper solutions with planning. The students develop their skills in the tools and techniques of regional planning including the methods of construction of composite index, distribution and pattern of development, identification of regions of backwardness and preparation of development plans to address these issues.

Objectives are to:

- Acquaint students with the importance and evolution of regional planning
- Explain the models and theories of growth, regional development
- Describe roles of government bodies of planning, development plans with case studies in India
- Provide exposure and hands on to the tools and techniques of regional development planning
- Understand regional development theories in the Himalayan context
- Identify physical and socio-economic uniqueness of the Himalayan region
- Assess regional development using quantitative indices
- Map and interpret regional inequalities
- Critically evaluate the causes of intra-regional disparities
- Understand the implications of poor infrastructure and services
- Understand the environmental limitations in planning for development
- Analyse the role of disasters and climate change in increasing vulnerability
- Learn about sustainable and indigenous adaptation practices
- Critically assess the effectiveness of policy interventions
- Understand the role of multi-level governance and institutions
- Explore innovative and inclusive approaches to sustainable development

BLOCK I: Theoretical Framework and Concepts

Unit 1: Regional Development – Concepts and Dimensions

Definition and scope of regional development

Economic, social, and environmental aspects

Historical perspectives on regional development

Development vs. growth: qualitative indicators

Unit 2: Theories and Models of Regional Development

Core-periphery model (Friedmann), Growth Pole Theory (Perroux)

Myrdal's cumulative causation, Hirschman's theory

Location theory (Weber, Lösch) and spatial interaction models
Relevance of theories in Himalayan context

Unit 3: Regional Disparities – Identification and Measurement

Meaning and types: inter-regional and intra-regional disparities
Indicators and indices: HDI, CDI, Gini coefficient, Theil index
Techniques: composite index, z-score, Lorenz Curve
Limitations in measuring disparities in hilly regions

Unit 4: Regional Planning and Policy Framework

Evolution of regional planning in India
Role of Five-Year Plans and NITI Aayog
State-level development plans for Himalayan regions
Decentralized and participatory planning: PRI and grassroots governance

BLOCK II: Spatial Analysis of Development in the Himalayan States

Unit 5: Physical and Human Resource Base

Topography, climate, water, forest, and biodiversity
Demographic structure: growth, literacy, migration, density
Cultural diversity and ethnic composition
Challenges of accessibility and remoteness

Unit 6: Sectoral Development Patterns

Agriculture, horticulture, and traditional farming systems
Hydropower, mining, and forest-based resources
Tourism, pilgrimage, and eco-tourism potential
Industrialization and service sector growth

Unit 7: Intra-State Disparities – A Spatial Overview

Disparities in education, health, infrastructure across districts
Case Study: Garhwal vs. Kumaon in Uttarakhand (or similar)
Urban-rural divide and emerging peri-urban spaces
Migration and its socio-economic implications

Unit 8: Border and Remote Area Development

Strategic and socio-political significance of border areas
Development deficits in international border regions
Role of BADP, BRO, and other special schemes
Livelihood vulnerabilities and security issues

BLOCK III: Challenges, Interventions, and Sustainable Development

Unit 9: Environmental Constraints and Development

Fragile ecosystems and carrying capacity
Deforestation, land degradation, and biodiversity loss
Climate change and natural disasters (flash floods, landslides)
Environmental vs. developmental priorities

Unit 10: Policy Interventions and Government Programs

Central and state government initiatives (PMGSY, MNREGA, NHM, etc.)
Special category status and fiscal benefits to hill states
Role of planning bodies, NGOs, and international aid agencies
Evaluation of development programs

Unit 11: Sustainable and Inclusive Regional Development

Sustainable Mountain Development (ICIMOD guidelines)
Community-based natural resource management
Gender-sensitive and youth-inclusive development strategies
Education, skill development, and employment generation

Unit 12: Future Strategies and Best Practices

Integrating traditional knowledge with modern development
Use of GIS and remote sensing for planning
Best practices from other mountain regions (Nepal, Bhutan, etc.)
Roadmap for balanced and resilient development

BLOCK IV: Regional Development and Disparities in Himalayan States

Unit I3: Introduction to Regional Development in the Himalayas

Overview of the Himalayan region: Physiography, socio-economic characteristics, and political divisions
Historical context of development in Himalayan states (Pre-independence to post-liberalization)
Development indicators: HDI, GDI, MPI – application to Himalayan states

Unit I4: Spatial and Sectoral Disparities in the Himalayan Region

Inter-state and intra-state disparities: Case studies from Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and North-Eastern Himalayan states
Agriculture and rural livelihoods – traditional practices vs. modern interventions
Infrastructure: Roads, communication, education, and healthcare access disparities
Employment, migration, and demographic imbalances (Youth outmigration, gender disparities)

Unit 15: Environmental Constraints and Development Challenges

Fragile ecology and development conflict: Deforestation, hydropower, tourism pressure

Natural disasters and regional vulnerability: Landslides, earthquakes, floods

Impact of climate change on development (e.g., glacial retreat, changing agriculture patterns)

Environmental movements and community-based responses (Chipko, Apatani water systems)

Unit 16: Policies, Institutions, and the Way Forward

National and State-level policies for hill development (e.g., National Mission on Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem, HADP, NEIDP)

Role of institutions: Ministry of DoNER, NITI Aayog, ICIMOD, G.B. Pant Institute

Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions and NGOs in promoting inclusive development

Vision for integrated and sustainable Himalayan development: Ecotourism, renewable energy, agroforestry