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THE PLANNING IMPLICATIONS OF TECHNICAL
AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION FOR NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT IN SRI LANKA

A Dissertation

Presented to

the Department of Town and Country Planning

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka



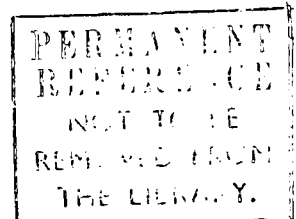
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LIST OF CONTENTS


Page No.

SYNOPSIS	1
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
LIST OF MAPS	iv
LIST OF CHARTS	v
LIST OF TABLES	vi
INTRODUCTION	vii

PART I. THE BACKGROUND TO THE EXISTING SETTING

CHAPTER 1 - The Prevalent Pattern of Disparity in Sri Lanka	1
CHAPTER 2 - The Existing Planning Environment of Technical and Vocational Education in National Development	17
CHAPTER 3 - The Existing Organizational and Legislative Framework for Regional Development with Special Reference to Technical and Vocational Education	31

PART II. THE ANALYSIS OF THE EXISTING SETTING OF REGIONAL DISPARITY AND THAT OF TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER 4 - The Nature and Causal Factors of the Key Indicators of Regional Disparities.	45
 CHAPTER 5 - The Planning of Technical and Vocational Education in the Regional Development Process.	57
CHAPTER 6 - The Organizational and Legislative Implications in the Provision of Skills for Regional Development in Sri Lanka	79

PART III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

CHAPTER 7 - Conclusions and Recommendations	85
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APPENDICES

- Appendix i. Some Selected Indicators of Development.
- ii. Summary of Recommendations Regarding Relevant Aspects of Technical and Vocational Education for use in the Planning of its Sector as Integral Component of a Development Plan.
- iii. Some Selected Indicators of Development, used in the Study.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

SYNOPSIS

Employment and Literacy constitute two important ingredients of development. Accordingly, their provision in a Development Plan is crucial for achieving real benefits to the community. In this connection, a key Strategy in Development Planning is that of providing Education and Training of Skills. This Study has focussed its attention on the latter, in the context of alleviating disparities in the development of the different regions in the country.

The Study is in three PARTS. Part I of the Study comprises the background to the existing setting and consists of three Chapters. Chapter 1 has discussed the prevalent pattern of regional disparity in the country and in this connection, has identified the characteristics of disparity in terms of several indicators including Unemployment and Literacy Rates. Chapter 2 has thereafter discussed the national development perspective, so as to provide the appropriate background against which the necessity for Technical and Vocational Education in Development Planning has been focussed. Chapter 3 has examined the existing Organizational and Legislative framework for Regional Development for the purpose of determining the existing mechanisms through which Technical and Vocational Education can assist in alleviating disparities of Unemployment and low Literacy Rates in the regions.

Part II consists of the Analysis of the existing setting of regional disparity and its association with Technical and Vocational Education. This Analysis has been made in three Chapters. Thus Chapter 4 has analysed the nature and causal factors of the key

indicators of regional disparities. Chapter 5 has evaluated the planning of Technical and Vocational Education in the regional development process. Chapter 6 has thereafter analysed the Organizational and Legislative implications in the provision of Technical and Vocational Education for Regional Development.

Part III comprises the Conclusions and Recommendations arising from the Study and has been written in a Single Chapter 7.

This Study also includes three Appendices and a Bibliography.



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Dayananda Saparamadu.

LIST OF MAPSMap No.

1. Administrative District Sri Lanka.
2. Electoral Boundaries and A.G.A. Divisions of a Typical District - Galle.
3. Regional Disparity by Unemployment - 1976.
4. Regional Disparity by Literacy Rate - 1976.
5. Regional Disparity by Literacy Rate and Unemployment - 1976.
- 5A. Regional Disparity by all indicators - 1978.
6. Zonal Regions - National Apprenticeship Board.
7. Distribution of Population Sri Lanka - 1971.
8. Population Density - Sri Lanka - 1971.
9. Percentage population of (0 - 14) and (0 - 19) age-groups in each District 1971.
10. Distribution of Catchment Population for Technical and Vocational Education - 1971.
11. Distribution of Training Capacities by Regions - 1979.
12. Distribution of Training Institutions and their Capacities by Regions - 1979.

LIST OF CHARTS**Chart No.**

- 1 List of Indicators chosen for the Study
- 2 The Institutional Framework for Providing Technical and Vocational Education by Public Sector Agencies, Sri Lanka
- 3 District Administrative System - Sri Lanka.
- 4 District Education System, Sri Lanka.
- 5 Organizational Form of the District Co-ordinating Committee (D.C.C.)
 University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk
- 6 Structural Aspects of the General Education System - Sri Lanka
- 7 Proposed Organizational Structure for Technical and Vocational Education for Regional Development.

LIST OF TABLES

1. Socio-economic indicators (with Kandy = 100)
2. Rank Order of Socio-economic Indicators.
3. Growth Rate of the Economy, Sri Lanka, 1960 - 1979.
- 3A. Rank Order of Regions in terms of Disparity by all Indicators.
4. Growth of Economy by Selected Sectors.
5. Population of Sri Lanka - Numerical Increase and Average Rate of Increase.
6. Population Structure of Sri Lanka - 1976.
7. Private & Voluntary Agencies in Technical and Vocational Education and Training Selected at Random, Sri Lanka.
8. Enrolment at Different Levels, of Apprenticeship 1974 - 1979.
9. Enrolment on Vocational, Craft and Technician Level Courses in Technical Institutes under the Ministry of Higher Education - 1973 - 1978/79.
10. Budgetary Expenditure on Technical/Vocational Education Sector - Ministry of Higher Education.
11. Expenditure on the National Apprenticeship Programme.
12. Distribution of Unemployed Population - 1971.
13. Unemployed Population by Age-Group - 1971.
14. Migration by Districts - (1963 - 1971).
15. Unemployed Population 10 years and over by Educational Attainment - 1971.
16. Population by Five-year Age -Groups & Sex - 1971.
17. Apportionment of National Magnitude for Technical and Vocational Education by Regions - 1971.
18. Skilled Manpower Requirements in Selected Categories of Trades - 1979/80.
19. Migration of Manpower to the Middle East in Few Selected Categories - 1977/78.
20. Entry Qualification Required by different Agencies for different levels of Training.

INTRODUCTION

Background

An important consideration in national development policy is the bringing about of 'balanced development' in the different geographical areas of a country. In this respect Sri-Lanka has, in the last decade strived in many ways to achieve a certain degree of equity and balance in its national development programmes, designed for improvement in sub-national areas. Thus, the establishment of decentralised budget, a political authority system, district quota system for University admissions, and the more recent District Minister system, and the proposed Development Councils are all efforts towards this direction of bringing about a balance in development between the twenty four administrative districts in the country.



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In the above context, there yet remains a variety of sectoral development programmes which can be planned more consciously to further strengthen the district or regional development efforts. One such is that of "Technical and Vocational Education" which would comprise a basic ingredient of employment, income, and general socio-economic upliftment. Towards this end, it therefore becomes critical to examine the potential of linking this sectoral programme to an overall national and regional development framework.

Definition of the Problem

In national terms, it has become evident that some districts are relatively backward and there has also been indications of substantial unemployment and under utilization of resources. One of

the causes of this situation is the lack of trained skills, particularly of a technical nature involving craftsmanship. Accordingly, the development effort and the regional imbalance has become dependent on this factor and therefore requires urgent study as part of an overview of national development planning.

In order to overcome this problem, the various needs of the districts for Agricultural, Industrial and Construction cadre need to be identified to provide them an appropriate Technical and Vocational Education programme.

Having identified it, it must be linked up with a National and Regional development programme.

Methodology of Study University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.



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The methodology used in the Study has been to examine published and unpublished literature in the field of Technical and Vocational Education. In addition it has included discussions with experts and agency representatives engaged in this field. The information so gathered has then been analysed to provide the background against which the Recommendations have been made.

Objectives of Study

The main objectives of the study are therefore to:

1. Establish ^{the} levels of disparity in development in the various regions.
2. Define the various dimensions including the physical and social aspects of the Technical and Vocational Education programmes of the public sector and non-governmental agencies.

3. Identify a regional planning frame work for integrating Technical and Vocational Education programmes with the other sectors of development.
4. Examine the basis for establishing regional planning for the provision of Technical and Vocational Education and Training.
5. Recommend proposals for the Technical and Vocational Education programme as an integral part of National Development Programme.

The following Chapters in this Study have focussed on the above.



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