

**Semester 4 Paper GEOA CC9 Theory Regional  
Planning and Development  
Regions :Concept, Types and Delineation  
Lecture Sketch**

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# Concept : Introduction

- ▶ Region is a tract of country or area
- ▶ Spatial unit
- ▶ May consist of contagious or non-contagious spatial units which are similar to each other on the basis of one or more criteria
- ▶ Historical roots in Vidal de la Blache's idea of pays in France. Each pays was an areal unit with distinctive characteristics . The distinctiveness was a result of special characteristics of soil, water supply and economic specialisations.
- ▶ Unity of pays was destroyed by Industrial Revolution
- ▶ Interest in region building by Hettner, Whittlesey, Hartshorne

# Region : Objective and Subjective Approaches

- ▶ Two views exist on regions
- ▶ Objective : Regions actually exist. Like an organism. An end in itself.
- ▶ Linked to search for natural region. Herbertson, the oxford geographer divided the world into natural regions on basis of 4 criteria: topography, climate, vegetation, population density
- ▶ Unstead took synthetic approach. Built up series of British regions based on physical factors, extending from centre of a region until the periphery no longer supported characteristics of the centre.
- ▶ Russian Geographers believe that economic regions actually exist.
- ▶ Pays of de la Blache

# Subjective View

- ▶ Regions are mental constructs
- ▶ Descriptive tools
- ▶ Defined according to particular criteria for a particular purpose
- ▶ There may be as many regions as there are criteria to define them
- ▶ This approach has been taken up by many

# Types of region : based on characteristics

- ▶ Formal Region
- ▶ Functional Region
- ▶ Planning Region

# Formal Regions

- ▶ A geographical area which is uniform or homogeneous in terms of selected criteria
- ▶ Early definitions used physical factors as criteria such as relief, climate, soil, natural vegetation
- ▶ Later economic factors were used as criteria examples : industrial region, agricultural regions
- ▶ Social and political factors can be used as criteria, examples : linguistic regions, regions based on political party allegiance
- ▶ Single Feature Regions and Multi feature Regions

# Functional Regions

- ▶ A geographical area parts of which are functionally linked
- ▶ Interdependence of parts and functional coherence when defined on basis of certain criteria
- ▶ Also called Nodal Regions and Polarised Regions
- ▶ Consists of dissimilar areal units like cities , towns and villages which are linked functionally
- ▶ There are flows between the parts
- ▶ Types of flows : journey to work trips, shopping trips

# Functional Regions Proponents

- ▶ Ebenezer Howard: gave idea of Nodal Region. Suggested setting up of new towns linked to London, to relieve the main city of its load
- ▶ Patrick Geddes: place-work-folk diagram to suggest interdependence and interrelationships of factors in a region. coined the term city region
- ▶ Dickinson, Smailes, Green pioneers in deductive approach to study of functional regions . Dickinson used criterion of distribution of newspapers to delineate city region, Green used bus services to draw boundaries of city region
- ▶ Christaller and Losch studied functional regions by inductive approach. They studied hierarchical relationships within functional regions



# Planning Regions

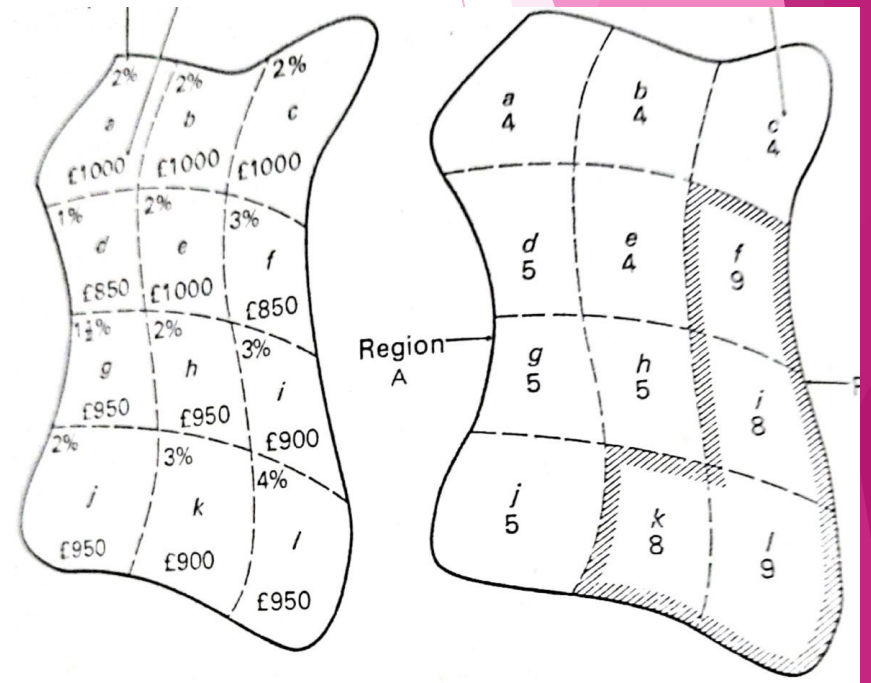
- ▶ As production, exchange and levels of development have become more complex, planning has become necessary
- ▶ Planning regions can be formed from formal and functional regions both. There can be economic planning regions based on homogeneity in unemployment rates (formal regions) or flows between towns and cities (Functional region such as metropolitan region)

# Characteristics of Planning Regions

- ▶ 1. Unifying Core with coherence ( Boudeville 1966 cited in Chand and Puri 1983)
- ▶ 2. Should include all territory to the core
- ▶ 3. No serious conflict should be there within the region
- ▶ 4. Should have some homogeneity so that single plan is possible
- ▶ 5. Large enough to enable sufficient changes in distribution of population and employment to take place within its boundaries ( Keeble 1976 quoted in Raychaudhuri 2001)
- ▶ 6. Large enough for taking investment decisions ( Klassen 1965 cited in Raychaudhuri 2001)
- ▶ 7. Resource combination should allow product combination for consumption and exchange ( Pathak and Kundu 1973 cited in Raychaudhuri 2001)

# Delineation of Formal Regions

- ▶ Simple Weighted Index Number Method : Explained by Boudeville. Given example : 2 criteria unemployment rates and per capita income have been used to identify problem region. Crucial to determine criteria and weights
- Factor Analysis method Explained by Berry : The basic factors have to be isolated and areas are to be grouped on the basis of factor loadings. Smith identified “industrial change” and “industrial structure” as major industrial factors , and social structure and population change as major socio economic factors. On the basis of factor loadings, problem areas identified



# Delineation of functional regions

- ▶ The main focus is on the flow linked to a central point
- ▶ The flow may be a) economic or in terms of movement of goods b) in terms of newspaper circulation

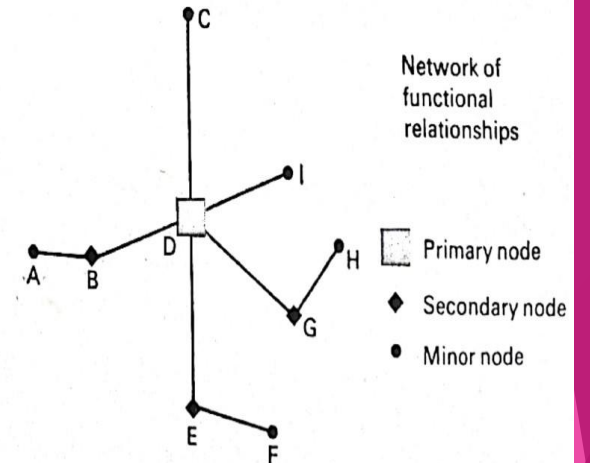
c) Movement of people  
The delineation may be done in terms of gravity model and breaking point analysis

Telephone calls ('000's per day) to centre;

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
A		40		20					
B	10			60					
C				30					10
D		60			40				
E				30		10			
F					20		10		
G					50			20	
H					20			30	
I			10	40					

Telephone calls ('000's per day) from centre;

Flow matrix (primary and secondary flows only)



3.2.2 Graph theory: a simple illustration

Source: Glasson J.1978 *An introduction to Regional Planning*, UCL Press Limited , London.

# Reference

- ▶ Glasson J.1978 *An introduction to Regional Planning*, UCL Press Limited , London.
- ▶ Raychaudhuri J. 2001 *An Introduction to Development and Regional Planning with special reference to India*, Orient Longman , Kolkata.