

ABSTRACT

Most of the Less Developed Countries have recently been trying to decentralise or retard the growth of their metropolises / large cities. In general, the policies aimed at limiting the growth of very large cities have been mainly intended to direct growth to designated locations through decentralisation of economic activities from the core. However, such efforts have been only partially successful. In spite of cumulative experiences, there is considerable confusion about the relevance of such approaches. This study attempted in the National Capital Region of India wherein decentralisation efforts are on, since early 1960's, probes into some of the vital issues relating to decentralisation of metropolitan cities, the efficacy of the planning approaches, the appropriateness of the policies pursued and discusses alternatives for successful achievement of the intended objective. Under closer scrutiny is the commitment of the Government in effecting decentralisation.

The study brings out the inappropriateness of long distance based decentralisation strategies in the light of absence of the prerequisites for its successful achievement of the objective and also exposes the dilemma of the government in effecting decentralisation objective. The conclusion of the study that the short distance based decentralisation policies and efforts are more likely to succeed rather than long distance based strategies and that the developing countries in general even while professing decentralisation objectives have not been pursuing consonant policies reflects the general predicament and dilemma of the Less Developed Countries.