

lend credence to Rostow's pattern of growth. Various growth processes need not be compartmentalised into various stages.

One should not conclude that Rostow's approach to the problem of growth is theoretically unsound or practically useless. Rostow's analysis is unique one as it highlights the importance of social and institutional factors in the theory of economic growth. Economic growth is not only a function of economic forces, but of non-economic forces too. Rostow appears to be the first economist who has made a bold attempt by incorporating the non-economic forces in his theory of economic growth. For his bold attempt he deserves praise and compliments.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

An appropriate environment is an essential condition for speedy and sustainable economic development. Likewise, economic development affects the environment in a variety of ways and influences the quality of life. Thus the relationship between the two is of inter-dependence.

The term 'environment' is a comprehensive one and includes a number of factors and elements. But for our purpose we may confine ourselves to include in it the nature of political, social and religious institutions and quality of overall environmental conditions.

The desire for economic progress is strengthened among the masses when political, social and religious institutions create the necessary and favourable climate for economic growth.

Economists have become increasingly aware of the importance of environmental issues for the success of development efforts. It is now recognised that the interaction between poverty and environmental degradation can result in a self-perpetuating process in which, as a result of ignorance or economic necessity, people may destroy or exhaust the resources which are vital for their very survival. Environmental decay can further impede the pace of economic development by imposing high costs in terms of health-related expenses and the reduced productivity of resources. Not only this, severe environmental degradation due to population pressures on marginal land has been responsible for falling farm productivity and per capita food production adversely affecting the poor. They further suffer from the non-availability of sanitation and clean drinking water which is believed to be responsible for 80% of diseases world wide. Thus, to secure environmentally sustainable growth, consensus is growing among economists that environmental considerations and costs should form an integral part of policy initiatives.

Damage to soil, water supplies and forests caused by unsustainable methods of production go a long way in reducing long-term national productivity. Similarly, rapid population growth and expanding economic activity in the LDCs has the propensity to extensive environmental damage unless appropriate measures are taken to control their harmful effects.

We may discuss the basic issues pertaining to the environment of development as under: