

Multi-level Planning: The Issue and Organization Required

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1979

Thesis Abstract

Multilevel planning is a technique, and a methodology, whereby the task of planning for the development and optimal utilisation of resources of a nation is addressed to conceivable local agencies or units and thereby also creates intermediary levels (between the nation and the unit) for fulfilling the same task at increasing levels of spatial reference, perspectives, and appreciation of the environment. The success of such a concept depends on the optimal functioning of the supportive institutions. This thesis, however, looks at the evolution of a normative structure of multilevel planning. The entire research has been devised in that light. With this normative configuration in view, attempts have been made to evolve an optimal organisational design that might be applied in the Indian context. The chapters have been arranged primarily keeping this in mind. The first chapter deals with a general overview of planning in India, and analyses the role of multilevel planning as it has emerged through the various five-year plans. The second chapter draws examples of multilevel planning systems from erstwhile USSR and China. The subsequent chapter, i.e., chapter 3, predicates the logical underpinning of multilevel planning. To buttress the propositions made in chapter 3, two Indian case studies have been cited in chapter 4. The fifth and sixth chapters deal with the rudiments of an organisational design for multilevel planning and attempt to raise some of the issues considered important therein.

The thesis adequately points out that planners at all levels, *if he is to play his role effectively*, must be able to identify opportunities of readjustment that are radical and yet economically viable, and present these to the polity or any other arbiter or adjudicator.