

Session 3: Potential for Economic Geography-based Approaches towards Inclusive Growth in India

**Inclusive Growth in India and How Economic Geography Tackles it**

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Inclusive growth is an approach that focuses on improving the living conditions of the poor and socially vulnerable, and achieves a socioeconomic reality wherein no groups are excluded from the benefits of growth. In India, the strong economic growth has widened the gap between the haves and have-nots since the beginning of the century. The 11th and 12th Five-Year Plan adopted inclusive growth as a basic philosophy to overcome this national challenges. To achieve this goal, seven components were created: 1) rapid growth and poverty reduction; 2) creation of employment opportunities; 3) access to essential services; 4) social justice and empowerment; 5) environmental sustainability; 6) gender equality; and 7) improvement in governance. What are the major achievements of this policy and how has India achieved an inclusive society so far? In this paper, we employ structural approaches to deal with the first two components, based on economic geography's spatial perspective. The starting point is to clarify the changing regional structure of the national economy along with India's rapid industrialisation, one of the driving forces of the country's economy. The trend of regional disparity among states and emerging new industrial spaces are mainly discussed. Moreover, the industrialisation has undoubtedly led the expansion of job opportunities. However, can we say that it has realised inclusive growth of employment? We analyse this phenomenon by focusing on the non-regularisation of industrial employment. Lastly, the industrialisation tends to form a core-periphery structure between advanced regions and less-favoured ones, based on Japanese experience. We aim to demonstrate the core-periphery spatial structure in contemporary India.