

SOME BASIC ISSUES IN INTEGRATED
DEVELOPMENT PLANNING : AN INQUIRY INTO
SOME DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMES IN SOUTHERN SRI LANKA

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Programs of integrated development planning are a response to the need to deal with the problem of areas left in the backwash of the economic and social growth of the country. Although concern for integrated economic and social development has been professed in Sri Lanka almost since achieving political independence, a careful examination of certain development programs clearly shows that development has been tackled largely on a superficial and ad hoc basis.

The study involved an inquiry into some development programs undertaken within the Southern Province of Sri Lanka. This study revealed several basic issues that warrant attention. The various components of development plans and programs are often ill-conceived, fragmented, and unrelated. Also, programs are pursued with varying degrees of enthusiasm, and with little concern for their relationships with other programs in the region. Furthermore, there was a definite lack of co-ordination among the activities of personnel involved in the implementation of the programs, as well as in the general execution of the programs. Serious consideration must also be given to the fact that very often there is a general, all-prevailing bureaucratic inertia, and an overloading of an already lethargic and rigid administrative and organizational structure. There is little significant or dynamic change to meet the challenges of development.