PREFACE

Though from the time immemorial the cities were the core of socio-economic functions but in the present time the role of urban centres is pertinent enough for the development of the region in which the centres are located. Hence in recent writings, urbanization has tended to be closely linked with socio-economic and politico-cultural development. Now urban growth is not only essential part of regional development but is also essential for generating the economic growth specially in developing nation like India. Thus the level of urbanization is being taken as an important index of material progress and prosperity of human society. With tremendous increase in population, at the present rate, the population of the world is expected to stabilize at fifteen times the existing population in about 2165 A.D. Presently, the world’s cities still do not cover more than about one percent of the earth’s surface. But with the above estimated population only a couple of centuries later, this situation would be entirely different. Toynbee observes : Mankind will then find itself living in ‘ecumenopolis’ - a world wide city, in which all the regional ‘conurbation’ of the present day will have coalesced. This unfamiliar way of life is rushing to meet us to a formidable pace. In this context the primary aim of this doctoral thesis is to analyse the relationship between the process and pattern of urbanization with the level of socio-economic development in the regional perspectives. The study, further attempts to identify the disparities in urban and regional development, at taluk level.
The Scope of the Study:

Coastal Karnataka is relatively more urbanized with 39.21 per cent urban population than the entire Karnataka 33.98%. Since early historical period it was politico-culture seat of rulers of various dynasties. The process of urbanization in coastal Karnataka got stimulation after independence of India and introduction of railway and expansion of roads. The spatio-temporal study of urbanization is expected to help in understanding the issues involved in regional and urban development in the early phase of economic development as well as after independence. Thus the level of urbanization and regional development of the region attracted this researcher for the present study.

Objectives:

The specific objectives of the present study are:

1. To describe the temporal variation in urbanization process during the various decades. (1961-2001)
2. To examine the spatial distributional pattern of all towns of Coastal Karnataka.
3. To identify the centrality based hierarchy and the complementary regions of urban centres.
4. To examine the occupational structure of Coastal towns.
5. To examine the morphological characteristics of selected urban centres.
6. To identify the regional variations in the levels of urbanization and levels of regional development.
7. To measure the degree of correlationship of urbanization with the total regional development.

8. To identify the problems and factors regarding the development of the region.

9. To suggest the suitable measures for promoting balanced urban and regional development in the Coastal Karnataka.

This study covers the process of urbanization in the region since pre-historic period and the development of all socio-economic sectors i.e., fishing and agriculture, industry, infrastructure and demographic development. The study of any aspect as existing in one particular time point reveals the structure of the region. That type of study is known as static study which helps only in understanding the typology of the region whereas the study of the factors over a period of several years and changes in the composition reveals the direction of development in dynamic perspectives.

Hypothesis:

The following hypothesis have been tested in the study.

1. The distributional pattern of urban centres tends to show ‘uniformity’ over a time. This hypothesis is negatively proved.

2. The disparities in the degree of socio-economic development in the coastal region of Karnataka are expected to be related with the level of urbanization. This hypothesis is partly proved.

3. It is hypothesized that there can be better and high level of urban development in such taluks where the regional development is also of higher level of development. This hypothesis is negatively proved.
4. It is hypothesized that the regional economy of the Coastal region of Karnataka being fishing and agriculture and if this is developed the development of urban centres can take place to perform activities related to industries based on fishing and agriculture, but this hypothesis is not significantly proved. However, it is not totally rejected.

5. It is hypothesized that the development of coastal regional infrastructure will lead to the growth of regional as well as urban development, and this hypothesis is proved.

6. It is hypothesized that the demographic development in the coastal region of Karnataka will lead to the increase of the degree of urbanization. This hypothesis is proved.

The Approach and Methodology:

The study of process of urbanization is mainly based on Census reports, Gazetteers and supplemented by field survey. Data regarding various aspects of regional developments have been obtained from the district statistical reports. Many concerned officials have been consulted and information is collected from them. Besides this, the researcher hails from Uttar Kannada district and has practical knowledge of the Coastal area. In order to arrive at aforesaid objectives the following approaches and methods have been adopted in the body of the thesis:

1. The trend characteristics of urbanization has been analysed in terms of percentage index.

2. The spatial distribution of urban centres have been analysed with the help of degree and concentration index of urbanization, rank-size rule and nearest-neighbour method.
3. The functional classification of towns is analysed by using the webb’s method.

4. The centrality based hierarchy of towns is analysed with the help of Godlund’s method and V.N.P. Sinha’s (modified method of Davies) method.

5. The complementary regions of urban centres are delineated by using Reilly’s gravity model and V.L.S.Prakash Rao’s method.

6. The measurement of levels of urbanization is done with the help of Kendal’s ranking method, on the basis of eight indicators of urbanization.

7. Level of development of fishing and agricultural, industrial, infrastructural, demographic and total regional development have been measured by using Kendal’s ranking method.

8. Spearman’s Correlation method has been carried out in order to measure the degree of relationship between the urbanization and various related factors of regional development.

Several maps and diagrams are included in the thesis to give visual impressions of the urban and regional aspects of the study area.

Organization of the thesis:

The entire study is divided into eight chapters; they are organised in such a manner that a logical consistency is maintained.

The First Chapter deals with an overview of literature on urbanization which has helped the researcher to know latest development in the field of urbanization and regional studies.
In Second Chapter, an endeavour is made to analyse the geographical setting of the study region. An attempt is made here to know the history of Coastal Karnataka, Physiography, Geology, water resources, irrigation, soil, climate, vegetation, mineral resources, transport, communication and geographical regions and their role in urban-regional change.

Chapter Third deals with the trends of urbanization which includes the decennial growth rate of urban population, decade-wise and class-wise number of towns and their share of population, comparison with the growth of rural and total population and decennial growth rate of individual towns.

In Fourth Chapter endeavour is made to analyse the spatial distribution and functional structure of urban centres. The spatial distribution of urban centres is studied with the help of degree of urbanization, degree of urban concentration, size regularity and spacing of urban centres. The functional structure of urban centres is analysed based on Webb’s method. Further, the functional association of towns is carried out to reveal the groups of towns of mono-function, bi-function, tri-function etc.

Chapter Fifth deals with the centrality based hierarchy (as per Godlund’s and V.N.P. Sinha’s Method) and complementary regions of urban centres (as per Reilly’s gravity model and V.L.S. Prakash Rao’s method).

In Chapter Sixth an attempt is made to examine the morphological characteristics of 17 urban centres in a general observed method while four selected towns are analysed on the basis of intensive land use survey method. This
study includes morphological characteristics, external forms of towns, classification of urban landuse, morphological zones of towns, landuse analysis by size-class of towns.

Chapter Seventh deals with the levels of urbanization based on eight indicators concerned to urban accretion and concerned to spatial organization of urban centres. The levels of regional development are analysed based on 13 fishing and agricultural indicators, 10 industrial indicators, 21 indicators of infrastructural facilities and 12 demographic indicators and finally Spearman’s correlation test is done to measure the degree of relationship between urbanization and regional development.

Chapter eighth deals with the summary and findings.