CHAPTER VI
FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

6.1 INTRODUCTION:

The present thesis undertakes the study of the infrastructure development in Uttar Kannada District in detail. A detailed analysis of individual sectors and the composite index discussed so far, gives us macro and micro insights into the different aspects of infrastructure development in Uttar Kannada District. In the following section, the important findings drawn from the analysis related to various components of infrastructure and disparities are presented.

6.2 MAJOR FINDINGS:

1. In Uttar Kannada district, though water transport and rail transport are accessible, road transport is the main means of transport. The district covers about 15055 kms of road length, comprising of National Highways, State Highways, District Roads, Municipality roads and Village Roads. The village roads are mainly mud roads and majority of them are not suitable for transport during rainy season.

2. It is harsh reality that at the time of interview, public showed their anger on the authorities for the woeful neglect of the National Highways and other roads. Periodical maintenance of roads is a must and this is not usually done regularly. There are roads poorly built on account of alleged lack of funds and corruption. Funds are misused by officials in connivance with contractors and sub-standard materials are used. Corruption is an integral part of the story of the civil construction in India and the Uttar Kannada District is not an exception.
3. Many Villages in Uttar Kannada District suffer from lack of all weather road connectivity. There are many small islands in the coastal region of the district for which there is no road connectivity at all.

4. Construction and maintenance of roads is in public sector. Public Private Partnership (PPP) is not seen in the district. Four-lane National Highways are not found in the district.

5. Passenger Transport service is mainly provided by the KSRTC in the district. However, private sector also plays an important role in providing transport service. A Few Taluks in the district have no bus depots, which comes on the way of efficient discharge of transport service by the K.S.R.T.C.

6. Konkan Railway provides train service in the coastal taluks of Uttar Kannada District. It connects the district with commercial centers like Mumbai, Goa, Mangalore, Kerala, Chennai etc. There is no rail connectivity from coastal talukas to commercial center Hubli and the State capital Bangalore.

7. At the time of interview, the public opined that the number of passenger trains between Margao and Mangalore should be increased, so that people of the district will get more benefit and also it is helpful for the tourism development in the district.

8. Though the water transport is the traditional and cheap means of transport, the convenience of road transport has reduced its importance. However, in some places, it is inevitable to depend on water transport.

9. Except Karwar, no other ports in the district, like Tadadi, Belkere etc are properly developed. In this connection it may be noted that the High Power Committee on Redressal of Regional Imbalance headed by Dr.D.M.Nanjundappa stressed the need for development of small ports like Tadadi, Belekeri, Bhatkal etc. in order to help the people in
this region. Though the district consists of 140kms long coastal belt, the maritime infrastructure is not properly developed.

10. The district is not connected by air transport. There is an urgent need for development of air transport facility.

11. There are 496 post offices in Uttar Kannada District. But because of significant development in other modes of communication, the transactions in post offices have decreased significantly.

12. There are 152 Telephone exchanges and 93,404 fixed telephones in the district. There is more demand for new connections in rural areas but several applications were pending due to shortage of cables. WILL phone facility is also introduced in the district recently.

13. There is a great demand for mobile phones in the district but unfortunately remote areas have no proper coverage as most of the towers are in taluk areas and near taluk centers. There is a competition between various mobile service providers companies. Private Sector companies pose a tuff competition to BSNL in the district. There is more demand for establishment of mobile towers in remote areas.

14. Internet connections are gradually increasing in the district. However, internet connections and web-centers are mainly concentrated in taluka place.

15. Commercial banks account for a lion share in the banking sector in this region. However, Regional Rural Banks and co-operative banks also contribute to the economic development of this region. Though there are more than 200 banks in the district, they are not in a position to cater to the needs of the people, particularly in rural area. Even today, the indigenous bankers play an important role in this region in meeting the financial needs of the people because of their easy access, even though they charge higher rate of interest.
16. Co-operative sector plays an important role in assisting the people in rural areas. The erstwhile village co-operative societies are converted into village co-operative banks. These co-operative banks mobilize the savings of the people and provide loans mainly for agriculture purpose.

17. Milk and other co-operative societies are struggling hard for the promotion of economic interests of the members. But their contribution has not reached the expectation and they have a long way to go.

18. As per the report of the officials of co-operative department, as on 31-3-2009 about 76 co-operative societies of different kinds, were liquidated in this region due to inefficient management and non-viability.

19. The survey revealed that there were no co-operative farming societies in the district. But such farming societies are necessary in this area as the gap between the demand for agriculture labourers and their supply, is increasing day by day.

20. Co-operative processing societies are few in number and their working is not satisfactory. Co-operative cold storage facility is also not found in the district.

21. Much of the cultivated area lacks proper irrigation facility. The total area served by channel irrigation is comparatively less, though six major rivers flow in this area.

22. Out of 1,32,509 hectares of cultivable land in the district, only 27604 hectares of land is provided with irrigation facility which is just 21% of the total cultivable land.

23. There is a huge demand for proper street light facilities in rural areas of the district. In many villages in this region, there is a demand for new power connections for domestic as well as irrigation purpose.
24. There are three Hydel power stations and nuclear power station in the district generating a total of over 1700 MW of electricity. The irony of Uttara Kannada District power generation is that – it consumes less than 20MW of over 1700MW of electricity produced from hydel and nuclear source in this district. This is a clear indication of how little the district has gained, especially considering the fact that over the decades, 3200 acres of forestland has been submerged for constructing dams. Tens of villages have been displaced due to submergence but very little in terms of rehabilitation has ever been achieved.

25. During rainy season the Sharavati Tail Race creates artificial flood which badly affects the life of the people residing on the banks of the river Sharavati.

26. Though Kaiga Atomic power station is described as the pride of Uttar Kannada District, there is a voice that it may become a black shadow in the future.

27. The Government plays an important role in the district in providing primary and secondary education by establishing a number of schools even in rural and far flung areas. Apart from government schools, number of private schools are also providing education to the students.

28. Though there are enough facilities in Government Schools, the public interest is favoured towards private schools. In fact many people showed their dissatisfaction about the quality of education in government schools. As per the report of the officials of the of the department of education, school drop-out rate has been significantly reduced in recent years due to the implementation of various plans of the Government.

29. Aided private colleges are playing an important role in imparting higher education in this region. However recently the Government of Karnataka established – First Grade colleges in the district. This has
resulted in an unhealthy competition among Government and Aided colleges. Experts in the field of education opine that Government colleges, though they provide education with less fees, suffer from inadequate infrastructure which ultimately affects the quality of education.

30. There is a strong demand for a medical college in this region as there is no medical college in this area including the district headquarters.

31. Law Education is also an important discipline of education. Unfortunately there is only one law college in the district.

32. The district is not yet provided with a university. Hence, the students desirous of pursuing post graduation are forced to travel to the neighbouring district. A well equipped research center is also not available in this district. As a result the number of students going for research in the district is also less compared to some other districts.

33. There are two major training institutes providing various self-employment training in the district, viz, Syndicate Institute of rural Development Kumta(SIRD) and Rural Development and Self-Employment Training Institute, Haliyal(RUDSET). The interview with the directors of these institutes revealed that there is a lack of awareness among the unemployed youths about the training provided here. More over, the unemployed youths lack initiation to take the benefits of the training which enhances their skills and there by make them employable.

34. Government has taken several measures for providing health facilities even in rural area by establishing primary Health centers. Primary Health Centers lack medical and para medical staff and hence their service is limited only to out-patients.

35. Though primary health centers and community hospitals are extending their service, no super speciality hospitals are found in the district. The
report of Health and Family Welfare Department shows that the chronic diseases like AIDS, leprosy are in control and the people affected by these deadly diseases are also less in number.

36. Public Libraries which are very much necessary to enhance the knowledge of the people are found only in few villages of this area. No mobile libraries are found here.

37. Inadequacy is noticed in drinking water facility in many places of the district. Particularly in rural areas during April-May every year many people have to travel long distance with their pots for water. Even in municipality area drinking water supply is irregular in many places on many occasions. Coastal talukas of this district are suffering from the shortage of drinking water, owing to higher proportion of salinity.

38. Physical Education is an important part of total education. But adequate facilities are not provided for sports in the District. Big Indoor and out door stadium is not yet found in the district to organize the sports meet of state level or National level.

6.3 SUGGESTIONS:

1. Due to heavy rain fall and the movement of heavy vehicles the national and state highways get damaged time and again. Therefore, it is better to make cement roads as far as national highways are concerned. And these roads are to be maintained properly and National Highway Authorities should be made more responsible for proper maintenance of these roads.

2. Proper drainage facility is to be made on either side of the road to avoid damage of roads from flow water during the rainy season. In villages most of the mud roads get damaged during rainy season due to soil erosion. Therefore, importance is to be given for conversion of mud roads into tar roads and maintenance of adequate drainage facility.
3. There are many bridges in Uttar Kannada District. But their condition is not good. Hence due importance should be given for maintaining the bridges in proper condition.

4. There are many villages which do not have road connectivity due to lack of population. Government should take suitable measures to provide road connectivity to such remote places. All villages in the district should be provided with all weather roads.

5. There are many islands in the district which do not have road connectivity. The life in these islands is horrible particularly during rainy season. So Government should take proper measures for construction of bridges and to provide road connectivity.

6. During the construction of infrastructure projects strict vigilance should be made in order to avoid corruption and misuse of public funds.

7. The proposed projects providing rail connectivity between Ankola and Hubli and Honnavar and Talguppa are to be implemented at the earliest. Right now, to provide the rail connectivity to the state capital Bangalore, the Bangalore-Mangalore Train should be extended up to Karwar. Frequency of local passenger train from Mangalore to Margoa should be increased.

8. As there is more demand for mobile phones in rural areas mobile towers should be constructed to cover rural areas.

9. People should be motivated to take internet connections and proper facility is to be developed in this regard, which will help the people to enhance their knowledge which is a must in the era of knowledge revolution.

10. Banks should provide more assistance to agriculture sector, as agriculture is the main occupation in Uttar Kannada District. Banks should give priority for research and innovation in agriculture sector.
They should provide assistance to research projects in agriculture which are feasible in this area.

11. The efficiency in the management of co-operative societies should be increased. The members of the management and the employees should be qualified. Strict vigilance should be maintained on the working of the co-operative societies.

12. Incentives should be provided for formation of milk co-operative societies in order to develop dairy farming in this area.

13. Co-operative farming societies should be formed in the district as the majority of the people are holding small piece of land. Co-operative faring will help them to gain the benefits of large scale cultivation.

14. Micro-finance facility should be increased by increasing and strengthening self-help groups.

15. Co-operative sector in the district should be strengthened by giving autonomy as recommended by Prof. A. Vaidyanathan committee report on co-operative sector reforms.

16. Proper irrigation facility should be provided in this area. Channel irrigation should be developed in the district to solve the problem of water.

17. The demand for new power connection should be met immediately which will help the people to develop in other areas. Proper street light facilities are to be provided in rural area.

18. During rainy season water should be managed properly in the reservoirs to reduce the evils of flood.

19. Adequate and timely rehabilitation facility is to be provided to the project- displaced persons.

20. Government should give more importance for improving the quality in primary and secondary education. Mere increase in the number of students enrolled is of no use unless they come out with good quality.
While implementing various schemes in primary and secondary education, the Government should not concentrate much on the records rather it should develop student centered programme which will develop and enhance the competence of the students. Government should provide computer education facility at higher primary level.

21. While establishing the Government degree colleges the government should make a detailed analysis of the requirement of the college in a particular area and must give due importance for providing basic infrastructure to these colleges and their viability should also be looked into. Mere establishment of Government colleges without assurance of quality will not serve any purpose. In the era of drastic change the college education is passing through a critical stage and phenomenal change is noticed. Therefore, it is a tough challenge for the Government colleges to provide learner based quality education. If they fail to provide quality education the newly established government colleges may prove to be an unnecessary burden to the Government exchequer! They may even turn out into factories of producing unemployable graduates!

22. At least one medical college should be established in this area as many students are going outside for getting medical education.

23. At least one more Law college should be established in this area as law education is an important discipline of education.

24. One more full fledged engineering college should be established providing various specializations.

25. Government should provide library facility in all villages to increase the reading habit of the people. More over some mobile libraries should be established to provide regular service at various villages where fixed libraries are not feasible.

26. Youth should be motivated to take benefit of training provided by the various training institutes like SIRD, RUDSET etc. These training
institutes should make them think about reaping the benefits of such training.

27. Training programmes should be emphasized in horticulture, aquaculture, beekeeping, mobile and electronic item repairs etc.

28. Adequate paramedical staff should be provided to primary health centers. More over, in-patient department should be opened in primary health centers in rural area. A super speciality hospital should be established for meeting emergency needs as there is no such hospital in this area.

29. Measures should be taken for regular supply of drinking water as it is very essential to human life.

30. Protection walls should be constructed along the sea shore to prevent the soil erosion and to reduce the consequential loss.

31. Adequate measures should be taken for rainwater harvesting, artificial recharge of ground water, desalinization of sea water etc. for water conservation.

32. Proper sanitation facility should be provided both in urban and rural area. Drainage and sewage facility should be properly maintained in order to avoid growth of urban slums.

33. Private participation in construction of infrastructure projects should be encouraged. Schemes like BOT, BOOT BOLT should be pursued for establishment of infrastructure projects.

34. An institution providing education specifically for handicapped and disabled persons should be established in the district.

35. Agricultural infrastructure such as cold storage warehousing, agriculture training institutes etc. should be developed in the district, to augment agricultural development.

36. Major and medium irrigation projects should be developed to provide proper irrigation facility to the cultivable area.
37. An autonomous regulatory body should be set-up at the district level for each infrastructure sector to develop and maintain that particular infrastructure sector.

38. Uttar Kannada district has a potential for tourism development. Therefore, to develop the tourism in the district, tourism infrastructure should be properly developed.

39. Bus Depots should be set up at all taluks to improve the service of KSRTC in the district.

40. Industrial estates should be set up in the district to accelerate the growth of industrial sector.

41. Agricultural Training Institute and Research Centers should be established in the district.

42. Time bound programme is to be implemented for the development of infrastructure in backward areas of the district. Priority should be given to develop rural infrastructure.

43. An IT park should be established in the district to increase the employment avenues in the district. The establishment of IT park in each district is recommended even by the High power committee on Redressal of Regional Imbalance headed by Dr. D.M. Nanjundappa.

44. BTpark should be established in the district to encourage agricultural development in the district.

45. Uninterrupted power supply should be ensured in the district as the district has sacrificed a lot for power generation projects.

46. A Special Economic Zone (SEZ) should be set-up in the district to augment trade and industry in the district.

47. Air transport service is to be provided to the district, as strategically important projects like, sea-bird, Kaiga are located here.

48. A University is to be established in the district to spread the higher education in the district.
49. National Highway-209 should be converted into two-lane highways and the National Highway-17 should be converted into four lane highway.

50. Since the major part of Uttar Kannada District is composed of hilly areas, during the rainy season the major and minor rivers of the district are swift, erratic and create natural falls in their course. Hence, the district has vast potentiality to start many mini hydel power plants which in turn may solve the power shortage at some extent.