In a country like India, the level and rate of national development is determined mostly by the level of Social Development.\(^1\) It is the driving force of our country's development. Without its support it would be impossible to feed and withstand its growing population. A high proportion of Indian labour depends on subsistence agriculture with a very low level of technology. This results in lower rates of per capita output and income. This has kept a large section of the population below the poverty level, hence, the rural population today is the chief factor in the planning for the country's economy and development. Apart from this the rural population in India is by and large characterized by certain problems such as low level of rural oriented education, mass unemployment, malnutrition, poor heath, scarce medical facilities, inadequate housing and transport.\(^2\) Further, the rapid growth in its population has resulted in increasing number of dependents, having low income and higher rates of consumption. Thus, the economic growth of India has been hitherto unsatisfactory. The country has been trying to revitalize it by making certain changes in the structural, institutional, social, distributional and developmental aspects. Most important of all has been its concentrated effort on the vast rural majority to bring them into the main stream of development by ameliorating their socio economic conditions. As observed by Prof. Amalray:
Notwithstanding the need for industrialization, the major trust in development has to be towards rural areas, no amount of transfer of population. From rural to urban areas (which we are experiencing today) on a large scale as was seen in the wake of industrial revolution is possible. Simply because, the huge number of emigrants cannot, for obvious reasons be absorbed even within the framework of most ambitious urban growth, but at the same time concrete and time bound programmes are needed to be formulated to deal directly with problem of rural poverty. Otherwise, the out flow of the rural poor is likely to grow creating more slums and posing more problems to urban development.\(^3\)

This prediction of Prof. Amalray sensitively hints at the urgency of rural development. Presently we are witnessing the migration from rural to urban at a lesser phase, this has serious implications if left without containing it. But again the problem is not merely one of development of rural areas alone but of the rural communities too. Especially so in India in general and in Karnataka in particular.\(^4\) The United Nations Conference of human settlement held at Vancouver, Canada in May-June 1976 had recommened that the developing countries pay special attention to the improvement of rural areas where a majority of their population lives.\(^5\) Thus, in any effort made at National reconstruction, village becomes the vital part which needs to be developed.

For Social Development the villager should be both subject and agent. He should utilize the available opportunities unsatisfied merely by being a beneficiary. Keeping this in view the Indian Planning commission endeavoring to rejuvenate the
rural economy and attempting to raise the standard of living of the rural people, has Social Development as its uppermost task as said by Mahatma Gandhi.

Government in Karnataka State had experienced many upheavals in achieving this task resulting in uneven, unequal and sporadic development of its rural areas. Their failures and difficulties in this direction thus, had led to new approaches to rural development; from target groups to target areas; from areas to particular pockets; and the latest thinking is, the partition of blocks into micro regions as being more viable for rural development. All these changes were brought about to reach the maximum number of beneficiaries. In these attempts as observed by Goel, Integration is the method adopted, development is the objective and rural poor is the focus. The above attempts can be successful only if the Government is supported with a high level infrastructure and a pragmatic policy of harnessing all resources; human, animal and physical to reap benefits as quickly as possible.

Definitions:

Theoretically or academically Social Development as discipline has resulted from the combination of two disciplines; Sociology and Economics. Till very recently they were restricted to their own fields of study. *Rural* signifying that part of a geographical area, which was connected with farming, or whose major occupation was agriculture. Development signified growth in economic terms. After the Second World War, this concept of development underwent sudden mutation. The cessation in many Afro Asian nations of colonial rule has been a
catalyst to this change. The various strategies adopted by these countries for their development led to the broader connation of this term, covering change in socio economic and political aspects of life. Thereby making the concept of Social Development a new political issue with new dimensions. In the present study the concept of 'Rural Development' is discussed in its restricted meaning with a bias of political science which simply means that development of rural areas including rural community. This is studied from the point of view of Governmental programmes planned to bring about the development of this rural section of the population.

The Social development has been defined variously. Social development does not mean mere economic development. It is interrelated with integrated development of socio economic, political, educational, psychological and spiritual well being; Social Development as F.L.Bryne opined is nothing more or less than revival of old fashioned virtues of hard work, thrift, self respect and mutual respect. This implies a revolutionary change in the outlook of a villager towards his environment; it is viewed as a programme of a developing nation to transform the entire (rural) population in its economic, social, political and administrative aspects for an around and balanced upward change. This can be looked upon as a plan to bring about desired change in rural areas to be administered with the help of Government; it is relative, a tendency, a state of mind, a direction rather than a fixed goal, and is a rate of change in particular directions. It is a nation building socio economic programme siming to bring about equality; it has the goal of enriching the total quality of life and makes it available to all; it seeks not merely to
provide opportunities but actual utilization by the needy; it is considered as a process leading to agricultural productivity, rural income, rural welfare in terms of health, nutrition, education, equality employment security and rural urban differential.\textsuperscript{10}

It is looked upon as a process leading to raise in the capacity of people to control the environment accompanied by wide distribution of benefits resulting from such control.

It has three primary goals, raising agricultural productivity, raising community solidarity and institutionalizing equality.\textsuperscript{11} Further the concept of Social Development with its association with different disciplines has today become a new academic and political issue. It is today a multi disciplinary concept and is being taught in certain Indian Universities as an independent discipline. In the Indian context as can be seen the stress within the concept of Social Development is more on agriculture and its allied activities, this is so because the majority of Indian population lives in its village whose main economic activity is agriculture and thus in the Indian context Social Development as synonym to agricultural development to some extent is an accepted concept.

In the State of Karnataka Social Development may be broadly categorized under the following three programmes:

a) Income generation activities or poverty alleviation programmes.
b) Employment generation programmes.
c) Area Development Programmes.

Thus, the concept of Social Development employs varied approaches and strategies depending upon the ideological orientation of the ruling elites, the structure of political power and the perception of social needs.

**Historical Survey of Social Development in India in general and in Karnataka in Particular:**

**All India Level:**

In ancient period, the development of a village was very different from todays. the Brihaspathi smrithi says, that the construction of a house of Assembly, or a water shed, a temple, a pool, a garden, or affording relief to the poor and helpless; to enable the performance of due sacrificial acts, the excavation of wells, and the damming of water courses, etc. formed the Social Development works. But during the alien rule in the country this concept of Social Development feel into abeyance. A cursory glance at the British period reveals a few sporadic development works being taken up by them. The British policy of exporting raw materials to Britain and importing finished goods upset the village economic life because the local crude products could not compete with the mill made and machine finished products. Consequently there was unemployment in rural areas. The semi skilled left rural areas to find employment. The farmers faced serious
problems of flood, famine, pestilence and lack of adequate irrigation facilities. The situation grew worse in 1981 when famine broke out in the country. The famine Commission set up by the Government of India, drew the attention of the Government to the necessity of increased attention to the village and their amenities such as, roads, schools, drinking water wells, avenue trees, irrigation and irrigation tanks, since then the Indian Government has been giving thought to village improvement in two directions;

a. Developing strong Local Governments,

b. Providing technical assistance through the Government departments.

These action plans were framed as Social development programmes during the British rule. But in actuality most of these were taken up during the times of crisis like drought and famine. Little attention was paid towards irrigation and other matters. In most of the case, even these action plans did not reach the villages as they stopped at the Taluk level. Even the Zamindari system that existed in rural parts of the country during and prior to British period had not made any contribution to Rural development. Special efforts were made since 1921 at Social development by several individuals, institutions in Governments they were: the experiment at Sriniketan, Bryne's experiments, Gandhian constructive programmes, grow more food campaign, the Markandam Project 1921, Rural Reconstruction Project in Baroda 1932. The Congress Government which came to power after independence tried to implement the principal lessons it had learnt
earlier. Some of the pre plan period programme in this direction were Farikha Development Scheme 1946, in the Post independence period, the pilot projects of Etawah and Nikoheri 1948. In 1950 Planning Commission passed the First Five Year Plan. It emphasized the importance of Social Development and recommend the community development projects. During the Second Five Year Plan, the Government had planned to bring the entire country under the National Extension Scheme and 40 percent of the Blocks were converted into community Development Blocks.\(^{15}\)

Further, part IV of the constitution of India\(^{16}\) gave impetus for the shaping of many more Social Development programmes\(^{17}\) with the failure of community development programme. The Government initiate other approaches to Social Development such as the Target Sector Progamme, Integrated Agricultural Development Programe, Green Revolution etc., During the IV Five Year Plan, Government established agencies like small Farmers Development Agencies to concentrate its efforts on the development of weaker sections in particular and on Social Development in general. Thus at the national level efforts at Social Development as an integrated concept for growth, social justice and poverty alleviation continues to be one of the principal areas of emphasis even now.

In Karnataka Rural Welfare was given particular importance after 1982. an economic conference was held in 1907 to promote the economic prosperity of the villages by giving the villagers necessary training familiarizing them with the modern life. The state had established an independent agricultural department
during princely rule in 1912. In 1913, another economic conference was organized. This conference recognized the instability of the Co-operative Movement and consequently recommended the following steps:

a. Arrangement is made for teaching Ryots about improved methods of Sericulture, etc., near their homes.

b. Students be trained in horticulture and to freely distribute fruit and vegetable seeds and plants.

c. Lectures be organized to start co-operatives.

d. Schools be opened for Harijans and women and giving more importance to rural industries.  

To stimulate economic activities in rural areas a scheme was formulated in 1913. A separate department of Industry and commerce was established in 1913. Special livestock was given importance in the year 1929. In 1936, the Government, with a view to initiate the development of rural areas through the Local Bodies, brought together some of the development departments to the village level along with the Local Bodies. It launched the "Concentrated Propaganda Scheme", which aimed at establishing model villages.

In 1942 the Government introduced the Hobli Drive Scheme to impart new vigour into Social Development on a large scale. This scheme was planned to reconstruct Hoblis chosen for the purpose. It utilized local initiative in its experiment. The Gram Sudharakas, a kind of non official but honorary
functionaries, were brought within the Taluk Advisory Committee and the advisory Committee at the District level. In 1942, a fortnightly journal “Gramabhudya Mysore” i.e., village development or village improvement was brought out in Kannada by the Government. An officer was designated Editor and propagandist for Social Development in Mysore. This manifested Government’s concern for Social Development even before independence.

In 1948 a comprehensive scheme called “Social Development Scheme” was introduced. This scheme was a full-fledged one with development Committees at all the three levels i.e., Taluk, District and the State level with specified functions and with non-official Chairman. Department of Social Development was created to carry out specified functions. A Social Development Fund was also created. The Committee at the Taluk, District and Central Development Committee had vast duties and powers comprising almost all aspects of rural development, including civic functions, village improvement, cottage industries, adult education, and Community development projects were the next attempts at Social Development in Mysore State which started on 2nd October 1952. The entire State was covered by Community Development Projects by 2nd October 1963 in 268 Blocks. Shikaripur in Sorba area of Shimoga District and Sowarpet area in Coorg were chosen for pilot projects under the programme in 1952. in 1953 Ramanagaram, Kanakapur, Gundlupet, Holenarasipur, Arkalgud, Koppa, Pannampet, Shidlaghatta, Harihara and Turuvekere Taluks were brought under this projects. The number of blocks. Was reduced from 268 to 175 by 31st March 1979. with the introduction of Panchayat Raj institutions as an off shoot of Community Development Projects
most Social Development works were transferred projects in Karnataka some of the specific programmes like Integrated Social Development programme had been introduced in the State in 1968-69. these specific programmes were introduced or implemented under the supervision of a specialized body viz., Small Farmers' Development Agency' which came into existence in 1970-71. The entire State was to be covered during the Sixth Plan period. In 1980 the Small Farmers' Development Agency was replaced by the District Social Development Society (DRDS). Under this body there were many programmes of Social Development which hitherto were concerned with the Social Development Programmes apart from the other local bodies. Under the new Act of 1983 the District Social Development Society became an integral part of the Zilla Parishad.

Karnataka, like any other Indian State is a State of villages. They (villages) are of several types of rural settlements; Nuclear, linear, or even dispersed homestead types. In the coastal areas the villages are large and compact. One also finds linear settlements along with creeks, backwaters and main roads. In the Deccan or ‘maindan’ region especially the central and southern parts; the villages are compact. In the Malnad and North Western parts; of the Northern ‘maidan’, the villages consist of scattered homesteads and do not constitute a well defined entity. This necessarily leads to variations in development programme. The mainstay of the States economy is the agriculture sector and employs the bulk of the working population. Agriculture accounts for the lion’s share in the State’s total income. 71.09 percent of population of the State are in its rural areas. About 71 percent is engaged in agricultural and allied activities. About 49 percent, which is about
Rs.3,131.46 crores of the State's income is generated through this population. This being so, the significance of Social Development in rural areas depend on such factors as physical structure, climate, soil, vegetation, human resources, crop pattern, livestock, other animal resources, land availability, electricity, marketing, education, credit facilities, transportation and communications, national resources like water, etc. for agriculture, man-land ratic, irrigation facility, Animal husbandry and per capita income. These can be called the 'determining variables” for the purpose of assessing development of a particular geographical region and its backwardness.

A glance at these ‘variables’ reveal that the Rural backwardness in the State as not natural, but self imposed. The natural resources are in plenty; but a great deal is not fully utilized. But that apart, the climate in the State, as an important physical factor in influencing the economic activity of a man and in determining the land use and cropping pattern and in influencing the health of people and animals, transportation and communication is quite encouraging. This is rather difficult to grasp as the State itself has varying monsoon type climate. This has a direct bearing on the development of rural areas where much of the economic activity is dependent on human labour, animal labour and natural rainfall. Further, there is no uniform pattern of soil or vegetation in the State. It to varies depending on the climatic variations. As per experts, including geographers, geologists, agricultural scientists, the State has five types of soil of which black and alluvial soil is the richest. It is sad to note the experts opinion that maximum benefits have not been derived there form. According to the experts, the red loam soil which covers the
southern maidan is amenable to rapid economic improvement. But in actuality they feel that it has not been well managed. Even the advantage of varied topography and climate according to them is not properly made use of. Especially is this so in case of a great variety of planta and grasses. This they opine, has caused the slow progress in the economy of the State in general and the rural areas in particular. In the State, there is an average of 43.09 lakh land holding spread over an area of 117.46 lakh hectares. The average size of land holding is between 0.5 hectares to 50 hectares. There are wide variations in this size of land holding. About 60% have less than 10 acres or 4 hectares of land which lists the owners under head of small farmers. As per Integrated Social Development Programme their net cultivated area is mere 25%. The Integrated Social Development groups them under marginal or agricultural laboures class. Only 30 percent of the land holdings are of 10 to 100 acres or 4 to 25 hectares. Only 5.36% of the land is of 100 acres of more which is a large holding and constitutes about 0.44 of total land holding.

It is also said that the economic development today depends largely on rural electrification. Domestic electrification and street lighting in the villages were a need. In case of agriculture, the country needs electricity to tap underground waters, thereby irrigating more lands thus helping small and marginal farmers to contribute more.

In a State where the density per Sq.Km.is 194 and the growth rate for 1971 to 1981 is 26.75* communication and transport play a major role. Most of its villages are still to approachable by all weather roads. Its total road length is
1,02,151 Km. there are 9,158 Post Offices, 2,866 Telegraph offices. But not much has reached the rural people. It is not easy access to the rural poor. They have to go a long way to reach the post or telegraph office. This means delay in communication.

Provision of irrigation to dry farming increases agricultural productivity. Karnataka State is affected by high variability of rainfall both region wise and seasonally. Droughts are a common feature. In spite of its large water resources, according to experts, the irrigation potential is not fully exploited. Only 11 percent of the total land is under irrigation. 34% is irrigated by means of Government canals. About 33% is irrigated by tanks, 15% by wells and remaining 10% by other sources. Marketing in rural areas is the key factor in the development of agriculture. Rural marketing involves transportation of goods and institutional arrangements. To improve the situation, the State Government has encouraged the formation of Agricultural Co-operatives, Multi purpose Co-operatives and Regulated Marketing. The credit Societies have not entered marketing in a big way and the Regulated markets are not properly distributed. Credit facility is another source of development for villagers. As per the 1981 census there are 5,048 agricultural co-operative Societies, 17,542 Co-operative other than Agricultural and Credit Co-operatives. Rs. 8,964.67 is the credit advanced as short term loan by Agricultural credit Co-operative Societies. There are 113 main Regulated markets and 212 sub markets. 177 Primary Land Development Banks have given loans worth 2,321.26 lakhs. This is quite a commendable achievement. But unfortunately in the State as in the case of India, the political facors have played a havoc here too.
The availed credit facilities have not been fully repaid by those who shared this benefits, because of the Governments' policy of foregoing these loans for their personal and political gains. Sometimes the two different parties in power in centre and at State will stoop down to rat racing by showing such concessions and organizing loan melas resulting in bankruptcy of Nationalized Banks and Co-operative. After the effect of this has been lowering of the rate of loan or the amount of loan to agriculturists which in turn affects the needy. There is no uniformity in this; to say, a debtor sometime with the hope of incurring a new loan will have repaid ¼ of his earlier loan but the Government policy of foregoing or waiving the farmer's loan at this juncture will only help a slow repair, thereby differences crop in the working of the bank for common purpose leaving behind the farmers economically imbalanced where one has gained and the other is at loss invariably the one who gains is the one who is economically forward. This indirectly has affected the Social Development in the State. Instruction of education, the Social Development enthusiasts feel, is the most effective tool in molding response to the Rural Development. It helps to transform the traditional society. Education, it is said, can prove more effective than any other programme to solve certain problems peculiar to rural society. All these years lack of proper instruction was a formidable barrier, hence the low literacy rate in the rural areas. Many attempts are being made to solve this because no strategy of development for that matter will succeed unless it is based on increasing the assets of rural poor by providing social, economical and instructional opportunities. In all aspects of Rural development, instruction helps in making a lasting impact. For instance, the success of programmes like Animal husbandry, better methods of cultivation, proper
utilization of manpower, effective explanations of health etc. all depend on the instruction imparted to the rural poor, for it helps them to have a greater perception of the programme implemented to give better results.

In Karnataka, according to the latest statistics (1981) literacy percentage is a mere 31.52. The present programmes in Karnataka under ‘Social Development Programmes’ aim at improving the conditions of the variables pointed above; and further to increase the per capita income of the rural mass by helping them to work to generate economic resources. There are many Social Development programmes. Some of them are:

1. Antyodaya (Helping the poorest of the poor) (S)
2. Negilu Bhagya (Assisting small farmers and farm labourers with ploughing instruments etc.) (S)
3. Surplus land gratis (To allot excess lands to agricultural labourers mostly weaker sections) (S)
4. Special livestock production programme (Assistance to farmers with livestock) (S)
5. Hundred wells programme (Massive programme of assistance to small and marginal farmers for increasing agricultural production) (S)
6. Fruit and Fuel programme (Energy and forest conservation programme) (S)
7. Rehabilitation of Bonded labourers (Providing economic assets to released bonded labourers) (C & S)
8. Drought prone area programme (Providing aid and income generating assets to people) (C & S)
9. National Rural Employment programme (Providing employment to rural people) (C & S)

10. Rural Landless Employment Guarantee programme (Providing income generating and self help opportunities through employment to landless rural people) (S)

11. Tribal Sub-plan under National Rural Employment programme (helping Tribes for self employment) (C & S)

12. Bio-gas programme (Alternate source of energy production) (C & S)

13. Firewood usage etc. (Alternate source for energy and conservation of forest) (S)

14. Integrated Social Development programme (To assist the families living below poverty line through self employment ventures) (C)

15. Sprinkler System (Agricultural irrigation mode) (S)

16. Development of women and children in rural areas (To improve quality of life of families below poverty line by helping women to involve in income generating activities etc...) (C, S & UNICEF)

17. Training of youth for self employment (This is sub scheme of IRDP) (C &)

18. Astraole (Specially designed stove to economies the use of fire wood with heat efficiency) (S)

19. Western Ghats Development (Helps for conservation of soil, pasture development etc., in watershed areas) (S)

20. Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Providing employment to rural people in rural areas only through under various schemes like Jawahar Rozgar etc...) (C & S)
21. National Rural water Supply (Assistance to water supply for drinking and satiation) (S)

22. Piped Water Supply (Providing safe drinking water to rural areas) (S)

Whatever be the programme, the aim of all is to break the vicious circle of poverty through better and higher production. Since the majority population is rural the need is not only to increase production but also production cum-employment in order to increase the per capita income. The per cupita income in Karnataka as compared with the neighboring States in below average. Reasonable distribution, better living standards, and balanced development among the regions; as well as among the various sections of the rural population are also needed. The concept of Social Development itself is changing in the world. In India the change is probably a lower than elsewhere. Perhaps this is because the world is not being fundamentally improved by urbanization. This is seriously engaging the attention of industrially forward nations also. The task of the rural folk in India appears to be to take advantage of their numerical, political doubt to avoid exploitation, stem the drift to the city, and serve the natural resources of energy and above all be fully self reliant. If the Act of 1983 really decentralizes the political power of Government and is really apolitical, and there is 'reverse braindrian' to the country side, no amount of endeavor by the state will have a better effect and whatever it does will be purely cosmetic for purposes of vote. In fact, there is a distinct possibility that the actual politicization of the movement will be disastrous. There are clear signs thereof.
End Notes:

4. According to the Seventh Plan Document of India, the Population that lives in absolute poverty is around 36.9% which the plan proposes to bring down to 25.8% i.e., by 1990. This is equal to 272.7 million of the country's population that is below the poverty line and which has to be brought down to 210.8 million.
11. Inayathualla, proposed Conceptual frame work for the study of Approaches to Social Development in Asia in Approaches to Social Development in Asia the Comparative perspective, Kaulalampur, Vol.1, 1975, p.4.
16. For details see, constitution of India, Arts. 40.43, 45, 47 and 48.
20. Ibid., pp. 332-334.
   * Statistics for the current years not available.
   this be treated as latest census available.
   * C Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
   * State Sponsored Schemes.