CHAPTER VIII

CONCLUSION
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In the present study an endeavour is made to study the urbanisation and development in North Karnataka between 1901 and 1991. This is attempted by employing scientific methods.

The Study Region:

North Karnataka situated in the Western part of the Peninsular India. The region with its area of about 100087 square kms. and population of 19176614 in 1991. The agricultural economy of North Karnataka is not prosperous due to lack of irrigation. The relative scarcity of industries in the region is also responsible for the lower degree of urbanisation of North Karnataka.

Urbanisation Trend in the Region:

The urbanisation trend in India is different from that of the western world. The main difference that we find here is that Indian urban growth is mostly because of migration from rural areas to urban areas for employment opportunities. The same trend is to be observed in North Karnataka also. Since the urban growth is numerical growth, urbanisation is proportional growth. The present study has considered the features of urbanisation, like the relative growth of total, rural and urban population and urban population
growth in the study region as a whole, district-wise, taluk-wise, and urban centre-wise. This study has also analysed the rank fluctuations of urban centres, temporal changes in the class size of towns, trends of variation in the number of urban centres.

The continuous growth of total, urban and rural population after 1921 has been observed. Due to fury of the epidemics much of the town dwelling population migrated towards rural areas temporarily between 1901 and 1911. Because of drought and epidemics which prevailed over the study region, a decrease in the total and rural populations between 1911 and 1921 is to be observed. The control of these epidemics, etc. resulted in continuous growth of urban population after 1921.

At the beginning of this century, the urban population was not much 12.11 per cent of the total population in the study region. Due to the rapid growth of urban population, North Karnataka experienced 553.95 per cent of population growth between 1901 and 1991 and reached 25.76 per cent to the total population. During the same study period, rural population growth is only 159.86 per cent. This rapid growth of urban population is the result of migration from the rural areas, and upgradation of rural areas as urban centres. The highest growth of urban population
(47.32%) in the study region is found in the period 1971-81. This was the result of 21 new urban centres coming into existence.

The trend of temporal variation of urban population at taluk level reveals that only five taluks, namely Haliyal, Chitapur, Gangavathi, Bidar and Gokak have achieved significant growth between 1901 and 1991. More than 50 per cent of the taluks have experienced lesser urban growth.

Between 1901 and 1991 the urban populations of 116 urban centres have increased while the urban population of 18 have decreased between these census years. The low growth of urban population i.e. less than 100 per cent between 1901 and 1991 is recorded in 12 towns. The high urban population growth is seen in Gangavati, Bidar, Gulbarga, Shahabad, Belgaum, Bijapur, etc. This high growth in the urban centres is mostly because of their administrative, industrial and commercial positions, which have attracted rural population towards these urban centres.

The study of rank fluctuations has given a picture of relative growth trends of towns. 40 towns in all have shown improvement in their ranks, of these 40 towns, Dandeli is very important. It reached the 14th rank in 1991 from 78th rank in 1961. Its growth is completely due to its industrial activity. In the declining towns
group, Munirabad project area is important. This is because of emigration of the population after the project was completed.

The size of the urban centre or its class size is not stable. It tends to move towards lower or higher class. The trend of this movement from their existing class size to lower or higher class during the study period suggests, except two census years 1961 and 1991, remaining all decades have shown more growth in number of urban centres and stability in their position. In the census years 1961 and 1991 have shown very less stable urban centres because of change in census definitions. The movement towards the higher class size urban centres from their existing size is more throughout the study period. The tendency of Declassification and new entry is restricted to only small class size urban (Class V and VI) centres. The remaining large and medium urban centres number is growing steadily.

The percentage increase in the number of urban centres in the study area is higher than that of South Karnataka, Karnataka and India during the study period. But its urban population growth is lesser than the three above said regions. This contrast of growth in number of urban centres and total urban population is mainly due to big urban agglomerations existance in South Karnataka,
like Bangalore, Mangalore, etc., which includes a large number of urban centres in their jurisdiction and grow only in population size, the number of urban centres remaining the same.

The average population size of different class size urban centre in the study region between 1901 and 1991 suggests that the Class I urban centres have increased their average size tremendously. While the average population size of class II, V and VI were reduced between 1901 and 1991, the class III and IV average size increased slightly with much fluctuation. Though much variation is found in different class size urban centres, the average size of all class urban centres together shows 238.07 per cent growth. This increased average size of urban centres is mainly due to the high population concentration in large urban centres.

The class-wise percentage of urban population to the total urban population during the study period reveals that the highest percentage of urban population to the total urban population is found in class I urban centres (47.94%) and also it made tremendous growth (95.73%) between 1901 and 1991. The same trend is seen in class III urban centres but its growth is not comparable with class I urban centres. The remaining class II, IV, V and VI urban centres have suffered heavily and their percentage
of urban population in the total urban population is reduced considerably. The major portion of urban population resides in bigger urban centres due to their higher order urban amenities and service opportunities.

The following are the main findings of this chapter: (1) the number of urban centres in the study region has progressively increased in the study period, (2) the share of urban population in the total population has increased by 13.65 per cent during the study period, (3) the urban centres of higher order have grown faster than the smaller and (4) the smaller urban centres have undergone greater fluctuations than the larger urban centres.

**Spatial Pattern of Urbanisation:**

Urbanism, like any other geographical feature, is unevenly distributed over the earth's surface; This is true in the North Karnataka also. Thus the distribution of Urban features like density of urban population, degree of urbanisation, degree of urban concentration, urban-rural ratio, spacing of urban centres, etc., have been studied.

Of 80 taluks, in 1991 as many as 47 taluks are in the category of very low (50 persons per squer kms.) urban population
density and they remained in the same category throughout the study period. This low density of urban population is due to less number of urban centres in taluks and the urban centres existing in taluks are either small or medium in size. The 23 taluks are in medium and high urban population density while 10 taluks remained entirely rural in 1991.

The study of spatial variation in the degree of urbanisation has revealed that more taluks of the study region are in the low and very low degree of urbanisation and only a few taluks are in high and very high degree of urbanisation. This indicates the slow process of urbanisation in the study region.

The computation of the degree of urban concentration for the study region suggested that in the 1991, 21 taluks have very low degree of urban concentration and 25 taluks are in low degree. According to the method followed here, these taluks are considered as very poor urban concentration taluks. The 13 taluks are considered as medium, 6 taluks are in high and 5 taluks are having very high degree of urban concentration. The remaining 10 taluks have zero concentration. The study region reveals a very poor degree of urban concentration in the maximum number of taluks.
North Karnataka has very low urban-rural population ratio in 30 taluks which indicates strong domination of rural base in these taluks. 24 taluks are in low and 10 taluks are rural. Of 80 taluks, 64 taluks are having strong rural character. The remaining taluks are exhibiting urban-rural population ratio above the average. Here in the study region, the taluks that have industries, good transport network and favorable topographical conditions have shown more urban-rural population ratio.

The nearest neighbour statistics confirmed that all the four census years that have selected for the analysis are nearing the random pattern. It indicates that the number of urban centres emerged subsequently and distributed in such a manner that they did not alter the spacing pattern.

The number of urban concentrations significantly increased from 7 in 1901 to 21 in 1991. But the number of urban centres within the concentrations have seen much fluctuation, and on an average the number of urban centres were reduced from 7 to 5. Though the number of urban centres within the concentration decreased, urban population of the concentration is increasing. According to this trend we can easily conclude that the size of urban centres which are there in the concentration is increasing.
Rank-size Relationship:

The rank-size relationship of urban centres in the study region does not suggest any clear conformity with the rank-size order though an ineffective trend is observed. The primate city of the region is much smaller than its expected population by 29.83 percent in 1991. The difference between expected and actual population of the urban centres in the study region is high. This high difference indicates less conformity in the region. But one satisfying factor is that this difference between actual and expected urban population in North Karnataka is lessening (from 17.27% to 9.52%). By this reduction in difference it can be concluded, that urban centres are moving steadily towards the rank-size regularity, also attaining maturity.

In the study region, Hubli-Dharwad is the primate city, but though it is the largest city of the region, its population is smaller than expected. In 1991 the expected index of primacy for Hubli-Dharwad city should have been 2 with its second ranking city, but scored only 1.61 and the deviation between expected index of primacy and actual index has shown continuous increase with increasing ranks. The highest deviation is found between primate city and 9th ranking city (-4.05). It infers, that the confirmity of
rank-size rule in class I cities goes on weakening with increasing ranks.

**Distribution of infrastructural facilities:**

Infrastructural facilities play an important role, in the urban centres, in order to improve the living standard of the people. All urban amenities that are considered in this study, are found in class I urban centres, while this is not true in the case of other class-size urban centres. As we move towards smaller urban centres the number of amenities goes on decreasing. The amenities available in the smaller urban centres are like Protected water supply, Primary Schools, etc. which are to be considered more essential. The analysis of average number of persons per facilities in different class size urban centres gives another picture. The urban centres of bigger size have more population per facility than the smaller urban centres. But it should not be concluded that the bigger urban centres are poor in amenities, because in bigger urban centres urban facilities like schools, colleges, recreational facilities, etc. are serving more population, while the same facility existing in smaller towns is serving lesser population. So from this study it is obvious that the bigger urban centres have more population pressure on its each amenities.
Levels of Development:

The composite index or the taxonomic method has been applied to assess the development of urban centres in respect of their urban amenities. In the study region out of 118 urban centres only 11 are having high levels of urban development, 89 are in moderate urban development and 18 in low development. Here in most of the big urban centres, we find all urban amenities. They are expected to have high urban development, but none of such urban centres scored high development and remained in moderate development. This result is mainly due to disproportionate urban amenities to their population. In the regional context the highly developed urban centres in terms of selected urban amenities have provided better urban life to their population. There is a need to increase these amenities both quantitatively and qualitatively. In the less developed urban centres, which are small and have not stabilized as permanent settlements the proportion of these urban amenities have to be adequately increased in the large urban centres so as to make city life better. Many of these urban amenities even in the more developed urban centres fall short of the national goals set in these respects. Hence an overall improvement in providing the amenities has to be achieved with special emphasis on the less developed small urban centres and moderately developed large urban centres.