CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION
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The study of urban centres from the geographic point of view involves the problem of conceptualization. So clarification of concepts that are crucial to our understanding of urban phenomena is necessary. It is equally difficult to define the term “urban” owing to its multi-dimensional structure, demographic, social, economic, physical, geographical and administrative. Normally a distinction is made between the terms urban and rural. But it is just not possible to locate a sharp boundary to demarcate the rural from the urban areas. The division between urban and rural is arbitrary. An universally applicable, precise and scholarly definition regarding urban centres cannot be worked out due to some constraints. Not all urban places are alike in character, due to functional diversification. Many attempts have been made to define urban centres. These attempts are based mostly on demographic features, such as total of population of an urban centre, density of population, human occupation, social and cultural behaviour of man, etc. Most of the countries demark urban areas on the basis of population. Some countries distinguish between urban and rural communities on the basis of local governments, administrative decisions or the major occupation of inhabitation (Chandana R.C. and Sidhu M.S., 1980).
However, any uniform definition of an urban area which could be applied universally to all the countries has not been evolved so far. The quest for a single criterion in defining an urban area has virtually been given up and most of the scholars now consider that a proper definition must consist of a combination of factors. In our own country, till 1961, the definition of an urban area varied from state to state. In the absence of a single enforcing agency for the country as a whole, it was indeed a difficult proposition to evolve a uniform definition and ensure strict adherence to it. The provision for exercising discretionary powers was quite a temptation, in as much as, it has been sarcastically put, in some of the earlier censuses in order to lay claims to respectability, some princely states were inclined to treat any village with a lamp-post as an urban area. This realised resulted in an attempt to remove such incongruities at the 1961 census, when certain uniform and somewhat rigid tests were sought to be applied throughout the country for determining whether a particular place could be classified as an urban area. Then definition formulated by the census authorities of India 1961 has gained general acceptability.

A review of the changes in the working definitions of the urban area in pre- and post-independence period shows that the
census administration has gradually shifted towards greater quantification and objectivity. (Kuntala Lahivi, 1988) In the earlier definitions there was much scope for subjective assessment.

The census authorities of India (1991) define urban centres in respect of population structure and economic activities, so to define an urban centre it has been tried to combine various sets of criteria. The following are the criterias to recognise the urban centres.

**Town :**

A town is defined as :

a) All places within a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee, etc.

b) All other places which satisfy the following criteria : (i) A minimum population of 5000, (ii) At least 75 per cent of male working population engaged in non agricultural pursuit and (iii) A density of population of at least 400 persons per square kilometers (1000 persons per square mile).

Apart from those units classified as towns by one of the above criteria, some places having urban characteristics have been classified as urban even if such places do not strictly satisfy all the criteria mentioned in category (b) above. Such places include
major project colonies, areas of intensive industrial development, railway colonies, etc.

City:

An urban unit having population of 100,000 and above is treated as a city and having a headquarter of municipality or corporation and cantonment.

Urban Agglomeration:

An urban agglomeration may constitute:

a) A city with continuous outgrowth (the part of outgrowth being outside the statutory limits but falling within the boundaries of the adjoining village or villages),

b) One town with similar outgrowth or two or more adjoining towns with their outgrowths as in (a), or

c) A city and one or more adjoining towns with their outgrowths all of which form a continuous spread.

Based on the size of population, the 1991 Census classified urban centres into six categories. The urban centres having inhabitants:
Thus urban centres are determined in terms of population size and population structure. An urban place like its rural counterpart, has a large population and considerable degree of division of labour, both in industrial production and many other services. Population density is another distinguishing factor between rural and urban. In addition to this, occupational structure of the working force is also one of the most important classifying attributes in urban areas.

Here in the study, for the identification of urban centres during 1901-1991 the definitions adopted by the Indian census authorities from time to time, have been considered.

Urbanization refers to the process of becoming urban (Johnstone R.J. and others, 1981) The urbanization process relates to concentration of people engaged in non-agricultural land use in a specialized area, a 'place', as a consequence of population,
occupational and land use shifts. (Prakash Rao V.L.S., 1983,) Thus urbanization involves:

a) Population shift (migration) from rural to urban areas;

b) Occupational shift from agricultural to non agricultural;

c) Land use shift from agricultural to non agricultural.

These shifts are associated with development in standard of living and change in life style, thus there is a chain of shifts. Urbanism and urbanization are two different terms which need explanation, though the distinction between these two terms is hazy. (Reddy N.B.K., 1970). It may be possible to identify these two terms in different contexts. Urbanism is the way of life, prevailing in an urban centre, it has more social characteristics. So urbanization is some thing more and urbanism only a part of it.

From a geographers point of view, urbanization is the process of becoming urban with time space frame. When the element of space is introduced in the study, urbanization becomes the domain of geographers. The study of urbanization in space, gives the pattern, urbanization is the spatial manifestation of the urban process.
Review of Literature:

The selected review of literature in the field of urban geography is attempted here. A large number of studies have been carried out by several scholars in India and other parts of the world.

A review of the existing literature is made into the following three groups of studies:

1. The studies regarding urbanization process, pattern and trends.

2. Regarding urban rank-size order.

3. Regarding infrastructural facilities of urban centres and development.

Though the urban geography is of recent origin, it has attracted many number of scholars attention towards it and much progress has been made in the field, some of them are Yeates, H.M. and Garney, J.B. 1971; Breese, G. 1963; Thudipara, J.Z. 1992; Davies, R.L. 1969; Zutshi Bupindar, 1987; Tripathi, S.R. 1993; Gopal Krishan, 1987; Gogate, P.P. and Phadke, V.S. 1992; Sharma, K.D. 1992; Pant, Rekha, 1993; Raza, Moonis, 1978; Prakash Rao, V.L.S. 1993; Alam, S.M. 1965; Alam, S.M. and

The urban studies of above mentioned scholars cover various urban aspects like residential mobility, land use, morphology, urbanization and migration, urban ecology, city region, metropolitan region, city system, settlement size, structure, functions, demographic characters, etc. in broad regions and individual towns.

The variation pattern in the size relationship of urban settlements in any region reflects characteristics of urbanization. To study the variation in the size relationship of towns the rank-size rule is evolved by Zipf (1949). This rank-size rule has been applied by many scholars and academicians for the different regions. Some of them are cited as reference here, Stewart, 1958; Jefferson, M. 1939; Madden, C.H. 1956; Berry, 1961; Bell, G. 1962; Reddy, N.B.K., 1969; Browning, H.L. and Gibbs, J.P. 1966; Patil, S.R. 1969; Barai Daksha, C. 1970; Singh, D.N. 1983.

Due to rapid growth of cities and towns, the features of city size and the related development aspects especially in terms of

Objectives:

The present study is an attempt to understand and examine the following objectives:

1. To analyse the trends of urbanisation in North Karnataka and compare them with the urbanisation trends of South Karnataka, Karnataka and India.

2. To examine the growth trend of urban population in different class size urban centres during the study period.

3. To analyse the spatio-temporal variations in the distribution pattern of urbanisation at taluk, district and regional level.

4. To examine the rank size relationship of towns.
5. To find out the fluctuations of ranks among the urban centres of study region.

6. To find out the spatial distribution of the urban amenities and their magnitude.

7. To classify the urban centres of the study region on the basis of urban amenities, available.

8. To propose priorities for the development of urban centres in the study region.

Hypotheses:

The study purports to examine the following hypotheses:

1. The growth of urban population in North Karnataka is slower than that of South Karnataka.

2. The rate of urbanisation is more at large (Class I and II) urban centres.

3. The fluctuation of ranks in small urban centres is high.

4. The urban population density is more at the taluks in which bigger urban centres are located.

5. The urban centres of North Karnataka are distributed randomly over the region.

6. The region is not having the ideal condition for achieving rank size regularity in the urban centres.
7. The distribution of urban amenities over different urban centres of the region is uneven.

8. The larger urban centres have higher urban developments.

**Methodology:**

The present study has employed many statistical tools to arrive at meaningful conclusions. Regarding the various aspects of urbanisation in the region they are growth of urban population, degree of urbanisation, degree of urban concentration urban rural ratio, etc. The statistical tools applied in the study are transition metrics, Nearest neighbour analysis, Rank-size rule, Composite Index or Texonomic method, etc.

Besides the statistical tools cartographic devices like double log graph, line graph, isopleth and choropleth diagrams have been used in the chapters of the thesis wherever essential for visual expression and analysis of the phenomena.

**Data Base:**

Most of the data for the study is obtained from the census volumes of various census years, District at a glance, etc., Gazetteers of the Karnataka State and of different districts of the study region.
Limitations:

The present study is concerned with 'patterns and trends of urban development, in North Karnataka'. It does not cover all the aspects of patterns and trends of urbanisation, and urban development, because they require lots of time and resources, which exceed the scope of this type of studies.

Hence this researcher has considered some important aspects for which data are available for the analysis of urbanisation and urban development between 1901 and 1991.

Organisation of the Thesis:

The present study is organised into the following eight chapters, each of which analyses a particular aspect of urbanisation and development.

The first Chapter deals with meaning, concepts, growth and importance of urban geography and this chapter also discusses census definitions about urban centres in different census years. The review of literature is briefly mentioned in this chapter as further information is given in the related chapters.
The second Chapter provides the necessary geographical background of the study area like its location, physical setting, physiography, geology, soils, drainage, natural vegetation, climate, etc. in the study area. Which have a bearing on the urban development.

The third Chapter analyses the growth trend of urban population at regional level, District level, taluk level and individual urban centre-wise. It also deals with rank fluctuations of urban centres, change in the size of the towns, trends of variations in the number of urban centres in the study region between 1901 and 1991.

The fourth Chapter is devoted to study the spatial patterns of density of urban population, degree of urbanisation, degree of urban concentration, urban-rural ratio at taluk level, spacing pattern of urban centres and urban concentrations in the study region.

The fifth Chapter studies rank-size relationship of towns is an endeavour to study the population size and hierarchical order of towns, and the primacy of class I urban centres to know the stability of their position in different selected census years of the study region.
In the sixth chapter, an attempt is made to understand the existence and quantity of selected urban amenities in relation to the population of urban centres in 1991.

The seventh Chapter is designed to analyse the levels of urban development in the urban centres of North Karnataka in 1991. This level of urban development is calculated on the basis of urban amenities available in the individual urban centres.

The eight Chapter is the concluding chapter which highlights the findings of the study contained in different chapters. It throws light on the achievements of the study.