FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION
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Here an attempt is made to present all the significant and relevant findings of the work from chapter first to seventh, regarding the spatial analysis of market centres in drought prone areas of Bijapur district.

The study area is supposed to be a typical representative of the semi-arid region were drought occur once in 3-5 years due to scarcity of rainfall. It has a total population of 34,61,095 (as per 2001 census) with an area of about 17135 sq.km. The analysis of economic, demographic transport and trade characters of the study area has indicated overall backwardness of the area but the proposed upper Krishna project is expected to open a new chapter in the economy of the district. This is a region known for cultivation of various kinds of food grains like jowar, wheat, Bajara pulses, oilseeds, cotton, etc. and also sugarcane as irrigated crop. Horticultural produces like grapes, Lemon, etc. are being raised since last few years. Though agriculture plays a vital role in the economy of the district and several varieties of crops are being cultivated, backward economy prevails in many parts of the study area. The main reason for such backwardness is inadequate transport and market facilities. The transport facilities in the entire region are inadequate due to black soil, which turns roads in to muddy with scanty amount of rainfall and interruptions caused by main rivers.
The village level sales and shandy (santi) sales are common in many parts of rural areas. Barter economy is still in practice. Further, regulated markets are concentrated at a few places, which are far away from rural areas. There is an urgent need for rural development by development programmes.

It has been observed from archaeological and historical inscriptions that the shandy area has a florious past. Many Paleolithic and Neolithic sites have been traced on river banks which were inhabited by early man and there was not any sort of reciprocal exchange but a simple unorganised silent barter system for exchange of commodities when man entered agricultural age. The development of craftsmanship and agriculture gave scope for the development of rudimentary trade.

During the ancient period many kingdoms ruled the study area, who were responsible for the growth of internal and external trade by trade guilds and number of important trade centres were developed in the study area. Along with barter system gold and silver coins were in circulation and annual fairs and periodic markets were developed to provide much scope for exchange of goods. Similarly during the medieval period also same type of trade continued with the increase of number of market centres (mandies). During this period foreign traders entered in to some of the major trade centres.
The British period is may be considered as a period of exploitation of resources and economic development particularly in the field of agricultural, transportation and marketing in the study area. Better infrastructure was provided to Indian societies as a result of which structural change took place in the sphere of agriculture and marketing. Introduction of mechanised transportation helped the organised trade pattern. Large number of trade centres and periodic markets were developed. The first regulated market was established at Bijapur and later on in Bagalkot.

After the end of British rule in India there was a rapid transformation of Geo-economic political conditions in the study area. Many rural development programmes were introduced and a number of roads were constructed, which helped for the transportation of men and materials. As a result large number of periodic markets were established. Government also issued a directive to the state to develop regulated markets subsequently, many regulated markets and sub markets were also created at various places to manage whole sale transactions of agricultural produces.

The observation shows that the origin and evolution of market centres is closely related to human civilization. The existing market centres of the study area have their roots in the past and have been modified with the changing socio-economic and political variables, resulting in to their present day pattern.
It has thus become evident from the research that the location of market centres is basically governed more by physico-climatic causes than by the need of the society. Therefore rural communities must have selected those settlements for the purpose of market centres, which are convenient physico-climatically. Most of the market centres have topographic dimension. The physico location based taxonomy of market centres basically confirms that 50% of the markets are located in areas of water divides, 23% on river sides and 22% on dry nala beds etc. thereby exhibiting the role of topographical influences on market locations.

The distribution of market centres in the study area has a definite relationship with population size, number of villages and total area. The spatial pattern of market centres tends to deviate towards randomness. Temporal distribution of market centres is examined in relation to market periodicity and frequency of market days. The analysis of market periodicity has indicated 141 markets meeting with 128 market centres. Hence market periodicity is weak and most of them are weekly market centres. Which are held on different days of the week and this is not just based on randomness but there are some specific reasons. That are related to religious, economic and social causes. Further the frequency of the market days analysis has indicated the
predominance of Thursday and Monday, which is mainly due religious factors of the study area.

The hypothesis of R.H.T. Smith i.e. proximity in space implies separation in time has been tested and confirmed because the spatio-temporal pattern of period i.e. markets in the study supports the hypothesis. It is also observed that some changes have taken place in space time sequence of periodic markets in a period of one hundred years (1901-2001) because the number of markets have been increased to fill up the spatial gaps. Market meetings on the same day are more widely spaced than market meets on adjacent days. Thus inverse spatio-temporal relationship has been observed in the study area.

Marketing process is a phenomenon of interaction among producers, distributors, buyers and consumers. There is a network of market channel through which the process of marketing follows. Considerable distributive trade channels have highlighted the source regions of market commodities. The present study has considered marketing process in which varied supra-regional and regional goods are traded. There are immobile sellers who sell various type of goods of local and non-local produce in the market centres. The permanent shop-sellers are the organised trading agencies. It also explains the stability of
market centres. The numbers of shops increases as the market centre grows in size. Hence, the specific-typology of market centres is attempted based on type and number of shops. So the entire district different market centres are found and there is need for the growth of market centres to fulfil the needs of the rural people.

The behavioural study of traders such as full-time sellers and part-time sellers is analysed. It is observed that due to weekly marketing system, mobile traders are in large number in rural markets, who transact in traditional goods needed by the rural population. Further behavioural character of consumer is analysed at each market level and the study has indicated that 82% of the village consumers interact with single market in the study area. It is due to low purchasing power, poor transport network and many other reasons. However, the remaining 18% of the village tends to use 2 or 3 market choices.

Agriculture is the predominant occupation of the study area and hence the government of India initiated the new agricultural strategy since 1960's. As a result regulated markets were established to protect the interest of the farmers. “The centrally situated regulated markets tend to minimise transportation coast and distance travelled to reach regulated market. This hypothesis has been tested and it is confirmed. The finding of the present study indicates that none of the regulated markets in the study area is centrally
situated and sub markets are not functioning actively. It is also observed that there is no uniformity in the sizes of market area and maximum distance from regulated market permits illegal activities by traders at village level. There is an urgent need for main regulated markets at Indi, Basavan-Bagewadi and Bilgi taluk headquarters. This shows that Bijapur regulated market alone manages nearly half of the total trade transaction of the entire study area and the other half is distributed among other seven markets. This shows that other regulated markets, are not so efficient to attract farmers for wholesale transaction. The study has proposed the conversion of 3 sub-markets into main regulated markets at taluk headquarters of Bilgi, B.Bagewadi and Indi, which will reduce farmer’s travelling distance of 30-40 kms to reach the market.

It is a fact that the importance of each market centre is governed by several factors such as market area. Residential population, transport network, shop opening hours. Market status, market attendance etc. Further, the influence of each factor cannot be the same everywhere. It varies from one market centre to another.

The hierarchical orders observed in the study area do not agree with the natural breaks of population ranking. There are some market centres such as Almatti, Karadi, Huvin Hipparagi Jalihal and Mamadapur with low population found in higher groups.
There are only two first order markets, which are situated at the main urban areas of the district with many advantages of railway and roadways in the interior parts as well as outside. The second order markets are either taluk headquarters or the settlements having regulated markets. Some of third order markets are quite in progressing stage. The fourth order markets are in large number and they are basically small ones, and located over rural settlements as weekly periodic markets. Some of the market centres need to be given top priority in the planning of rural development from below at grass root level.

There is need for a comprehensive spatial design so as to bring over all development in the study area. The present spatial design of transport network and hierarchical organization of markets suffers from unique regional problems. Hence, dendric pattern of trade has prevailed since many decades and it is prevailing even today along the main transport lines with higher order markets. Further, the specific problems like disparity has been created after implementation of regulated markets. Small rural weekly markets dominate the rural areas of the study region and such rural markets manage half of the trade. Hence it was proposed to identify primary markets to integrate them in to the concerned higher order markets. But the authorities have selected only a few big markets as primary markets leaving behind many smaller ones. Hence, the present study has selected some different norms as used by Hugar (2000) in his
study on Gulbarga district. It is realized that the development of primary markets is the only solution to the economic development of the region. The drought prone areas, the regional economy being poor, can sustain only periodic markets at its disposal. Any measures evaluated for the spatial planning and development of the region, as a whole should take into consideration the integrated development of the markets, which act as growth centres.