APPENDIX I
NUMERICAL SUFFIXES OF ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS AND THE REVENUE VALUE

One of the distinguishing features of the administrative system in ancient and mediaeval Karnataka was the practice of suffixing numerical figures to the administrative divisions. These figures vary from a single digit number to six digits. But what these numerical figures suffixed to administrative divisions indicated was a matter of controversy for a long time. As one of the scholars suggested that these numbers indicated the revenue value of the division, here, it is proposed to present in nut-shell the various views of the scholars.

According to J.F. Fleet, the smaller numbers, like tens and hundreds, attached to names of places, probably marked the number of cities, towns and villages in the particular groups.¹

But, B.L. Rice objecting to this view maintained that that they represented the number of villages was physically impossible, even supposing that
the whole areas were occupied by villages. Further, he made two suggestions viz. (i) the thousands might refer to nads, which were called thousands and (ii) they represented the revenue. In support of his explanation he further argued thus: "From an early period all the great provinces and their sub-divisions commonly have the revenue value attached to the name .... This system is still commemorated in the yelusavira or Seven Thousand-country. We may add the example of a Six-Thousand country in Chikmagalur taluka."

G.S. Dikshit, on the other hand distinguishes three grades of numerals suffixed to the administrative divisions viz. (i) figures upto one thousand as in case of Taridavadi Thousand and below (ii) figures of several thousands as in case of Banavasi-12000, and (iii) figures exceeding one lakh as in case of Rattapadi 7½ lakh. He gives three distinct explanations for each of these three categories of figures and concludes thus: "We have the following result based upon the views of Fleet and Rice. The lakh in Rattawadi seven and a half lakh and sapadalaksha would refer to revenue and so also yelusavira and aru-savira territories when they refer to very small areas. The thousands in Banavasi-12000 may refer to the number of nads. Figures upto a thousand would ordinarily refer to villages, towns and cities."
Dikshit's conclusions appear to be very sound, convincing and reasonable. At the present state of our knowledge his interpretation is acceptable.

References

