PREFACE

Urbanization has become a universal phenomenon as a consequence of rapid industrialization and technological advancement. From time immemorial cities have been the core of all socio-economic functions. Urban growth today is not only an essential part of regional development, but is also essential for generating economic growth, specially in developing nations like India. With population increasing rapidly, at the present rate of growth, the population of the world is expected to stabilize at fifteen times the existing population in about 2165 A.D. Eventhough the world’s cities still do not cover more than about one per cent of the earth’s surface, the level of urbanization is being taken as an important index of material prosperity. Toynbee observes that mankind will find itself living in ‘Ecumenopolis’ – a world wide city in which all the regional ‘contribution’ of the present day cities will have coalesced. In this context the primary aim of this doctoral thesis is to analyse the relationship between the process and pattern of urbanization with the level of socio-economic development. The study further attempts to identify the growth of Hubli-Dharwad Municipal Corporation, the resulting problems and makes an attempt to suggest measures to improve the cities.