3.1. Introduction:

The present study was made in Bidar district. It is noted that the different features of the area influence the study. These different features include, demography, area, geography, occupation, education, culture, etc influence the study. As such, it is essential to study the characteristic features of the area under the study.

3.2. Bidar District:

Bidar is a charming district- one of its charms being a very bracing climate practically throughout the district and for the greater part of the year. April and may are the hot months, but even during this hot weather period, the heat is often broken by sharp and sudden thunder showers. By early June the south-west monsoon sets in with all its pleasant coolness and the weather is back to its bracing glory. The cold weather is never too cold and the rainfall is never excessive though its excessive variation is often the cause, symptom and malaise of severe droughts. One other aspect of its charm is that it is full of history- every village and town being replete with monuments, legends, stories of velour, romance of beautiful princesses, long forgotten battles, feuding military adventurers and even of social reform movements that shook the very foundation and structure of medieval Hinduism.

Almost 700 kilometers from Bangalore, Bidar lies at the farthest north-eastern corner of Karnataka. Bifurcated and truncated during the re-organization of states in 1956, it is only a fraction of its vast expanse in the erstwhile state of Hyderabad.
Map No. 3.1. Location of Bidar District in Karnataka

Present day Bidar covering an expanse of 5448 square kilometers of land lies between 17° 35'' and 18° 25'' North latitudes and 76° 42'' minutes and 77° 39'' east longitudes, with the districts of Nizamabad and Medak in Andhra Pradesh on the East and the districts of Nanded and Osmanabad in Maharashtra on the west. On the south lies the district of Gulbarga of Karnataka. This central position in the Deccan had for long imparted to Bidar, the pre-eminent position in the history of the Deccan though to-day it presents a picture of centuries of neglect and ruin. In 2006 the Ministry of Panchayat Raj named Bidar one of the country’s 250 most backward districts (out of a total of 640). It is one of the five districts in Karnataka currently receiving funds from the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF). The district constitutes total five talukas namely, Aurad, Humnabad, Bidar, Basava Kalyan and Bhalki. The geographical map of the district is as under.
History:

The first Rashtrakuta capital was Mayurkhandi in the present day Bidar district. The regal capital was later moved to Manyakheta in the present day Kalaburagi district by Amghavarsha-I. Kalyani (today called Basava Kalyan after Basaveshwara) in Bidar district was the capital of Western Chalukyas, who were also called Kalyani Chalukyas after their capital. The Kalachuris continued with Kalyani as their capital.

Later, Bidar was ruled in succession by the vassals to Sevuna Yadavas of Devagiri, Kakatiyas of Warrangal, Alauddin Khilji and Muhammad bin Tughlaq. The generals of Muhammad Bin Tughlaq who were nominated as viceroy of the newly conquered Deccan region broke up and formed the Bahamani Sultanate under Alauddin Hasan Gangu Bahman Shah.
The Bahmani capital was shifted from Kalburgi or Kalubaruge (pronounced as Gulbarga and subsequently renamed Ahsanabad by the Muslim newcomers) to Bidar (renamed Muhammadabad by Bahamanis) in 1425. Bidar remained the capital until the Sultanate's breakup after 1518. It then became the center of the Barid Shahis, one of the five independent sultanates known as the Deccan Sultanates. These were the successor states to the Bahmani kingdom.

The Bidar Sultanate was absorbed by the Bijapur Sultanate to the west in 1619, which was in turn included into their Deccan province by the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb during his viceroyship of Deccan in 1656. After the death of Aurangzeb, Asaf Jah I, the Mughal Subehdar of the Deccan province, became independent and assumed the title Nizam-ul-mulk, with the whole of the province under the Nizam’s sovereign control. This status remained unchanged until Operation Polo, when the Nizam’s territory was merged to the Republic of India.

With the reorganization of states in 1956 along linguistic lines, Bidar was deemed a Kannada speaking area, and became a part of unified Mysore State which later was renamed Karnataka. Now, Bidar, Gulbarga, Yadgir, Raichur and Koppal are collectively referred to as Hyderabad Karnataka. Bellary, though ceded to the British in 1800 AD, is also grouped together with these areas.

Geology:

The entire district forms a part of the Deccan Plateau and is made up mostly of solidified lava. The northern part of the district is characterized by expanses of level and treeless surface punctuated here and there by flat and undulating hillocks, black soils and basaltic rocks. The southern half of the district is a high plateau about 715 m above mean sea level and is well drained. The average elevation of the district is between 580 to 610 m above mean sea
level. Alluvial deposit is normally found along the banks of the Manjra river and its main tributaries.

The district is entirely covered by the Deccan trap flows of the tertiary period. The Deccan trap is composed of horizontal flows of basaltic lava. They generally form flat-topped hillocks and terrace-like features. The physical characteristics of individual flows show considerable variations. Some flows are hard and massive while others are weathered, soft and friable. This character has resulted in terraced landscape, suddenly ending in escarpments. The traps are seen generally 618 m above mean sea level. These are jointed and show the characteristics of spherical weathering leaving massive hard cores. Columnar jointing is predominantly developed in these rocks, besides horizontal joints, which impart to the rocks bedded appearance. The top layers of the Deccan trap in parts of Bidar and Humnabad taluk are altered to reddish vesicular laterite, forming and extensive undulating plateau.

The minerals found in the area are Bauxite, Kaolin and Red ochre. A deposit of highly siliceous bauxite clay has been located about three kilometers south of Basavakalyan. Similar deposits are noticed near Alwal and Kamthana Villages of Bidar taluk. A large deposit of Kaolin is located near Kamthana village. Red ochre deposits are found near Sirsi and Aurad Village.

**Soils:**

Two types of soils founds in the district are Lateritic red soil and black cotton soil. Aurad and Bhalki taluks have mainly black cotton soil. Bidar and Humnabad taluks have mainly lateritic red soil. Basavakalyan taluk has both types of soils.
Climate

The climate of this district is characterized by general dryness throughout the year, except during the southwest monsoon. The summer season is from the middle of February to the first week of June. This is followed by southwest monsoon season, which continues till the end of September. The months of October and November constitute the post-monsoon or retreating monsoon season.

The winter season is from December to middle of February and the temperature begins to decrease from the end of November, December is the coldest month with mean daily maximum temperature of 27.3 C and mean daily minimum of 16.4 C. From the middle of the February, both day and night temperatures begin to rise rapidly. May is the hottest month with mean daily maximum temperature of 38.8 C and mean daily minimum of 25.9 C. With the withdrawal of southwest monsoon in the first week of October, there is slight increase in day temperature but night temperature decreases steadily. After October, both day and night temperatures decreases progressively. The highest maximum temperature recorded at Bidar was on 8-5-1931(43.3 degree C) and the lowest minimum was on 5-1-1901(3.9 degree C).

River Systems and Drainage:

The district falls under two distinct river basins, the Godavari basin and the Krishna basin. The Godavari basin extends over 4,411 square kilometers of which Manjra river basin cover 1989 square kilometers and Karanja river basin covers 2422 square kilometers. The Krishna basin covers 585 square kilometers of which Mullamari river basin covers 249 square kilometers and Gandarinala river basin covers 336 square kilometers. The main river of the district is Manjra River, which is a tributary of the Godavari River. The Karanja River itself is tributary of Manjra River. These rivers and their rivulets are not navigable.
Demography:

Bidar district, which occupies a central position in Deccan plateau, is mixed with several racial strains, ethnic groups and socio-cultural clusters. Long after the fusion of Dravidian and Aryan elements, there was, in the medieval times, a continuous influx of batches of various types like the Turks, Mughals, Iranians, Afghans and Arabs who were welcomed and encouraged to settle down in the area. As a result of these admixtures there has been a cultural mosaic.

According to the Census of India 2011 Bidar district has a population of 1,700,018. This gives it a ranking of 289th in India (out of a total of 640). The district has a population density of 312 inhabitants per square kilometre (810 /sq km). Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 13.16%. Bidar has a sex ratio of 952 females for every 1000 males and a literacy rate of 71.01%.

Table No. 3.1. Area and Population of Bidar District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Taluka</th>
<th>Geographical Area (Sq. Kms)</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Decennial Growth Rate (Percentage) 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aurad</td>
<td>1224.4</td>
<td>142309</td>
<td>136091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Basava Kalyan</td>
<td>1205.9</td>
<td>176223</td>
<td>169024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bhalki</td>
<td>1117.3</td>
<td>141603</td>
<td>135747</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bidar</td>
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<td>241095</td>
<td>228846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Humnabad</td>
<td>985.3</td>
<td>169435</td>
<td>162927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>5448.0</td>
<td>870665</td>
<td>832635</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of the total population, 1020174 (67.90%) are Hindus, 295762 (19.69%) are Muslims, 43150 (2.87%) are Christians and the remaining are from other religions such as Jains, Buddhists, etc.
Bidar is predominantly an agricultural district and a major portion of the area is covered under agricultural practices. Mainly dry crops are grown, Jowar being the major constituent. greengram, Bengalgram, Blackgram, Paddy, Groundnut, Wheat, Redgram, Sugarcane and chillies are other agricultural crops. The average size of the land holdings in the district is 6.2 hectares as against the state average of 4.4 hectares.

3.3. References:

2. Bidar District Web site: http://bidar.nic.in