INTRODUCTION
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Most of the travelers are seen, as it were, in undress, and we learn more of their characters than we probably should, had they been conscious that they were addressing wider audience. Little as we know of them, beyond what we can gather from their writings, the impressions left are favourable. If they appear at times self-assertive, this was natural enough. For the travelers themselves one feels a genuine admiration. One and all the men, who here write their adventures so soberly and so modestly, with many shrewd observations and occasionally a flash of humour, ran daily great risks and number of the travelers died in the foreign countries and some died on the ways. Sicknesses, robbery, threats of violence, were incidents that did not shake their cheerfulness, and there is little reflection in their narratives of the dangers and hardships which were constantly their lot. They had chosen to ‘wander to the unfrequented Yunde’, and they accepted the consequences, however, unpleasant, stolidly and without repining.


Battuta was his family name and his personal name was Muhammad and his patronymic Abu Abdullah born in Tangier on 24th February 1304 A.D. and said to have died at Fez at the age of seventy four. Among all the Arab geographers and historians Ibn-i-Battuta had exceptional, interesting and multitalented qualities as a scholar, theologian, adventure, combatant, sailor, swimmer, voyager, traveler, pilgrim, botanist, official, poet, journalist, historian, geographer jurists, ascetics, devotee, and pleasure seeker, and partly because of his promoting historical researches and making outstanding gift to the history of medieval India. Ibn-i-Jauzy was the writer of the Rehla who wrote what Ibn i Battuta narrate to him. The translations of Rehla were in various languages Molvi Muhammad Hussain makes Urdu translation of it. The English translation of Samuels Lee with the title Travels of Ibn i Battuta an incomplete manuscript, however it was a good intellectual attempt with valuable notes, the past, physical and botanical notices were efficiently deal. German translation of Rehla was made by Hans Von Mzik, he himself admit that the translation of Ibn i Battuta was based on the Arabic text of indiscretion and

2. Ibid., p.vii.
sanguinities. Thus the translators generally gave the uncertainties about number of passages.\(^3\) Rehla was known as *Tuuhfat un-Nuzzar Fi Gharaib-il-Amsar Wa Ajaib-il-Afsar.*\(^4\) Its significance is very important and useful book and source of information and covered all aspects of society of that period. It provides the military history also as it explain interesting stories about the military campaigns, tourcher executions of *Sufis, Ulemas,* scholars, which happen in the said, period.\(^5\) The information of geography is excellent, almost all the modern geographer consider that his examination about Africa is first rate value and lot of it contained about geography of Arabia, Bukhara, Kabul, Qandahar, India, Ceylon, Maldives, Java, Sumatra, and China. He tour in Africa in two orders from north to south and second from east to north east and his ideas completely matched with present explorers. He was not a geographer but the distance he mentioned among various places proved true. His memory power was incredible. The socio-cultural life of Indians was excellently mentioned in his account.\(^6\)

Lastly I want to note some lines from the translation of Ibn i Battuta in which he himself mention the sincerity of his account.

> “I call Allah as well as His Angles and prophets to witness that all that I shall relate regarding his extraordinary munificence is certainly true. God alone suffices as my witness. I know that some of what I relate will not be imaginable to many people and they will consider it as normally impossible. But when it is a question of an event which I have seen with my own eyes, the truth of which I knew and in which I played no mean part, I can do nothing else but tell the truth. Besides, the veracity of most of these facts is confirmed by their reiteration in eastern countries.”\(^7\)


His full name was Shahabuddin Abul Abbas Ahmad bin Yahya bin Fadlullah al-Umari. He was born on 3\(^{rd}\) of Shawaal, A.H. 700/1301 A.D. He claimed his descent from Caliph Umar which gives title to his name Al Umari.\(^8\) He was a learned man a historian, and knows Arabic, prosody, *Faqih* astronomy and mathematics. He studied in Hijaz, Damascus and Cairo. He was chiefly devoted to history and

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4. Ibid., p.xiv.
5. Ibid., pp.xvii, xix.
6. Ibid., p.lxxi-lxxvii.
7. Ibid., p.56.
geography and measured as a great scholar on the history of Mongols and Islamic world. He wrote number of works like *Fawaid ul Umar* in four volumes and his main work *Masalik-ul-Absar fi Mumalik-ul-Amsar*, a large geographical, historical and biographical work almost in encyclopaedic form.⁹

*Masalik-ul-Absar* is recognizable as a book of substantial importance and deserves the admiration of the scholars on account of the careful and unbiased account of person and places mention in it. All the persons and the travelers and eye witnesses consulted were mentioned. Arabic books were also used for obtaining information.¹⁰ But only one person among his sources stayed in Delhi during the time of Muhammad bin Tughlaq as an army person but no one was testified by Indian sources. *Masalik-ul-Absar* provided the extra information restricted in other sources and is very important in certain fields.¹¹

3. **Shihabuddin Abul Abass, Al-Qalqashandi, (d.1418 A.D.) Arabian.**

Shihabuddin Abul Abass Ahmed bin Ali born in or about 1353 A.D. His learning done at Cairo and was selected to the post of judge and died in 1418 A.D. The work entitled *Subh ul Asha* was important based largely on the information contained in Al-Umari work and provide good information about India and west Asia. Besides Al-Umari he also collects information from other explorers.¹²

It is interesting to note down that the accounts of Arab travelers till the first quarter of fourteenth century mainly deals with Indian islands and Deccan. Except information of Sind there had hardly any dealings of north India even after the foundation of Delhi Sultanate.¹³

This account comprised of the geographical picture of India originated from *Taqvim ul Buldan* the work collected by Abul Fida (a descriptive geography with addition of physical and mathematical data in Tabular form completed in 1321 A.D. *Subh ul Asha* is a good source for studying the socio cultural life of India.¹⁴

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⁹. Al-Umari, pp.1,2.
¹⁰. Ibid., p.2.
¹¹. Ibid., p.3.
¹². Muhammad Zaki, *Arab Accounts of India, During Fourteenth Century*, Published in India by Idarah-I Adabiyat-I Delhi, Qasimjan Street Delhi, 2009, p.21.
¹³. Ibid., p.21. *This was due to the reason that Arabs merchants and sailors came into contact only with Deccan in early times.*
¹⁴. Ibid., p.15.
4. **Kamal-ud-din Abdur Razzaq, (1442-1445 A.D.) Persian.**

Kamal-ud-din Abdur Razzaq bin Jalaluddin Ishaq-as-Samarqandi born in Heerat in 1413 A.D. His father was a Qazi during the time of Shahrukh. After his father death he joined the service of same king. In 1441 A.D he was sent as a significant embassy to one of the king of India including Calicut and Vijayanagar.\(^{15}\) He recorded the experiences in his book *Matla us Sadain* which I consult in my research work. He also wrote some other works like *Majma ul Bahrain*.

He first reached to the port of Calicut and admired the welcome, honesty of its people in trade and commerce. But he judged the person as black devils who wears little stuff to cover their secret parts and rest stayed naked same is the case of Sameri (Zamorin). The king still after the donation of gifts did not care much. Thus he suffers uncomfortable in Calicut and later the king of Vijayanagar called him. He experience exceptionally delightful to visit Vijayanagar and was largely influenced by the beauty and brilliance of the city, its bazaars, its palaces and appealing women. He was awarded with enormous gifts however this attitude hinders due to the charges by merchants of Ormuz who challenged his association with Shahrukh in the absence of king. However on the king return the kindness restored to some extent. King assure in case of his next return with the validity he was more welcomed. Abdur Razzaq was disappointed by this and remarked.

"If, when once I escaped from the desert of the love I reach my own country, I will never again set out on another voyage, not even in the company of a king."\(^{16}\)

The account of Abdur Razzaq was excellent in many ways he splendidly describes the magnificent city of Vijayanagar. His account is useful in finding the socio-economic as well as political condition of Vijayanagar. The architecture of the buildings including the palaces, forts, tanks (for irrigation and daily use) was magnificently deals by him. The customs and manners were also taken into account especially the celebrations of festivals particularly the *Mahanavmi*. The condition of

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\(^{15}\) R. H. Major, *India In The fifteenth Century Being a Collection of Narratives of Voyages to India*, First Published by The Hakluyt Society, 1857, Published in India by, Deep Publications, Darya Ganj, Delhi, 1974, pp.lxvii-lxviii.

\(^{16}\) Ibid., pp.lxx-lxxiii.
women in the society, both the positive and negative aspects were highlighted and the luxurious life of rulers and their large Harem. Their property financial condition and the prostitution, and the dancing women in the temples whose condition not at all good. Similarly his account has valuable contribution to the religious condition of the people including ceremonies, practices, rituals and the method of worshiping and the style of temples. He also provide information about the religious harmony among the Hindus, Muslim, Christians and Jews which was proved by other travels accounts as well as the contemporary sources which I shall describes while dealing with other travels accounts.

5. Syedi Ali Reis, (1553-1556 A.D.) Turkish.

Syedi Ali Reis (1498–1563 A.D), was an Ottoman admiral. He served on the rank of Commander of the Ottoman fleet in the Indian Ocean, and as such, encountered the Portuguese forces based in the Indian city of Goa on several occasions in 1554 A.D. He is famous today for his books of travel the Mir’ât ü il Memâlik (Mirror of Countries, 1557 A.D.) which describes the lands he had seen on his way back from India to Constantinople, and his books of navigation and astronomy the Mir’ât-ı Kâinât (Mirror of the Universe) and the Kitâb ı Muhit: El Muhit fî ılmîl Eflâk ve'l Buhûr (Book of the Regional Seas and the Science of Astronomy and Navigation) which contain information on navigation techniques, methods of determining direction, calculating time, using the compass, information on stars, sun and moon calendars, wind and sea currents. After landing at Gujarat, he proceeded to the fortress of Daman and received permission from Malik Esed, the governor of Daman to whom he accepted to leave the armament of his ships, the permission for himself and his men to freely roam the coastline and the mainland. He established good relations with Sultan Ahmed, the 12-year-old new ruler of Gujarat the successor of Sultan Bahadur. He died in Constantinople in January 1563 A.D.


Among all the voyages of this period the collection of the information from Nicolo de Conti is significant in both date and importance.\footnote{17} He was a Venetian from a noble family. Involved in business at Damascus; the exact date of his voyage is not known however he visited the places like Persia, Malabar and some parts of central India, the island of Ceylon, Sumatra and Java. Besides this he visit China, Ethiopia,
Cairo and reached in Venice in 1444 A.D. after twenty five years. He narrates his experiences to Poggio Bracciolini the Pope’s secretary who wrote it in Latin.\textsuperscript{18} His book had the title, “\textit{The Travels of Nicolo Conti in the East in the early parts of the Fifteenth Century}.”

He mentioned about the river Ganga the bamboos trees grow around it, crocodile and fishes in it. Besides the description of precious stones, fruits, art of writing, catching and taming of elephants by him is brilliant and valuable. Society and culture is also touched in his account for example he mentioned about the manners and customs of the people of Calicut and Cochin like the practice of Polyandry in which a women had more than one husband.\textsuperscript{19}

7. \textbf{Athanasius Nikitin, (1469-1472 A.D.) Russian.}

He was a Russian traveler visited India about 1468 A.D. and returned in 1474 A.D. after six years as he spent six Easter in the foreign nations.\textsuperscript{20} He first steps India in the port of Chaul south of present Mumbai. He mentioned Bider as the principle city of all the Muslim Empire in India. The grandeur and luxury of the young ruler of Bider attracts him much. He went to Budhkhouse at Perwattum which he calls the Jerusalem of non-Muslims. Their customs and manners and their relations with the Muslims whom he called invaders included in his account. Probably deals Calicut without visiting as he looks uncomfortable in wording, spent four years in Bider and its nearby places. It was said that he died before reaching Smolensk and his account was brought to Russia by some merchants of Moscow. “\textit{The Travels of Athanasius Nikitin}” is the title of his account. The writing style of Nikitin is uncouth and is not easy to understand and to locate the name of places he identifies because he called the Indian names in Russian style.\textsuperscript{21}

8. \textbf{Hieronimo de Santo Stefano, (1495-1496 A.D.) Genovese.}

He was a Genoese merchant who visited India for mercantile purposes in the late of fifteenth centuries. He faced lot of sorrows and difficulties during his travel. The first place in India he visits is Calicut where he noticed Polyandry like Conti. He wrote his account at Tripoli. “\textit{The Journey of Hieronimo Di Santo Stefano}”, his
account though not in length but helpful in bridging some gaps and testifying the information provided by other travelers.  

9. **Duarte Barbosa, (1500-1516-17 A.D.) Portuguese.**

Among the historians of India Duarte Barbosa has always been held worthy of distinct place for as he lived at the end of fifteenth century and in the early sixteenth century, his period includes almost all the discoveries made by Portuguese and Spanish. He travelled with the spirit of investigation through all those new regions and described the principle towns and seaports starting from the Cape of S. Sebastio near the Cape of Good Hope. Duarte Barbosa remained in the service of Portuguese government in India from 1500 to 1516 or 1517 A.D.

His account bears the title, "*The Book of Duarte Barbosa.*" He was very much familiar with the language of the common people of Malabar and speaks and understands it well. Talking about the linguistic talent of Duarte Barbosa Correa stated that this person learnt the speeches of Malabar so well that he spoke healthier then the public of the country. He remained at Cananor and in 1503 A.D. when the fleet of Albuquerque came he acts as interpreter on his convention with the king of Cananor. Correa consider him a great author on the people of east and he did not give any information by saying.

“For my intention to write nought regarding these lands and their customs as there are certain persons who have already done so of whom one was Duarte Barbosa the nephew of feitor (agent) Gil Fernandes Barbosa, who has composed a treatise, which I have seen, of all the lands, peoples, laws, customs, and dealings from the Lequeos following the whole sea as well as the Cape of Good Hope”

This assertion clarify the extent of the work of Duarte Barbosa but it did not endure with the modern writers that the recognition of this work rests on the authority of Ramusio alone. He further remarks.

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22. R. H. Major, p.lxxix.
24. Ibid., p.xxxiii.
“And in as much as I have taken up this labour under no temptation of greed, vainglory or envy, but solely to satisfy my own desires, and shall write nought concerning the lands, peoples, and trade, as there are several who have occupied themselves therewith, of which I have seen certain volumes and especially a book on these matters composed by Duarte Barbosa, writer of the Cananor factory therefore I shall labour only to write very fully the noble deeds wrought by our Portuguese militant in these parts of India both great and small.”

This more supports the labours of Duarte Barbosa and importance of his work. An interesting story that there was another Duarte Barbosa in 1529 A.D. visited India and served as the interpreter in Cananor and knows the Malabari language very well but after complete analysed this statement had not enough support.

The worth of work of Duarte Barbosa was geographical and ethnographical studies as he himself mentioned that my aspiration was not to write history but to explain the people of the country and its produce. In this way he was alone in that time whose accounts are precise in many ways and show large order of his examination. He was important particularly to south India where he spent maximum time and had knowledge of the people about whom we find very little information in other sources. Caste system, trade, customs and manners are excellently deal by him wherever he visited. The description of caste system and other aspects of social set up of south India hardly found in any of the early travelers except in the account of Alberuni who visited in the eleventh century but his account restricted to north India. Moreover Barbosa wrote after four centuries of Alberuni so the changes definitely occur because at his time north India is under Muslim rule. The consequences of Muslim rule could not be underestimated as it is mentioned in number of accounts of different periods. To test the accuracy of the Barbosa account presently there are number of sources like Malabar Gazetteer of Thurston and other ethnographical works issued by the government of Madras and by the states of Travancore and Cochin during British period.

I noticed after going through the account of Barbosa and come to the conclusion that when he moves from Cape de Comorin the information rapidly became scarce. In concluding the significance of the Book of Duarte Barbosa, I have only to insert that the price of his work becomes clearer on more close relationship.

28. Ibid., p.xxxvi
His careful and delicate comments regarding the customs of the races of east are unequalled among the writers of his period. His accounts are beneficial for the students who are working on sixteenth century.

10. **Ludovico di Varthema, (1502-1508 A.D.) Italian.**

The birthplace of Varthema is unknown, spelled as Varthema and Berthema both; he was an Italian in the service of Portuguese in India. His death place was also unknown but he was known as Bolgona because that is his own report and the allegiance of his book. Varthema attached as a factor in the Portuguese factory near Cochin and Calicut. He learns Malayalam and Arabic in scrappy form and uses these words in his text in random manners, which clears that the chances of deficiencies exists, geographical mistakes, chapterization also confusing.

In spite of some inaccuracies his account is straight forward. He was also presented as liar that he hired information from Gracia da Orta doctor of medicine who was also a traveler after Varthema. Varthema back to Italy in 1508 A.D. and immediately published a book with the title “Iteneraio de Ludovico di Varthema Bolognese…..nel anno MDX a di vi de Decembrie”. This publication was appreciated and translated into number of languages like Latin Spanish and into English by Richard Eden in 1517 A.D. with the title *The navigation and Voyages of Lewis Wertomannus* translated from Latin version. English and Latin errors were not found in the original Italian version.

His character reflects in his writing shows that he had great love for travelling leaving his wife and children without caring his responsibility towards them. He was not concerned about money and faced lot of miseries and teething dilemma and discomforts. His vigour of mind constant willpower and astonishing resource, when he fell in risky circumstances did not need the help of others to stand for his help. Unkindness was one of the parts of his character; he even secluded one of his kind friends. In short we say that like other people he also possessed multifarious personality.

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31. Ibid., p.vi.
32. Ibid., p.xviii.
33. Ibid., p.xxi.
34. Ibid., p.xxvi, xxvii.
He explained most of things he had seen in his journey in brief perhaps being fare of becoming boring for the readers. He tells about fights and battles in unusual means without giving proper description by which one can understand easily. The readers fell in confusion while reading his account he perhaps wants his name to be memorised for the next generations.


His real name was John son of Hugh and the word Linschoten is the name of his village in Holland where he was born. John was knowledgeable person interested to see the different parts of the world and studying the past and extraordinary adventures.35

“The voyage and travels of John Huyghen Von Linschoten into the east or Portuguese indies; location down a concise discussion of the lands, and sea coasts, with the primary havens, rivers creeks, and other places which were unknown before exposed by Portuguese. Illustrate the customs manners of the Portuguese settled these areas as well as the ethnic Indians, their temples, idols, trees, fruits, herbs, spices and such things. It also includes the manners of idolaters’ religion and worshipping of images, as also for their police and government of their houses, their trade and traffique of their merchandise, how and from whence thence their wares are sold, and brought their: with a compilation of the most unforgettable and worthiest things occurred in the time of his being in the same countries, very profitable and pleasant to all such are well-wishers, or desirous to hear and read a strange thing.”36

The particulars of his journey are composed in his Itinerary, entitled with translation, “The Voyage Of John Huyghen Van Linschoten To The East Indies” which he compiled after his return to home and published in 1596 A.D. The first part was devoted to the states-general and there are number of interruption written in Italic by a learned physician Benard ten Broecke.37 The second portion of the magnificent work of Linschoten published earlier than the first is interesting; enclose the routes leading to India, eastern seas, American coasts. By this anthology his account provides direct beneficial information. Third part contains a short description of the eastern and western coasts of Africa along with the details of America.

The book of Linschoten provided the keys to the Dutch’s to enter India. Linschoten died in 1611 A.D. The book outside Holland became popular and the

37. Ibid., p.xxix.
rottenness of Portuguese empire was exposed and it became clear that a strong rival could throw them out. His work was soon translated unto German and French. With the passage of time new sources about India appeared but the picture of Portuguese Goa was retained with full interest in his work.

Description of cities towns, buildings, customs, manners, politics, sea ports, sea routes etc excellently mentioned. Whereas the spices herbs, drugs which were explained by Dr. Paludanus a learned physician of Enkhuysen. And lastly all the memorable incidents happened during the stay of the author in India.

12. **Ralph Fitch, (1581-1591 A.D.) English.**

Among the English travelers who visited India he was the earliest. The manuscripts of his account are not available and the earliest printed edition was published in Hakluyt’s principal navigations.38 He got appointment to the court of Akbar in 1584 A.D. His account shows the image of Mughal Empire in the time of Shakespeare. The accuracy can be judged by comparison with modern sources as well as the contemporary accounts of both the officials and non-officials historians.39 The accounts of earlier English travelers were incomplete and partial but helpful. They compare the Indian conditions with the conditions in their respective countries which not impressed them much. Actually the account of Fitch was not written for publication. Fitch presented his account to Lord Bulreigh who was interested for the expedition.40

13. **Tome Pires, (1512-1515 A.D.) Portuguese.**

Tome Pires was a man of great merit come to India as a factor of drugs and lived for two and half years in Malacca and died in China after twenty years with hurting experiences.41 The account had some deficiencies in the translation because it was exposed not on right time. The “*Suma Oriental*” is very imperative document of history and geography of the east written in the first half of the sixteenth century most probably in 1512-15 A.D.42 The greater part of Suma written in Malacca possibly it was begun and ended in India.43

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38. Fitch Ralph Fitch, *Early Travels In India, 1583-1619*, Eng. tr. by, William Foster, Printed and Published by, Oriental Books Reprint Corporation, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi, 1985, p.vii.

39. Ibid., p.ix.

40. Ibid., P.x.


42. Ibid., p.xiii.

43. Ibid., p.lxxii.
The Suma Oriental was actually a testimony sent to King Manuel. This account mainly consults with the economy and is not a legendary brilliance. No need to highlight about the historical, geographical, commercial, ethnographical details provided by Pires. From all the Portuguese travelers who wrote their experience Pires also supply in the growth of knowledge.

Not much is known about his early life Gaspar Correa states that he was son of the apothecary of king John ii but Castenhada said that he was apothecary of prince Afonso. He lived in India for nine months. He then went to Malacca and after two years decided to return back to Portugal but his destiny was different and he was chosen as an ambassador to China. But the unfortunate Pires fall in misfortune and died there in about 1540A.D.

14. **Voyage of Pedro Alvars Cabral, (1500-1501A.D.) Portuguese.**

Pedro Alvars Cabral was most probably born in 1467A.D. at Belmonte near the town of Covilhan. He belongs to noble family studied humanities, on the recommendation of Vasco da Gama he was selected for the voyage to India, besides this Dom Manuel also wants and his family conditions and faithfulness to crown contributed for his choice. Therefore we can say he had the support of Da Gama, king and the people of Portugal. He went as delegate of Portuguese king with complete authority to act in crisis. In spite Cabral did not return with full ships of cargo and men with him his voyage occupied a significant place in the history. He was well received with enthusiasm after Vasco da Gama travels.

The voyage of Pedro Alvars Cabral is above all important for the discovery of Brazil by the way. He also visited India which concerned with my topic and the information which contained in the documents produced during this voyage. The fleet of six ships reached Calicut on 13th of September. Merchants came to convene them but Cabral did not speak with them as per directions. After long dialogue with the merchants and the representative of Zamorin the conditions were fixed. However later some difference arose which resulted into Portuguese bombardment on the city.

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44. Tome Pires, p.lxxxiii.
45. Ibid., p.lxxxiv.
46. Ibid., p.xxii.
47. Pedro Alvaraes Cabral, *The Voyage Of Pedro Alvaraes Cabral To Brazil And India*, Eng. tr. by William Brooks Greenlee, Published by J. Jetely, for Asian Educational Services, New Delhi,1995, pp.xxxix, xl.
48. Ibid., pp.xli-xlii.
49. Ibid., pp.xxii, xxiii.
Hindu merchants before the coming of Vasco da Gama and Cabral had commercial relations with Arabs.50

**Sources of his Voyage information**

There is no single source available which gives information about the voyage. All the documents were collected in one book with the title *The Voyage Of Pedro Alvares Cabral To Brazil And India* with English translation. The sources are different letters and documents sent by the people who went with him but he himself did not write any documents. The records available in Portugal were the letters of his appointment, instructions and two letters. For getting the information there are number of sources. First important is Dom Manuel wrote to Ferdinand and Isabella. Some letters were also found in Italy which includes, Marino Saunto and Girolamo Priuli. But most of these documents were of mercantile nature. Originally written in Portuguese but translated into Italian. The author name is still not confirmed and it is referred as anonymous narrative. This account includes the letter of Giovanni Francesco de Affaitadi, a merchant and some other printed in Venice in 1507. These were translated into number of languages. The report of Venetian Ca Masser, as well as the Florentine merchants letter sent to home including Amerigo Vespucci, the account of Priest Joseph, the letter of bishops to Mesopotamia, and the History of Zain Al Din.51

15. **Domingo Paes, (1520-1522 A.D.) Portuguese.**

He was a Portuguese traveler who visited the kingdom of Vijayanagar when it was in full might. His account was collected and translated by Robert Sowell in his book The Forgotten Empire with the title *Narrative of Domingo Paes*. His account provides valuable information about the social, cultural, political and economic condition of the Vijayanagar kingdom. He beautifully mentions the grandeur of its ruler. For example the palaces of the city, roads markets condition of nobles, businessmen, women, and common people. He very beautifully and in detail mention the celebrations of festivals, the position of women in the society, their diverse roles ranging from Queens, administrative officers, aristocrats, military duties, prostitution, dancers, musicians, to the menial works of cooking and sweeping. Similarly the religious perspective was also deal by him in good order for example about the temple activities like idol worshiping, prayers and the ceremonies which were

50. Cabral, pp.xxv, xxvi.
51. Ibid., pp.xxxv-xxxix.
performed by the rulers, priest, queens, nobles and common people. The description of the city of Vijayanagar is found in detail and one can understand the architecture, palaces, temples, water tanks, gardens by consulting his account. In a way his account is very beneficial for the reconstruction, testifying and bridging the gaps in information if consulted carefully by comparing with the contemporary sources.


Nuniz was also a Portuguese traveler who visited India almost twenty years after Paes. His account was also translated by Robert Sowell and published in the same book The Forgotten Empire with the title “Chronicle of Fernao Nuniz”. His account was written after Paes so it bridges the gap of those fifteen years. However most of his information is similar with Paes on socio-cultural, political, economic condition of the kingdom. But his account concentrates more on the political condition. He mentions about the military activities the enmity of Vijayanagar with Adil Shah of Bijapur and other Muslims states of the south India. He in details provides the information about the ruling dynasties of kingdom.

After the brief introduction about the travelers which I consulted in my research work I move to the introduction of my research work. Society and culture are important aspects of all periods of man progress. Various available sources of divergent nature help us to explore the history of mankind from his evolution on the earth. For example if one wants to know about pre-Historic period which had no written accounts, in case they wrote, the scripts used in various inscriptions on the rocks, metals plates etc still not deciphered and we assumed the type of society on the basis of signs by comparing them with those which were available to us in various forms. The archaeological, sources of knowing about historical progress of man such as inscriptions, plates, coins, and other materials remains of past. Whereas written sources includes religious texts, histories, biographies, letters, Farmans, Nishans, all these sources provides valuable information on social, economic, political, religious, geographical aspects etc. Although they were written for some specific purposes and concentrate much on the field of author interest or for the benefits of the individuals under whose influence they were written. Naturally in the text deliberately or by chance he came across various things which were explored by a historiographer through careful study, keeping all proportions of historiography in mind he derived important information from these sources. A historian after research divides it into different sections and wrote histories of different periods. The sources might in the
form of poetry, official histories, religious sermons, non official writers and contemporary and near contemporary historians, travelers’ writers, poets, saints, etc. One of the important things which I choose in my research work is the accounts of travelers who visited India and pen down their experience.

Trend of travelers coming to India is in practice from centuries since the time immemorial, for diverse objectives like trading, religious pilgrimage, missionary, invading, ruling, ambassadors, voyages, to serve in the court of rulers as nobles, soldiers’ religious interpreter trainers guides etc.

India is one of the primitive cradles of human civilization. It is famous for producing extensive literature on philosophy and religion including beliefs, rituals and ceremonial; cosmogony, cosmology, geography, astronomy and associated sciences; political and economic doctrines and practices; and little about all branches of secular life but, peculiarly enough, it lacks in any historical work of importance till the eleventh century when Kalhana a learned Kashmiri Brahmin wrote a book known as Rajtarangni. It is not easy to elucidate the lack of attention in history.

The earliest reference of India in accounts written by foreigner found in the works of ancient Greeks who had some superficial knowledge of India. The person like Ptolemy, Strabo, Pliny, consult India in their writings. But the invasion of Alexander in 323 B. C. opens a new era in the Indo-Greek relations. His campaign accompanied by eminent people in science and letters for the purpose of describing about India although all those accounts now lost but they provide material and an insight to the later writers. Before the period of my concern the ambassador in the court of Chandragupta Mourya Magasthense who wrote about India in his book Indica and the anonymous narrative of Periplus of the Erythrean Sea which contained the Greek knowledge of India. It may be pointed out that Greeks sources are defective in many ways, as most of them never visited India and naturally recorded what they heard from the visitors who may be unqualified and ignorant people. This point was further clarified by Strabo that difficulty in getting information was the great distance.

Chinese travelers Huan_Tsang Fa-Hein, Itsing who came to India as religious pilgrim to visit the places associated with Buddhism wrote their experiences which automatically converted into interesting information.

Arabs had the monopoly of trade in ancient and medieval period with Asia, Africa and Europe and therefore they visit various cities of different countries
including coastal cities of India. This trade receive boom after the rise of Islam, and marks the beginning of Indo-Arab relation in a new way. The important Arabs accounts of India in the form of Travel Diaries are Sulaiman Tajir, Abu Zaid Hasan Sirafi, Abu Dulaf, and Ibn i Battuta. Histories, includes Balazuri, Yaqubi, Muhallabi, Mutahhr bin Tahir, Muqaddasi, whereas works on Geography are Ibn Khurdazbih, Ibn al Faqih, Buzurg bin Shahryar, Istakhari, Ibn Haqual, Masudi, Bashari al Maqdisi, Idrisi, Qazwini, Ibn i Said Magharabi, Abul Fida. Biographical Dictionaries are Ibn Abi Usaibia, As-Safadi, Ibn Hajar, and Al-Beruni, Al-Umari and Al-Qalqashandi. Some of them visited India whereas some got information from the visitors or from the accounts of others but useful.

Before introducing to the chapters of this thesis certain important points which are necessary to be clarify for the readers. The word travelers itself signifies that they are not the indigenous people but come from outside. Outsiders belong to different Socio-cultures, economic, political setup. Travelers’ accounts are very useful source of information on society and culture. But they require to be carefully analyzed before reaching to any conclusion. While studying the accounts of travelers one must keeps in mind the factors which influenced them like the knowledge of Indian languages, the duration of their stay, the motive of their visit the purpose of their writing and lastly by comparing them with each other as well as with the contemporary Indian sources for reaching to more accuracy.

The chance of bios always remained in any of the writing. That might be regional, religious, racial etc. Bios attitude was influenced by favour or to glorify the person to whom it was dedicated. Moreover in order to make the account interesting the writer might use exaggeration. Besides they also wrote in their own perspective as they were not much familiar with Indian conditions. In order to gain the fame in their countries by explaining the wonders of the places they visited and for that reason they might use exaggeration. Because at that time travel too far of places was not easy tasks it’s full of risks, expensive, time consuming, energetic so it is not possible for all the people to go there and clarify whether the information is authentic.

Purpose of their visit also influenced their writings in order to get more benefits relaxation and favour both in India and their respective nations. Thus the writer had free hand to write whatever they like as for whom they are writing are ignorant about the subject in most of the cases. Thus the chances of errors are not negligible.
Some accounts were written by the persons who were not independent but were under royal patronage and also lived in the courts after getting job so they did not know much about common people. But the travelers who came here only for this purpose and stayed for long time and travels extensive areas provide much reliable information about common masses. The court historians did not deal the life and condition of common people. Thus for that the travels accounts are very important. However the information regarding royal and high classes was closely examined by those who stayed in the court. The sources of my period of research deals with north as well as south India and probably much on south India as during this period number of European travelers visit for the purpose of trade and wrote extensively. Sources were written in different languages fortunately the translations of most of them were available in library of Centre of Advanced Studies, Department of History, as well as different other libraries.

The first chapter of this thesis is “Social Division, Position of Women and Slavery” this chapter contains the detailed information of the social division and the rules and regulations in practice for various castes. For example the Brahmans besides doing priestly actions also cooks the food for the rulers and help the traders in transporting things from place to other as they enjoyed the privileges of non disturbance and also rules in some kingdoms of Malabar during this period. On the other hand in north India they enjoyed the same privileges and maintain order in such a manner that they were allowed to adopt any profession even of three remaining castes but did not allow the lower castes to adopt their profession. Kshatriyas of north and Nayres of south India have the same responsibilities and rights. Vaishyas third in order do the business activities and accumulate wealth. But the condition of Shudras and out castes is very bad and treated in most inhuman way. Untouchbility present in the society and they too in a strict manner and the offender were severely punished but the punishment is the violation of human rights as it was confined to low castes whereas the high castes enjoyed freedom and pay any damage to low folks without any restrictions.

The position of women is mixed in some cases their condition is fine whereas in another deplorable. The women were rich they performed the role of queen and in a way influenced the ruler very much they served as bureaucrat, nobles, army, business on one hand and on the other hand they performed prostitution for earning, became temple property due to false notion and do menial jobs like servant, sweeping
working in the fields a source of amusement for the rulers and high class people without any right even force to be slaves and concubines. The Muslims women were also made slaves but in the states like Bengal and Gujarat they were given some rights and allowed to have their own property. Purdha system prevailed among Muslims women as well as among the royal and rich classes under Muslim influence. They were carried in the palanquins designed in such a way that no one could judge who was inside. Similarly the Nayres of south India did not allow their women to visit markets anytime but specific days and time was fixed and that too during night or on the occasions of some festivals. Royal women were also not free as they were provided with female servants and eunuch bodyguards and no one was allowed even the child of advance age to live with them, this attitude was not reserved for some specific communities but to all Muslims, Hindus, Christens, Jews and Mesticos of Portuguese. The ruler maintained large harems as observed by the travelers and testified by the contemporary accounts. May be it is exaggeration that some rulers had four thousand wives all might not be but the statement they had large harems is proved. Their character represented by some travelers as bad which to some extent close to reality but not all is truth as they presented them. Slave system is popular during that period as its roots are very earlier. Men women children all were recruited as slaves. It is kind of business for the traders and their transfers to different countries in progress. Muhammad bin Tughlaq recruited many slaves in his army. Slaves were used in household works, agriculture, employed in the Karkhanas army etc.

Chapter 2nd entitled “Socio-Cultural Description of India by Foreign Travelers” deals with some other aspects of socio cultural life of people of India. Customs and manners in spite of similarities vary from one region to other from one society to other. For example some Malabar societies who follow the polyandry and women take the responsibility of upbringing children in matriarchal families. While some did not marry with a virgin girl and thus girls of these societies dedicate the virginity to the idols. Customs represent the condition of the society. Muslims and non Muslims were differentiated as well as the northern region and southern part of country. However the influence of cultures on each other seems in many fields.

In south India the eldest son of the sister was the successor not the own son unlike the northern India. Different customs of seating, sitting, praying, travelling, respecting, honouring, punishing, prevailed in the country all are discussed in this chapter. Fairs and festivals were also celebrated with great enthusiasm by both the
communities. Non Muslims and Muslims as well as the follower of other religion like Jews, Christens, Jains etc. Eid and Mahanavmi Narouz, Shab i Barat, Eid Milad, Muharram, Dusehra, Dipavali, Rakshabandhan celebrations are wonderful in which the royal people spend the money lavishly in order to show there grandeur and power. Alms were given to the poor people, sacrifices of animals even among the follower of Hinduism while celebrating Mahanavmi goats, sheep and buffalo were sacrificed, however cow and oxen treated by them scared and if anyone found guilty of their killing he was awarded with death. Marriages were organised in full vigour particularly the royal marriages, child marriages among the common people visible and the average age is eight to twelve. Feasts, music dance present in all the ceremonies. Difference in the marriages of various communities explained in this chapter.

On the death of a person the mourning ceremonies are very interesting which followed by the coronation of the new ruler in diverse style. Then comes the oath ceremonies to the new ruler and to those who commit some crime but no witness is available. Soldiers were recruited through a separate institution and their payments and training all were fixed at the time of recruiting in the presence of all the people accompanied him in the palace of king. The presence of the religious people like the priest to perform the rituals during any celebration was necessary as these are guided and established by religion, and in those days religion is most important factor which influenced the social setup. Dress and foods of the people discussed which concluded that that the royal attires and the dress of the high class people are costly whereas the common people almost remained naked except covering of their private organs.

Woollen cloths were not found in abundance and therefore only the high class people afford them. In some parts of Malabar even kings wear nothing above the waist but below they put white cloth of cotton or silk. Jewellery of diamond, gold, silver, precious stones wear by the people, it was not restricted to females but males also used rings in their ears, necklaces and used jewellery in decorating the dress. Women use jewellery in necks, arms, ankles which fully covered these parts. People generally remained clean and neat and bath daily. However the style and design of the dresses differs region wise. The fashion of hair styles was varied from region to region but mostly the hairs were wrapped with a cloth embroidered with gold and tied by the silken string. Indians foods are excellent and praised by all the travelers and even goes to the extent that such vast varieties of food items not found anywhere in
the world. Rice bread, meat, mutton, fishes fried in ghee as well as plain varieties were consumed. Almost eight types of spices they used in their meals.

Some Indians particularly the Jains of Gujarat did not eat radish, garlic, onion or any other things whose colour was red and the eggs as they believed that blood present in them. Large varieties of fruits of excellent taste found and eaten by people, including orange, mango, coconut, Jamun, banana, pomegranate etc. Drinks like wine was not much found in India however they prepared the toxic ting liquid from some trees which they prepared by applying various methods. The royal class people eat in the silver and gold plates and cups. But common people in Malabar used the leaves of plants like banana, palm and cook the food in the pots of clay. Eating manners are different most of the Indian eat sitting on the ground rather than on chairs.

Third chapter of this thesis deals with some other aspects including religion of society with the title “Religious Institutions, and Excellence of India in Arts, Skills, Music and Health Services.”

India is called as the land of religions where number of religion took birth important are Buddhism, Jainism and Hinduism believe in Aryan religion which majority of scholars believed came from outside. Christianity Islam and Judaism are three major Abrahamic religions came from outside due to reasons like trade, invasion, migration etc. Islam came in the seventh century by the invasion of Muhammad bin Qasim on Sindh but the traces in south India were earlier as Arabian had trade relation from ancient time thus the transformation of culture is obvious, but no doubt flourished much after the establishment of Turkish rule. The Christianity flourished due to missionary activities. In India majority of population is idol worshiper. They believed in number of gods and goddesses as the incarnations of Supreme Being some believed in Trinity. They have their own rites and rituals associated with religion and vary from region to region society to society and even caste to caste. Brahmans occupied the supremacy of religion and believed to be the interpreter between God and man. Islam had dominance in north India where powerful Muslims ruled though there are Muslim states in south along with powerful non Muslim state Vijayanagar. The Muslims of coastal areas were involved in trading activities and grow rich. Christen gain power in Goa after Portuguese came into power they had business relation with India. Jains occupied mainly in Gujarat but spread in all other states as they belong to merchant class, believed in non violence. Jews were rich class and believed in the Law of Moses settled in various states.
Believing in heaven and hell present among Indians and depend on the deeds of the person. Fasting for the sake of their gods also exists and it had some fixed days. With the involvement in fights designed for political motives religion was used by the rulers whoever in general most of the ruler as well as the population is tolerant. Because the rulers treat the subjects of their kingdoms equally except when there arise some rebellion, hundreds of such examples which shows how the people of various religions served under same rulers and also got favour and promotion depending on his merit. The best proof of religious harmony was the existing of so many religions without being interrupted by the state. All the people lived in religious harmony and have their own flourishing worshiping centres like mosques, churches, temples etc. Idols were made of silver gold, ivory and precious stones in the shape of apes, men women, cow, and bulls’ elephants all with the beautiful and ugly features.

Sacrifices particularly among the Hindu community are interesting and rude due to superstitions. The rituals of worshipping were different and interesting and mentioned in details in this chapter. But rituals in which the lives of human beings were taken were extremely condemnable like the donation of limbs to the idols, some lend their life under the wheels of cart and some cut their necks by sharp things by hanging themselves on the recommendation of priests to make idol happy. If sometimes due to any reason the aim of the people or the ruler was not succeeded after constant efforts they start assessing it was due to the despondency of the idols and therefore they kills the human beings.

River Ganga considered as pious and people come to bath in it believing that all their sins washed and they turn like a newly born child. This practice was still in fashion and the ashes of dead ones were drawn in the said river.

Sufis the people who spend their lives with extreme devotion to God found all over India. They were divided into number of Silsilahs. The important of these Silsilahs are Chishti, Sahurwardi, Qadri, Naqshbandi. They have their own Khanqas in which religious teachings and practices were offered. The facilities for eating of poor people were working by the alms collected in these Khanqas. They are the literate people and know the religion well and teach love, patience, forgiveness, and tolerance thus people of all the religions attached to them with devotion.

Jogis are the ascetics’ people among the non Muslim community live very hard life for the sake of God. Their mode of living, eating wearing was different from rest of population. They perform hard exercises like fasting sitting outside in heat and
cold without wearing cloths. They were astrologer and consulted by rulers and common people even the Muslim rulers offered great respect and honour their dignity. Some of the Jogis do not wash their bodies and comb hairs over long period but they did not believe in untouching and propagate love patience, devotion to God, serving the people without harming to others.

Music is important part of our life from the long time. It has deep influence on the mind and heart of men. In a way it is the companion of a person in his joys and sorrows proved friend in relaxation. During the period of my research music was richly developed and there are many places especially famous for it. These places were beautifully decorated and extraordinary beautiful women sings and play the musical instruments for entertaining the audience in the marriages, religious ceremonies, victory celebrations and welcoming the people of reputation. Singers during that period were mostly women, though men also involved in it but there percentage is low. Drums, fluits, kettle-drums, trumpet are famous musical instruments and in Delhi, Daulatabad as well as in the city of Vijayanagar marvellously decorated destinations for the musicians preserved.

In India there are large number of artisans who makes various things such as swords, bows, spears, and different kinds of weapons. Coat mail, goldsmiths, embroiders saddlers and experience people of all the craft who prepared extraordinary things for men and women and for soldiers and writers as well as for general masses.

The buildings were so much beautifully designed and completed that the imagination of men trembled. Water channels, gardens, orchards, floor, roof prepared in such a way that they shows the magnificence of heaven on earth.

The images of tigers, lions, beasts, birds, resembled the natural finishing and the viewer astonished by the artistic skills of Indians.

Thrones of the ruler were made of gold, silver and precious stones and finishing is so excellent that it could not be compared with any country. Factories for manufacturing of various things were established; in short India is the country in which class artisans were available in all fields.

Skills were excellent in fulfilling number of activities like irrigation tanks, catching of elephants, hunting of fishes, and other animals. The process of bringing diamond from a mountain was genius of mind. Dancing skills were taught by making the images depicting various positions of dance. Markets in all the major provinces and cities possessed all commodities all these aspects were deals in this chapter.
Number of diseases spread due to climate and the pollution in the country. They are so much dangerous that takes the lives of number of people every year. Hospitals designed for the people of high classes and common people present in which the treatment was done with the help of herbs. The treatment ways varies for different diseases like piles, chicken pox, fever, headache, injuries. Medicines were prepared from the plants, fruits, herbs and animals and in this field Indian were experienced and advanced.

Fourth chapter of thesis discussed under the title “Foreign Affairs, Profiles Judiciary, Education and Public Welfare of Indian Rulers.” This chapter deals with very important aspects of India. The exchanging of embassies among the rulers of India and the neighbouring countries is common. The far of countries also sent their ambassador to India to strengthen friendship securing political, economic and religious ties. Chinese emperor sent an embassy to Muhammad bin Tughlaq comprised of ambassador, slaves, as well as large number of presents. In response Muhammad bin Tughlaq also sent embassy of which Ibn i Battuta the great traveler was a part. He sent much more presents and costly gifts for the Chinese ruler. Items include Kashmir woollen cloths, Greek linen, wrapper gold and silver jugs, glasses, cap embroidered with precious stones as well as horses, male and female servants, singers and dancers. Besides China he sent an embassy with alms to distribute in the city of Kufa. An envoy with huge money for distribution in Transoxania was sent. The ruler of Maldives and Ceylon are in good relation with India. Abdur Razzaq the ambassador of Shahrukh came to Calicut but live much time in Vijayanagar was a symbol of good foreign relations. King of Vijayanagar confirmed from him the riches of the great khan and the cities of Samarqand, Heerat and Shiraz. The exchanging of gifts and presents includes in it but the purpose of this ambassador seems political. The ruler of Calicut and Bengal also sent their ambassador to the court of great khan. Muhammad bin Tughlaq wrote a letter to Caliph Omar bin Abdul Aziz mentioning the riches, wealth and extent of his empire. Portuguese succeeded in forming good relations with Vijayanagar by adopting various tactics. King of Portugal sent a letter to the Calicut ruler in order to secure trade concession and to adopt the faith of Christ. Responding to this he also sent some people to Portugal whose ruler become happy. The fleet of Cabral was warmly received by the king of Calicut himself.

The second field of discussion in this chapter is the profile of Indians rulers. Starting from Muhammad bin Tughlaq possessing generosity genius, bravery and
cruelty in a way a man of mixed character. He received the foreigners with kind heart
and arranged all facilities for them. He was popular among his subjects and anyone
approach him without any hindrance. Grandeur of Muhammad bin Tughlaq was
beyond expression. Large number of people accompanied him in his journeys with
elephants, horses, decorated beautifully as well as jurists, Faqihs, singers, dancers etc.
He distributes huge amount among poor and needy and foreigners generously.
Grandeur of Sultan Mahmood of Bahamani kingdom was magnificent.

Vijayanagar was important and powerful state of the period. The various
dynasties ruled over it were of varying nature. One of its just and powerful rulers had
the title Crisnaraao Macagao king of kings, lord of great lords of India and of three
seas and of land. The ruler maintains large harem and palaces are massive and
extraordinary magnificent, his army was large and powerful well equipped, expert
and brave in fighting, the wealth and treasures of the kingdom was enormous and
vast.

The kings of Malabar reside in earthen houses plastered with cow dung. Their
habits and manners are different. Some of them did not adopt legal wives and their
successors were nephews.

Calicut king had thousand women at his palace for doing various works.
Fountains for his bath lie within the houses. His grandeur was more than any other
ruler of world as no one dared to touch him except with three four steps long stick
used for giving him anything for avoiding direct touch. While talking with him the
head was kept low and hand was put before the mouth. People of low origin had no
right to speak are to see him.

The grandeur of prince is marvellous when come to participate in funeral
rights or some other occasions he was accompanied by lords, Nayres and nobles and
beating drums, trumpets, flutes, cymbals, and tambourines and musical instruments
by which they make great synchronization.

Public convenience works carried by the rulers of various parts of the country.
Roads were built in all parts of the country used by the army as well as the wayfarers.
The road between two capitals Delhi and Daulatabad was the most convenient and
secure trees were planted on sides and postal stations after some distance in which
Sultan stays whereas the common people rests in hospices. Another road of six
months journey from Delhi to Ma’bar goes with same manner. A similar road runs
from Sarandip to Quilon which was facilitated with benches of wood and water on
sides and trees for shade. Beasts for burden and Dola for carrying the traveler on the shoulder if one likes were available. This road was most safe as there was no chance of steals if someone tired he tie the luggage with iron strip on earth no one touches it. Mosques served as the resting place for the travelers in all the provinces and markets facilities made available. During famine provisions for the people were maintained at the expenses of royal stores and treasury. Some rich people built the hospices in which food and water served example was the mother of Muhammad bin Tughlaq.

Judicial system is very important part of the administration of any government. Justice and fare trial giving is necessary for establishing a just judiciary. Muhammad bin Tughlaq on the recommendation of Qazi sent two of his brother in laws Amir Gadha and Mughis in exile. On the complaint of a Hindu subject Sultan orders the Qazi to give the decision which goes against Sultan and he gives the payment as compensation. In another case a boy accused Sultan that he beats him without any reason Sultan gives him stick to give him the same number of blows. Above mentioned incidents shows that Muhammad bin Tughlaq accepts the verdicts which goes against him.

But an important thing must be remembered was that he punished the criminals as well as the offenders of the laws of state with cruelty. Army jurists, nobles even the Sufis were not spared. Best example was Hud the grandson of Bahauddin Zakariya who miss utilized the wealth of the hospice punished with execution. A Shaikh, Qazi, Muhatassib and their companion were put to death as they praised a rebel in a meeting. In short he was very cruel towards the crime accused and shows no mercy in any condition which is not suitable for proving innocence.

The punishment of adultery was death in Delhi whereas in Bengal the nose and lips were removed from face. The ruler of Cambay awarded death to the nobles if they failed to perform their duties. In Vijayanagar the nobles received both punishment and rewards for their services. If the accuse was in relation with the king he himself beats him and orders for the confiscation of his property. The ruler of Quilon and Calicut did not forgive the criminals and the offenders of the law. Theft robbery adultery was awarded with death penalty. The stolen things after recovery go to the state treasury not to the owner. Various methods used in proving the guilty discussed in details in this chapter. Cutting of foot and head for minor theft, crushing under the feet of elephant was not unknown. The order of the king was strictly obeyed without any excuse. However some privileges classes like Nayres and Brahmins
sometimes escapes if they do a crime which was not against state and associated with lower class people.

Education is the most important part of any society and nations. Education system of India in medieval period was largely influenced by religion. However some attempts were made to provide secular education but restrict to some people. Number of Madarsas, Patshalas, Maktabs were found in the country run through Madad i Mash grants and in charity. Women were not able to get education however some women of high class families are educated and performed number of activities.

Fifth and final chapter of this thesis is about the major cities, towns and buildings used by common people as well as the palaces and religious buildings. Title of this chapter is “Description of Cities, Towns and Buildings”. The architecture and the skills of the artisans in the construction and finishing of the buildings and the material used in them discussed in length in this chapter. All the information gained from the accounts of foreign travelers. For better understanding the cities towns and buildings were divided on regional basis firstly North and Eastern India, secondly Central and western India thirdly Deccan, fourthly South India. Delhi is most important city and capital of India comprised of Siri, Tughlaqabad, Jahan Panah built by three different rulers Alauddin Khilji, Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq and Muhammad bin Tughlaq. City was well protected and fortified and its rampart had no comparison with any city of world and some mentioned that it was best city of whole east. Number of entrance and exit gates were constructed and given various names like Badaun Mandavi, Shah, Palam, Najib, Ghazna, and Bajalsa, Darwaza. Besides this the mosques graveyard and gardens shining with beautiful flowers like rose, tuberose, jasmine, wild rose and many other are blooming in all the seasons. Congregational mosque of the city is built of white stones joined beautifully in roofs, floor and streets. Pavilions were beautifully constructed.

Gold silver and white stones used in the minaret of the mosque from the top of which whole city could be seen this minaret was marvellous piece of art constructed by grandson of Balban. The buildings are made up of bricks and stones, covered by wood and floor was white similar to marble, not more than two floors and some have only one story. Nobody use marble except Sultan. About one thousand Madarsas working in Delhi and hospitals as well as tanks for drawing water two important one built by Alauddin Khilji Houz i khas and other built by Iltumush. Firouz Shah
Tughlaq construct number of cities and towns important are Hisar Firouza, Fatehbad, Jounpur, Firouzabad etc.

Janani, Sivistan, Lahari, Ajodhan, Sarsuti, Hansi, Bukkur, Uch and Multan are other major cities started from the entrance of India and reaches up to Delhi. Similarly Bayana, koil, Kanauj, Mawri, Marh, Alapur, Gwalior, Parwan, Chanderi, Dhar, Ujain all found in India with large and small sizes with extra ordinary magnificence and features. Agra, Fathehpur sikri, Banaras, Patna, Bengal, Chittagong, Habanq all these cities and towns are very important due to number of reasons Agra and Fathepur sikri served as capital under Mughals and Ralph Fitch mentioned that both are greater than London and he praised the magnificence of buildings there architecture is master piece of art. Banaras is very important city in respect of the religious attachment of Hindus from very long time and occupied the same position even today. Bengal was a flourishing province of India in terms of it abundance of produce of various items and served as important centre of trade and commerce within India as well as outside India.

The central and western Indian cities and towns are fine and important centres of various aspects. Cambay was most important with excellent buildings and flourishing trade and commerce. Ships from number of countries reached here and took the material of trade to various countries. The houses are fine and patronizing with openings, roofs and tiles similar to Portuguese houses with balanced lanes. The houses are fine and denigrating with gap, roofs and tiles similar to Portuguese houses with fair lanes. Large courtyards and great buildings made up of stones and mortar were positioned at lovely site with all requirements and only the auspicious people lives there who were both Muslims and Hindus. Transport services accessible in the form of chariot run by horses and oxen. Other important cities and towns are Dhar, Chanderi, and Mandu. Nandurbar, Saghar Kawa, Diu, Champanel, Andava, Limadura, Reynel, and Surat. Baxay, Tana-Majambu, Tormapatani (Dharmapattam), Dinuy. Some of the cities mentioned above also had their own havens and therefore they are associated with trade and commerce and foreigners also settle there to do their business and people are rich and live good life and had good houses and the religious structures, population comprised of both Hindus and Muslims as well as follower of other religion but there number did not exceed much.

About twenty cities and towns found in the Kingdom of Deccan with maximum population including Bider, Bijapur, Sholapur, Raichur, Sagar, Kulbarga,
Qoyer, Bayn Dabul, Cintacora, Chaul, Bamda, Golconda etc. Raichur is located between two rivers with natural and beautiful streams, wells, gardens, lakes and buildings. The city was fortified with masonry work. Bijapur was considered as most handsome city of Deccan and capital of Adil Shahi kingdom. The city lanes and buildings are of European fashion with number of palaces and gardens in which grows lemons, pomegranates, oranges, lemons etc. Golconda, Bider, Dabul are other important and famous towns with splendid buildings and gardens.

Number of famous and flourishing towns and cities located in south India having own ports and havens with trading activities. Most important of them is Vijayanagar city which was also the name of kingdom. Number of stories associated with the construction of the city mentioned in this chapter. Vijayanagar was under the authority of the king very large and protected. Situated along the hills and covered around seven miles of area. City had three circles of walls; it was located at most beautiful-looking spot provided with the best air of the area, with some charming places for hunting and fowling and appears like heaven. This city was protected by hills and entrance is possible through passes which were well protected. Before reaching to main city one had to pass through number of towns and villages and it was exact centrally positioned and was connected with Nagalpur another city built in the memory of love. Numbers of bright palaces for the use of king, with many courts and large houses brilliantly built, within them are wide places of water tanks appropriate for rearing of lots of fishes and gorgeous parks full of aromatic plants. The houses of lords and governors are magnificent.

Houses of the people were thatched, but constructed very well and organised according to the occupation of its residents in long streets with broad spaces. The general people houses were built in such manners that streets and palaces absent in them. All the people traders as well as other rich man including the local people of the city and those who came from outside were allowed complete freedom, and every man live by his own will and profess his own creed. No confirmation was needed whether he was a Christen, Jew, Muslim, or a Hindu. Equality in justice prevailed not only among the ruler but also among the common masses towards each other.

Splendid markets houses of merchants and palaces which could not be compared with any building of the world were present all these things were discussed in details in this chapter.
Daulatabad the second capital made by Muhammad bin Tughlaq who gave it name of *Qubat ul Islam*. Its original name was Deogir. Muhammad bin Tughlaq repaired it and construct number of buildings there. Other important towns are Hinawar, Paulicat, Baticala, Bacanor, Bracalor, and Mangalore, Belour, Cumbola, Darcha, Majandur, Mailapur, etc.

Calicut was the principal city of Malabar and important centre of commercial activities at that time. The houses distant from each other, lime and stone used in building and they were fixed in each other. Palms leaves used in roofs and doors are large and pretty good. Houses were protected by wall within that they grow plants and lakes of water in which water was stored and used for bathing, whereas drinking water was taken out from wells.

Goa located between two branches of the river. This city was very big made up of fine houses, well girt around by strong walls, along with towers for strong holding. Round this grow vegetables and fruits gardens, trees and reserves of water, and mosques and temples. Later Portuguese take control of it from Bijapur and the construction largely influenced by European style. Other towns of importance are Cananor, Cochin, Quilon, Porqua, Quelicare and Cael, Jurfattan, Dhafattan, Budfatan.