CHAPTER 7

FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

7.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter enlists the detailed findings pertaining to the research objectives based upon the research analysis. It is further followed by some of the relevant suggestions which the policy makers can refer in the context of removing the bottlenecks in infrastructure development of the state. At the end, an overall conclusion is made.

7.2 FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

This section provides with important findings of the study based on the research objectives and analysis. They are as follows.

1) The average share of capital expenditure to the total expenditure during the period 1991-92 to 2014-15 stood at 14.7 per cent and the average share of capital expenditure in state’s GSDP stood at 2.61 per cent.

2) The share of capital expenditure on economic services to the total capital expenditure has seen drastic decline during this period. On an average, the share stood at 82.3 per cent during this period. The average share of capital expenditure on economic services in state’s GSDP stood at 2.13 per cent during this period.

3) The share of capital expenditure on social services to the total capital expenditure has seen considerable increase during this period. It has risen from 4.13 per cent to 21.31 per cent. On an average, the share stood at 14.62 per cent during this period. The average share of capital expenditure on social services in state’s GSDP stood at just 0.4 per cent during this period.
4) The association between capital expenditure on economic services and also social services with GSDP is also found to have high positive correlation significant at 1 per cent level of significance.

5) With regard to economic infrastructure indicators, the inter-taluk disparities have drastically widened across E2, E3, E4, E5, E8 and E9. However in terms of E1, E6 and E7, the disparities are reduced considerably.

6) In terms of Economic Infrastructure Index, during the current year, there are only 12 districts under developed category with EII value above 1. This indicates that the condition of economic infrastructure across most of the districts is worsening. Earlier during base period, there were 78 developed taluks and 97 backward taluks. However during current period the scenario changed and now there are 83 developed taluks and 93 backward taluks.

7) Nearly 12 districts of the state have scored the literacy rate highest than the state’s literacy rate of 75.60 per cent. Almost all the districts have experienced increase in the growth of literacy during the period 2001-2011. Further 70 taluks have literacy rate higher than the state average of 75.60 per cent. 11 taluks in the state have crossed the target of 85 per cent as specified by the 11th Plan Period. Most of the taluks are of Uttar Kannada and Udupi districts.

8) The Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) across almost 25 districts is below the ideal average of 30. Those districts were the PTR is above 30 are Chikkaballapur, Mandya, Kalburagi, Koppal and Yadgiri. Nearly 155 taluks in the state have reported decline in their Pupil-Teacher Ratios during this period. The adverse PTRs in 2013 was noticed in most of the taluks of backward districts.
9) The reduction in the proportion of out-of-school children across all the taluks indicates that more number of children under the age-group 7 to 14 years are entering schools and receiving elementary education.

10) With regard to availability of doctors per 10,000 persons and availability of government beds per 10,000 persons, the disparities across taluks have widened.

11) In terms of Social Infrastructure Index, during the current year, there are 18 districts which are under relatively developed category with SII value above 1 and the remaining 12 districts are under backward category with SII value below 1. During base period, there were 77 developed taluks and 98 backward taluks. Now during the current period there are 89 developed taluks and 87 backward taluks.

12) In terms of Composite Infrastructural Index, Currently there are 5 most backward districts, 3 more backward districts, 5 backward districts and 17 relatively developed districts. Mandya district has gained improvement in its CII value and is ranking 1st in terms of better infrastructure. The 5 most backward districts are Kalburagi, Chikkaballapur, Koppal, Raichur and Yadgir.

13) Most of the taluks have experienced increase in their CII value during current period. Nearly 125 taluks have witnessed this trend. Furthermore some 46 taluks in the state have recorded decline in their CII values.

14) During the current period, there are 91 relatively developed taluks and 85 under backward categories. Devanahalli taluk holds the top-most position and Chincholi taluk is at the bottom most rank with respect to attainment of CII values.
7.3 SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are the important policy suggestions that have been recommended based upon the findings of the study. They are:-

1) Remarkable progress is witnessed across districts and taluks of the state with regard to economic and social infrastructure, but still certain districts and taluks are lacking good roads, drinking facilities, electricity facilities. The policy makers should focus on these regions for bettering the infrastructure in the state. It should sustain the reform policies that attract private and foreign investment in the infrastructure development of the state.

2) With regard to economic infrastructure, Backward districts namely Bangalore Urban, Bagalkot, Kodagu, Tumkur and Chitradurga are lacking in terms of access to banking facilities and number of post-offices per lakh population. Similarly across social infrastructure, they are lagging behind in terms of number of students enrolled in government and aided first grade degree colleges per lakh population and availability of doctors and government beds per lakh population. The policy makers should address across these indicators for backward districts.

3) More Backward districts namely Chamrajnagar, Bidar and Bellary are lagging behind the indicators namely rail route length per 100 sq. km of area, Proportion of villages having access to all weather roads, literacy rate, Percentage of children out of school in the age group 6 - 14 years, enrolment in government colleges and number of government beds per lakh population. On the other hand the most backward districts namely Raichur, Koppal, Kalburgi, Chikkaballapur and Yadgiri are lagging behind in almost all the selected indicators across economic and social infrastructure except proportion of villages having access to all weather roads. Therefore the policy makers should concentrate heavily on these districts for bridging the regional disparities in infrastructure development of the state.
4) Most Backward taluks are lagging behind in terms of educational and health infrastructure indicators. The literacy rate has to be considerably enhanced for ruling out the existing disparities. Concentration also needs to be given with regard to the access to banking facilities across most backward taluks. The more backward taluks are however should be concentrated on improving their infrastructural status across irrigation, communication, electricity and education.

5) No-doubt that there is considerable enhancement of literacy rates across the districts and taluks, but the literacy rate in 27 districts and 165 taluks have not crossed the benchmark of 85 per cent as specified by the Planning Commission during 11th Five Year Plan. This has to be addressed promptly by the policy makers.

6) No-doubt that the Pupil-Teacher Ratio across elementary level has seen decline among districts and taluks and is below the stipulated target, but certain regions have experienced adverse PTR levels. Therefore Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme should increase the number of teachers across those regions for eliminating disparities across the regions.

7) No doubt that drastic reduction is witnessed in case of Out-of-school children of age-group 7 to 14 years across regions and taluks, but further reduction to zero percent would greatly help in ruling out disparities with regard to literacy rate across these regions and would foster inclusive growth in education sector. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the Mid-day meal programme should address this issue urgently.

8) The relatively developed districts in terms of CII should sustain their infrastructural growth in long run and the districts under the backward categories should be given high priority by the public and private investors. Huge funds on a large scale should be directed by the public sector and it should collaborate its partnership with the private sector to speed up the economic and social infrastructural process.
9) The Government should reform its investment policies on infrastructure whenever it feels that its investment on infrastructure is inadequate and accordingly the capital investment has to be realigned across economic and social sectors. This is needed to boost the infrastructural development in the state.

7.4 CONCLUSION

This research work had been carried out with the objective of analyzing disparities across selected indicators in economic and social sectors with regard to districts and taluks in Karnataka. The relative positions of districts and taluks of Karnataka is also assessed based upon rankings related to Composite Infrastructure Index (CII) which is being prepared by averaging the Economic Infrastructure Index (EII) and Social Infrastructure Index (SII).

The policy makers should baseline the resources and innovate their existing strategies so as to bring improvement in the selected indicators across the regions. With this, greater impetus to productive sectors and promotion of international trade will be provided for increasing the economic growth of the state. Unbalanced growth strategy by concentrating on creating economic and social overheads should be followed in the context of development of infrastructure in the state.