Ever since the country embarked on the process of planned development in the year 1951, sustained attention has been paid to harness the copious waters of India's river systems for agricultural development. Waters of these rivers, instead of providing life giving support to the soil, were flowing down the river into the ocean. Ambitious projects were, therefore, taken up to construct dams across these rivers and to store water in reservoirs. Thus the first batch of mighty irrigation projects taken up in fifties, included the Bhakra Nangal, Damodar Valley, Mahanadi and Tungabhadra. These were followed by other projects the Nagarjuna Sagar in Andhra Pradesh, Ghataprabha, Malaprabha and Upper Krishna in Karnataka.

Though these reservoirs stood as a witness to the mighty efforts of the nation, its usefulness depended on how quickly the irrigation potential created would be utilised? The Irrigation Commission felt the need for establishing a statutory body to look into the development of command area in the country. Agricultural Commission made recommendation for establishment of Command Area Development Authorities (CADAs) in the country to harmonise land, water and crops by a multidisciplinary team of engineers, agronomists, soil
scientists and soil engineers under the control and direction of Command Administrator. One of the most important tasks of administrator was to oversee integrated development of the command area.

The present study takes an overview of the objectives and achievement in Ghataprabha project of Belgaum district. The study therefore looks at integrated area development, after reviewing the performance so far.

The present study on command area is with particular reference to employment, income and poverty - a case study in Ghataprabha Command Area. The development of command area, moving from one crisis to another and from one synthesis to yet another, requires an attempt to comprehend several things together leading to repetition and even confusion due to frequent back tracking. The need to avoid this led to describing important objectives and to confine to far-reaching events immediately relevant to the area of the study.

Social justice being the principal aim of developing countries, it is carefully watched that every development effort helps its achievement. Production and productivity must increase but there should not be further rise in income inequalities, poverty and unemployment.
As of now, a few studies have been added to the literature on employment, income and poverty while very few have discussed command area.

The choice of economic and social goals, employment, low capital intensive technology and the present level of poverty, under employment, growing inequality has raised expectations from CADAs.

The approach adopted in this study is to view CAD as an integral part of economic change, calling for continuous dynamic adjustments in its activities.

Much as researcher would have liked to cover the entire gamut of CAD, due to limitation of time and resources, he had to restrict to the study of a few aspects. The study is limited to analytical study due to constraints of individual research.

An attempt is made to evaluate the impact of irrigation in the command area. The emphasis is on the analysis of present approach to CAD and suggestion for further improvement.

Information collected were tabulated, compiled and the statistical analysis, graphs were prepared with the help of computer.
This study contains seven chapters. First chapter deals with introduction, importance of irrigation, irrigation and economic development, command area development etc., while the second and third chapters are review of literature on employment, unemployment, poverty and inequality. The scope, objectives and methodology of the study is presented in the fourth chapter. Study area - A Profile of Ghataprabha Command - is presented in the fifth chapter. The sixth chapter is on the analysis and discussion on Employment, income and poverty in Ghataprabha command area. The last chapter is a brief summary and conclusion.

The study suffers from many limitations and course of study was not all that smooth for many reasons. Notably among them are:

1. Absence of micro level complete data for the command area;

2. With the progress in research work, a need for additional information was felt;

3. Absence of relevant reference literature relating to command area development; and

4. Research work was delayed due to delay in University concurrence for the change of guide and further delay was due to material change in the title and contents of the thesis.
It may be relevant to mention here that for long years, the present researcher is engaged in the area of command studies and irrigation management. That experience has stood him in good stead.

The present research was started under the able guidance of late Dr T K Lakshman, Director, Centre for Rural Development Studies, Bangalore University. After Dr Lakshman's sad and untimely demise, Dr B K Narayan, formerly Professor, Command Area Studies Unit, ISEC and at present, Director, Institute for Command Studies and Irrigation Management, Bangalore, kindly agreed to guide the researcher. Dr A Kalappa, formerly Director, Centre for Rural Development Studies, Bangalore University has taken a great deal of interest in my study, all through.

I am deeply indebted to my beloved teachers, late Dr T K Lakshman, Dr B K Narayan and Dr A Kalappa. But for their encouragement and valuable guidance, I could not have completed this work.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Prof N R Jagannath, Associate Professor, ICSIM, for his constant encouragement and for help in statistical analysis. I also thank Dr R Siva Prasad for his valuable suggestions.
I am extremely grateful to all my colleagues in the Institute for their support. I wish to acknowledge with thanks the work done by Sri J Shivarudramurthachar, Cartographer, ICSIM.

I acknowledge with gratitude Sri H K Govinda Rao, Smt S Meenakshi and Sri N S Ravindra for their secretarial assistance.

My thanks are also due to Sri R Sridhar, Miss S Uma, Miss K S Kantipati and Miss S Bharathi of Dynaram Electronics and Computers and Sri K N Poorna Bodha of the National College, Basavanagudi, Bangalore.

I am benefited by the works of various authors which are included in the Bibliography.

K N BADAMI RAGHAVESH