CHAPTER-VI
PROFILE OF KARNATAKA

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6.1 Profile of Karnataka

Like any living being, which spurs in an environment that is congenial to its life, an industry also grows in an environment that provides a living space and strong support system. Living space may refer to geo-physical environment, socio-economic factors and the political system. The support system would generally include the finance, research, training, extension and consultancy services, besides the large industrial units interested in developing ancillary industries.¹ Hence, an attempt is made in this chapter to present information about socio-economic conditions and infrastructural facilities that prevailed in Karnataka and in Bangalore Rural District at the time of this study.

Karnataka is made up of two words - Karu and Nadu. Karu means elevated and Nadu stands for land. Karnataka thus stands for elevated land as it is a state which has the highest elevation in India, averaging 1500 feet. Three major zones make up the physical feature of Karnataka and they are the coastal strip, the Western Ghats, and the Deccan Plateau. The coastal strip lies between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea, and receives moderate to heavy rainfall during the monsoons. The length of this long lowland strip of land is 320 km along the coast, having a width of 48 to 64 kms. The second physical zone is the Western Ghats. This is a mountainous land area which rises to a level of 900 metres on an average from the level of the Arabian Sea. This area receives moderate to very heavy rainfall. The Western Ghats have an average height of above 3000 feet. It is the Western Ghats which separates the coastal Karnataka from the Deccan Plateau, which lies to its west. The third physical zone is the Deccan Plateau, which comprises the main inland area of the state. This area of land which is the plains is much drier and semi arid and receives far less rainfall with its humidity not crossing 50 percent on an average.

The present State of Karnataka came into existence on 1st November 1956 under the States reorganization Act, 1956. It acquired its present name on 1st November, 1973, till then it was known as State of ‘Myore’.

The state of Karnataka is situated on the Deccan Plateau, and it shares its borders with Goa in the northwest, Maharashtra to the north, Tamil Nadu to the southeast, and Kerala to the southwest. In the east of Karnataka is Andhra Pradesh, and the west is washed by the azure blue waters of the Arabian Sea. In Karnataka, the Western and the Eastern Ghats merge into the Nilgiri Hills.

The geography of Karnataka is spread over 1, 92,000 sq.kms\(^2\). The coastal region has the most beautiful beaches with its silver sands and blue lagoons and on the other side is the majestic mountains and tall waving palm groves lined along the roads, coursing the coast. The Malnad region of the state, which comprises of a range of mountains of the Western Ghats, has many plantations of coffee, tea, timber, minerals and hydro electricity.

The geography of Karnataka covers four seasons. They are winter, whose reign holds from January to February; the summer, which rules from March to May; the monsoon, which lasts from June to September; and the post-monsoon season, which covers October to December. The post-monsoon and winter seasons are pleasant, and are the ideal times to visit Karnataka.

The state of Karnataka has a wealth of mineral resources, which includes rich deposits of gold, chromite, bauxite, dolomite, iron ore, limestone, asbestos, manganese, ochre and quartz. Kolar and Raichur are the important gold mining centres of Karnataka. They constitute 84 percent of the country’s gold production.

The Indian State of Karnataka is located within 11.5 degree North and 18.5 degree North latitudes and 74 degree East and 78.5 degree east longitude\(^3\). It is situated on a tableland where the Western and Eastern Ghat ranges converge into the Nilgiri hill complex, in the western part of the Deccan Peninsular region of India.

\(^2\) http://www.indfy.com/karnataka-india/geography.html
\(^3\) http://www.indiacatalog.com/states/karnataka.html

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State is bounded by Maharashtra and Goa States in the north and northwest; by the Arabian Sea in the west; by Kerala and Tamil Nadu States in the south and by the States of Andhra Pradesh in the east. Karnataka extends to about 750 km from north to south and about 400 km from east to west.

6.2 Area and Population

Karnataka has a total land area of 191,791 km² and accounts for 5.83% of the total area of the country (measured at 3,288,000 km²). This puts it in eighth place in terms of size. With a population of 52,700,000, it occupies ninth place in terms of population. The population density which stands at 275 persons per km² is considerably lower than the all-India average of 324.

<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
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<td></td>
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Source: District Statistical Officer, Bangalore Rural District “DISTRICT AT A GLANCE 2007-08. Govt of Karnataka.
Table 6.2

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<td>-</td>
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</table>

Source: District Statistical Officer, Bangalore Rural District “DISTRICT AT A GLANCE 2007-08 Govt of Karnataka.

Table 6.3

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<td>Antyodyaya</td>
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<td>11</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: District Statistical Officer, Bangalore Rural District “DISTRICT AT A GLANCE 2007-08 Govt of Karnataka. Page nos.1, 3, 4, and 5.

6.3 Mineral Resources

Karnataka is rich in its mineral wealth which is distributed fairly evenly across the state. Karnataka's Geological Survey Department started in 1880 is one of the oldest in the country. Rich deposits of asbestos, bauxite, chromite, dolomite, gold, iron ore, kaolin, limestone, magnesite, Manganese, ochre, quartz and silica sand are found in the state. Karnataka is also a major producer of felsite, moulding sand (63%) and fuchsite quartzite (57%) in the country.
Karnataka has two major centers of gold mining in the state at Kolar and Raichur. These mines produce about 3000 kg of gold per annum which accounts for almost 84% of the country's production. Karnataka has very rich deposits of high grade iron and manganese ores to the tune of 1,000 million tonnes. Most of the iron ores are concentrated around the Bellary-Hospet region. Karnataka with a granite rock spread of over 4200 km is also famous for its Ornamental Granites with different hues.

6.4 Soil types

Eleven groups of soil orders are found in Karnataka viz., Entisols, Inceptisols, Mollisols, Spodosols, Alfisols, Ultisols, Oxisols, Aridisols, Vertisols, Andisols and Histosols. Depending on the agricultural capability of the soil, the soil types are divided into six types viz., Red, lateritic, black, alluvio-colluvial, forest and coastal soils. The common types of soil groups found in Karnataka are:

- Red soils: Red gravelly loam soil, Red loam soil, Red gravelly clay soil, Red clay soil
- Lateritic soils: Lateritic gravelly soil, Lateritic soil
- Black soils: Deep black soil, Medium deep black soil, Shallow black soil
- Alluvio-Colluvial Soils: Non-saline, saline and sodic
- Forest soils: Brown forest soil
- Coastal soils: Coastal laterite soil, Coastal alluvial soil

6.5 Water Resources

With a surface water potential of about 102 cubic kilometers, Karnataka accounts for about six percent of the country's surface water resources. Around 60% of this is provided by the west flowing rivers while the remaining comes from the east.

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flowing rivers. There are seven river basins in all formed by the Godavari, Cauvery, Krishna, the west-flowing rivers, south Pennar, and Palar.

6.6 Climate

The post-monsoon and winter seasons are generally pleasant over the entire state. The months April and May are hot, very dry and generally uncomfortable. Weather tends to be oppressive during June due to high humidity and temperature. The next three months (July, August and September) are somewhat comfortable due to reduced day temperature although the humidity's continue to be very high.

Karnataka is divided into three meteorological zones:

- Coastal Karnataka: This zone comprises the districts of Uttara Kannada, Udupi and Dakshina Kannada. It is a region of heavy rainfall and receives an average rainfall of 3638.5 mm per annum, far in excess of rest of state.

- Rainfall of 3638.5 mm per annum far in excess of rest of state.

6.7 Rainfall

- North Interior Karnataka: This zone comprises the districts of Belgaum, Bidar, Bijapur, Bagalkot, Haveri, Gadag, Dharwad, Gulbarga, Koppal, Bellary and Raichur Districts. This is an arid zone and receives only 711.5 mm of average rainfall per annum.

- South Interior Karnataka: The rest of the districts of Karnataka fall into this zone. This zone receives 1064.8 mm of average rainfall per annum.

The southwest monsoon accounts for almost 80% of the rainfall that the state receives. The annual rainfall across the state ranges from low 50 cm to copious 350 cm. The districts of Bijapur, Raichur, Bellary and Southern half of Gulbarga

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experience the lowest rainfall ranging from 50 to 60 cm while the west coastal region and Malenadu enjoy the highest rainfall. Agumbe in the Western Ghats experiences the heaviest rainfall in the country next only to Cherrapunji.

6.8 Forests

About 38724 km\(^2\) (or 20% of Karnataka's geographic) are covered by forests. The forests are classified as reserved (28.611 km\(^2\)), protected (3,932 km\(^2\)), unclosed (5,748 km\(^2\)), village (124 km\(^2\)) and private (309 km\(^2\)) forests. The percentage of forests area to Geographical area in the State is less than the all-India average of about 23%, and 33% prescribed in the National Forest Policy.

Karnataka is known for its valuable timbers from the evergreen forests in the Western Ghat region, notably Teak and Rosewood, the richly ornate panels of which adorn the beautiful chambers of the Two Houses of Karnataka Legislature.

6.9 Source of Lighting

- About 8.0 million or 78.5% households of total households in the state use electricity as source of lighting. In rural areas 72.1% of households depend on electricity for source of lighting as against 90.5% in urban areas.

- More than one fifth of households use kerosene as other major source of lighting.

- It is interesting to note that 34,513 households\(^7\) or 0.3% households in the state do not have access to any kind of lighting.

6.10 Availing Banking Service

Only 40.0% households in the state avail banking services\(^8\).

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\(^7\) Directorate of census operations, Karnataka, Data Highlights - Housing - 2001 census

\(^8\) Ibid.
6.11 Houseless Population

As against 1,06.935 houseless persons in 1991 census, 102,226 persons are enumerated as houseless persons in 2001. The houseless persons constitute 0.2 percent of states population. In 2001 census, Bangalore District has the largest chunk of houseless population of the state (17.4%) probably due to Bangalore city being the state’s biggest urban centre. Belgaum District with 10.6% of the houseless in the state is at the second place. Chamarajanagar (0.3%) has the least share of the houseless persons. In 1991 also Bangalore and Belgaum districts were at the top and Chamarajanagar was at the bottom among the districts of the state.

6.12 Agricultural Labourers

The proportion of workers in the category of agricultural labourers has shown a decline from 29.9 percent in 1991 to 26.5 percent in 2001. Among the Scheduled Castes workers, 43.8 percent are agricultural labourers and among the Scheduled Tribes workers the agricultural labourers account for 43.2 percent.

The highest percentage of agricultural labourers has been recorded in Raichur district (44.8 percent) while the lowest percent is in Bangalore district with 2.6 percent. Among the Scheduled Castes, Haveri district (66.2 percent) has the highest proportion of agricultural labourers while Kodagu the lowest (7.9 percent). Among the Scheduled Tribes, Raichur district has the highest percentage (56.0 percent) and Dakshina Kannada the lowest (6.0 percent).

6.13 Profile of Bangalore Rural District

Bangalore Rural District came into being on 15th August 1986 with the division of Bangalore District into Bangalore Rural and Bangalore Urban. The district occupies 16th place in size, Bidar, Mandya, Kodagu, and Bangalore Urban Districts occupying next ranks in succession in the State. Bangalore Rural District is located in the South-Eastern corner of Karnataka State.

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9 Directorate of census operations, Karnataka, Data Highlights- Population- 2001 census.
10 http://www.voiceofbharat.org/districts/bangalorerural.asp
Spanning a Geographical area of 5,814 sq km, the district lies stretched between the latitudinal parallels of 12 15' N and 13 35' N on the one hand and the longitudinal meridians of 77 05’ E and 78 E on the other. The new district physically almost surrounds the Bangalore Urban District except having an opening in the South-East, the Anekal Taluk, the connecting area between Kanakapura and Hosakote Taluks, being a part of the Bangalore urban district and the headquarters of the new district is at Bangalore itself (see the map). The district on the plateau with an average elevation of 600 to 900 metres from mean Sea level has ranges of hills which are actually spurs of the Eastern Ghats, stretching northwards with peaks like the Banantimari Betta, Mudawadi Betta, Bilikal Betta, Siddadevara Betta, etc. The Savandurga and Shivaganga peaks are another row of hill ranges, spreading up to the Nandi Hills running across the Bangalore Urban District. Bangalore Rural District had many prehistoric sites at places like Jadigenahalli (Hosakote Taluk), Bellandur and Savandurga. The District abounds in wonderful tourist spots. Places of scenic beauty, tall hills, forts and beautiful monuments beckon the tourists to visit them. The new district forms a part of Deccan Plateau and the rock formation belong to the category of peninsular Gneiss. The Granite Gneisses that abound in Kanakapura, Nelamangala, Devanahalli and Ramanagaram Taluks have created captivating Landscapes all along and they have provided jobs to hundreds engaged in quarrying.

The Arkavati, the Kanva and the Dakshina Pinakini are the tributary rivers which flow through the District in the General Direction from North to South. Cultivable lands are mainly rain-fed and dry farming is a characteristic feature of the district. By and large this rural district is Agricultural and Ragi is the main crop though mulberry is raised over considerable tracts. The climate of the district is salubrious and very agreeable. It is devoid of extremes. But rainfall is meager, and as no major river flows in the district irrigation facilities are also limited. This district too has often suffered from deficit and capricious rainfall conditions and the resultant phenomenon of crop failure. The contribution of Horticulture to the Economy of the district is quite substantial. The district has considerable tracts under Horticultural crops like mango and Grapes. Betel vine Gardens are also seen in many places.
Animal Husbandry is being practiced since generations as an adjunct to agriculture. A high degree of Urbanisation of Bangalore city has enhanced the economic importance of dairying, poultry keeping and Horticulture which provide livelihood to a very large section. Considerable numbers are also engaged in raising sheep for wool as well. Channapatna, Ramanagaram, Vijayapura and Kanakapura have been the most notable centres of Sericulture and Doddaballapura and Devanahalli are remembered for prosperous weaving Industry. The toys of Channapatna, of Lacquer-ware and the pottery objects of Ramanagaram are the outcome of flourishing crafts. Considerable numbers of people are engaged in rolling beedies and agarbattis.

6.14 Origin of Name

The Bangalore Rural District derives its name from its head quarters town, Bangalore and majority of the District consists of Rural Areas. The earliest reference to the name is seen in a Ninth Century Ganga Inscription from Begur as ‘Bengaluru’. The present name Bangalore is the Anglicised form of Bengaluru. A popular story tries to suggest the origin of Bengaluru from ‘Bendakaluru’. Hoysala Ballala, during his long journey is stated to have been fed by an old woman, with Benda kalu (Boiled beans). The prince named the place as ‘Benda kalauru’.

The District lies in the southern maiden region of the State and is by and large an open country which is lacking in natural barriers. Bangalore Rural District is bounded on the North by Tumkur and Kolar Districts: on the South by Mandya and Mysore Districts and Tamil Nadu State; on the east by Kolar District and Tamil Nadu State and on the West by Tumkur and Mandya Districts. The outline map of the district seems to roughly resemble a human ear, the hollow in the center and the portion connecting the ear to the head representing the Bangalore Urban district. For a distance of about 16km on the south, the river Cauvery separates the district from Mysore district narrowing at one point called the Mekedatu ‘Goat’s Leap’.

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6.15 Area and Population

Unique Cultural system contributed to the wealth of the Indian Cultural Heritage. Bangalore Rural District is located in the south-eastern corner of Karnataka spanning a geographical area of 5,814 sq.km and it forms about 3.02 percent of the total area of the state.\(^{11}\)

The total population of the district is 16,65,468 as per the 1991 census. The district lies between the latitude parallel to 12 15' North and the longitude and meridians 77 05' East and 78 West. The mean sea level of the district is at a difference of height between 629 to 950 mtr.

According to the 2001 census, the total population of the district was, 1,881,514 of which 21.65% were urban with a population density of 309 persons per sq. km. Bangalore Rural district has 22.5% of its population belonging to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe. Hinduism is the major religion of this district. The Bangalore Rural district is essentially an agriculture district but it has sufficient scope for industrialisation, dairy development and sericulture.

Bangalore Rural District consists of 8 taluks namely:

- Channapatna
- Devanahalli
- Doddaballapura
- Hosakote
- Kanakapura
- Magadi
- Nelamangala
- Ramanagar

\(^{11}\) http://bangalorerural.nic.in/District_profile.htm
6.16 Rivers

The major portion of Bangalore Rural District lies in the Arkavati valley. The Arkavati, the Kanva and the Dakshina Pinakini (southern Pennar) are the rivers which flow through the district in the general direction from north to south.

6.17 NEW BANGALORE RURAL DISTRICT

In September 2007, the taluks of Ramanagaram, Magadi, Kanakapura and Channapatna were merged to form the Ramanagaram district. Presently in Bangalore Rural District, there are 2 divisions, 4 Talukas, (namely Devanahally, Doddaballapura, Hoskote, Nelamangala) 35 Hoblis (cluster of villages), 1,713 inhabited and 177 uninhabited villages, 9 towns, and 229 Gram Panchayats. Proximity to the city of Bangalore has its own impact on the district, with a considerable daily commuting population. The rural people are mostly agriculturists with their other occupations serving only as subsidiary to agriculture.

The district is endowed with agricultural and horticultural crops such as ragi, rice, groundnut, sugarcane, castor, grapes, mulberry, etc. There are adequate infrastructural facilities such as transport and communications, banking, credit, and marketing. Though the region is not rich in mineral resources, its non-metallic mineral resources are utilised for bricks, tiles, and stoneware manufacture. For many years now, weaving has also been a major occupation for a large section of the population. The soil and such climatic conditions are congenial for the cultivation of mulberry, rearing of silkworms, and production of silk, besides other agro-based industries.

6.18 Educational Scenario of the District

Banglore Rural is located in the South-Eastern corner of Karnataka state, adjacent to Tamilnadu. Its population as per 2001 Census is 18.77 lakhs. About 81.89% of the population lives in rural areas. The district is economically backward and it comprises of eight blocks.

12 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangalore_Rural_district
Literacy

The proximity of Bangalore Rural district to the state capital has not favourably influenced the educational levels in the district. The district educational profile reflects the complex socio-economic factors affecting education. The following table gives the status of literacy in the district.

Table 6.4
Status of the Literacy rate in Bangalore Rural District

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<th>Category</th>
<th>1991</th>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>61.51</td>
<td>74.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>38.15</td>
<td>55.12</td>
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The 2001 census reveals an increase in literacy rate compared to 1991. Overall literacy rate has been increased by 14.83% whereas the male literacy rate has been increased by 12.92% and 16.97% in case of female literacy. Compared to the state average the difference is 2% in all the categories.

Table 6.5
Educational Institutions in Bangalore Rural District

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<td>06</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>1501</td>
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<tr>
<td>Higher Primary</td>
<td>1170</td>
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<td>High Schools</td>
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<td>83</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>306</td>
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</table>


6.19 Brief note on Taluks of Bangalore Rural District

NELAMANGALA

Nelamangala taluk comes under Bangalore rural district and having three hoblies.

a) Kasaba
b) Tyamagondlu

c) Sompura

And has 22 grama panchayaths. The main activity of the taluk is manufacture of silk cloths by using power looms and other activities of the taluk are Agarbatti making, Handicraft articles etc. Also different types of small scale and large scale industries are set up in the industrial area.

Nelamangala situated on the National highway No.4 (27 km from Bangalore).

**DODDABALLAPUR**

Doddaballapura taluk comes under Bangalore rural district. The total geographical area covered 78760 hectares\(^{13}\) and having five Hoblies namely:

a) Doddabelavangala
b) Thubagere
c) Sasalu
d) Madure
e) Kasaba

Doddaballapura Taluk has 29 grama panchayaths. The main activity of the taluk is manufacturing of silk clothes by power looms and other activities of the taluk are manufacturing of Veena and Thamburi, Pottery works, Agarbatti etc. There are also different types of small scale and large-scale industries setup in the industrial area and industrial estate.

Doddaballapura situated to the north-west of Bangalore is a sub-division and taluk centre. The place is covered on the north and north-west by a chain of mountains and offers an uneven land-scape with partially plain land area, and is on the bank of the river Arkawati. The place is directly connected by railway. Dodballapur was a celebrated commercial centre right from the Hoysala period.

\(^{13}\) [http://bangalorerural.nic.in/IndComm.htm](http://bangalorerural.nic.in/IndComm.htm)
DEVANAHALLI

Devanahalli taluk situated 36 kms from Bangalore has four major Hobli centres as follows:

a) Vijayapura
b) Channarayapatna
c) Kundana
d) Kasaba

The taluk has 21 grama panchayaths having 44,935 hectares of area covered and the villagers mainly depend upon silk based activity like reeling, weaving, twisting and other rural industries like carpentry, masonry, stone cutting and based upon the artisan orientation in the taluk, the multipurpose co-operative societies exist namely

1) Taluk Level Artisan's Multipurpose Co-operative Society.
2) Taluk Level Artisan's Stone-cutter's Multipurpose Co-operative Society.

Devanahalli, a town situated at a distance of 36 km from Bangalore, is a taluk headquarters and is mentioned variously in several records as Devanapura, Devandanahalli, etc.

HOSKOTE

Hoskote taluk is a part of Bangalore rural district 25 km away from Bangalore city. Hoskote taluk consists of 5 Hoblis namely:

1) Sulibele
2) Anugondanahalli
3) Jadagenahalli
4) Kasaba

Ibid
5) Nandagudi

Hoskote taluk has 34 Grama panchayats. Hoskote, 25 km from Bangalore was a pre-historic centre.

6.20 Conclusion

The foregoing discussion reveals that the district has a good resource base. Infrastructural facilities are also fairly good and the study area possesses almost similar physical and demographic features. There are similarities with regard to soil, climate, rainfall and the coverage of forest area with few differences relating to irrigation, agriculture, type of crops grown, etc. There is widespread sickness in the handloom industry. Due to large number of dependents on this industry, their sickness not only meant worsening conditions of living of a larger proportion of dependents but also might saturate an important source of employment for future generations.