CHAPTER IX
SUMMARY AND FINDINGS

Bijapur district located in the northern maidan region of Karnataka State is an important district covering a vast area of 17,069 square kilometres. The whole of the district is a part of the rain shadow region of north Karnataka. There is uniformity of semi-arid conditions in the entire district with 554 mm scanty annual rainfall. The black soil is spread over all the talukas, while red soil is confined to the hill slopes that are found in the talukas of Badami, Bagalkot, Hungund and Jamkhandi. The five rivers Krishna, Dhone, Malaprabha, Ghataprabha and Bhima that drain in the district are not completely utilised for the development of irrigation in the district. Out of 83.09 percent (14,22,713 hectares) net sown area 10.84 percent (1,54,258 hectares) is under irrigation. Therefore, rainfed agriculture with poor productivity is the main stay of the economy of people. Large number of livestock, fragmented landholdings and continuation of traditional farming methods are some of the typicalities of agriculture in drought prone area of Bijapur district. About 1,268 villages spread over 11 talukas of the district are of traditional villages performing subsistence type of farming, except a few villages who are lucky enough to practise irrigation along the banks of the five rivers and canal waters of Malaprabha and Ghataprabha (dams built across these rivers in the neighbouring district of Belgaum). The 18 towns of the district are taluka headquarters (11), and some (7) are over grown rural central places engaged in services, trade and commerce and few household industries. The district with better developed system of roads and telecommunications has one meter gauge railway line connecting Sholapur in Maharashtra and Hubli in South the Bijapur district. The development of schools, colleges and professional colleges has provided very good opportunities for the gain of
education to this vast district, where 41.54 percent literacy is achieved. The cement industry in the town of Bagalkot, cotton ginning mills in all the taluka headquarters and a few groundnut oil producing mills in the towns of Badami, Bagalkot, Mudhol, Ilkalal and Bijapur, handloom weaving activity and its allied activities spread over in the towns of Rabkavi-Banahatti, Guledgud, Bagalkot, Hungund, Jamkhandi, Ilkalal and in few rural central places, and agro-based small scale industries and fertiliser shop have brought a small kind of change in the occupational structure of a drought prone district, just in the last two decades. Otherwise, the district was often used to face the vagaries of south-west monsoons like drought and floods and its consequent effects like famine, epidemics, starvation and exodus out-migration of people, especially of labour class in search of employment. The efforts done by state government for the integrated rural development have reached most of the villages in Bijapur district. Consequently the well irrigation, tank irrigation and rural employment during drought conditions have eased the tension of people for their just existence.

The population of Bijapur district was 9,03,092 during 1901 has been increased to almost three times i.e., 29,18,829 by 1991. Except for the decade 1921 the rest of the decades up to 1991 the growth of population in Bijapur district has shown from 9.25 percent to an increase of 21.66 percent by 1991. The male female ratio as per 1991 census shows that there are 955 female per thousand male in the district. The data from 1951 to 1991 shows that females ratio is lesser than males. Some talukas like Badami, Biligi, Hungund, Muddebihal and Mudhol show high female ratio than males. This situation may be due to large scale migration of male population towards urban centres and other flourishing talukas of Karnataka, in search of jobs. Out of total population in 1981, 41.61 percent was in the age group of below 14
years. Out of which the ratio of male : female was almost same, which indicates declining of mortality of infant as a result of improvement in medical facilities as seen in the most part of talukas. In the age group of 15 to 59 years age district has 53.61 percent of its population in the year 1981. Out of which females were 23.54 percent and males were 30.07 percent. In the old age group of 60 and above the Bijapur district had 5 percent of its population. The age wise data shows that the population under adult age group 53.61 % being highest is one way a very good phenomenon for the development of economy of the district, while at the same time this age group is very responsible for future growth of population, which needs extensive family planning education programme, to enlighten their mind.

The urban growth of population is not uniform from 1951 to 1991, mainly due to changes in the urban definition. During 1951 it was 26.67 % of total population, in 1961 it was 18.87 %, during 1971 it increased to 21.33 %, in 1981 24.20 % and considered as one of the indicator of regional development, therefore, the district needs further development of urban activities, so that the healthy growth of urban functions may lead to urban population growth mostly in the form of generation of new employment opportunities in the district of Bijapur.

The data of density of population explain that it is being increased from 83, during 1951 to 172 per sq. kms by 1991. Considering the available resources like irrigation potentialities, the fertility of the soil etc., the district can sustain still higher density of population. But, at the same time it is very much pertinent to note that without an adequate development of economy of agriculture, agro-based industries, small scale industries, development of rural artisans and adequate service base for the population growth has to face unemployment and its consequent
effects. The taluka wise density of population as per 1991 reveals that Jamkhandi is highest with 289.52 people per square kms while the lowest is in the taluka of Sindgi with 127.78 persons per square km. By and large the talukawise density of population explains that the lower density talukas are suffering from poor economy of agriculture and inadequate service facilities. Hence, it is needless to say that stress should be given for the integrated development of such talukas.

The occupational structure of population of Bijapur district as per 1981 shows that cultivators share prime position with 36.84 % of the total workers, while agricultural labourers share 32.68 %, the other workers share 23.19 % while people engaged in household industries are only 7.29 %. The observation of the district in relation with its resources, distribution of settlements and its urban centres warrants us to pinpoint the economic growth around urban centres, rural central places and also taluka places where by it may be possible to increase employment opportunities related to other works and household industries. At the same time it is also important to strengthen the agricultural economy of each village by way of generating well irrigation as well as water shed management, so that, it may provide an assured crop system in the villages, consequently it may generate increased working hours/days and capacity in the agricultural system of such village.

The literacy in Bijapur district is gradually increasing from 27.48 % (1971), 31.84 % (1981) and 41.54 % (1991). The increasing opportunities and facilities for school going children in the district have given scope to reach the target of 41.09 %. But at the same time there is on taluks viz.: Jamkhandi which shows only 7.88 % of literacy mainly because of immigration of large number of large number of labour
population from surrounding talukas to work in the irrigated fields. The variation between male-female literacy in the district is quite large as per 1991 census. The highest percent of male literacy is noticed in the Bagalkot taluk while lowest female literacy 6.50 % is in Jamkhandi taluk. On an average the female literacy in the rest of the 10 talukas is in the range of 26 % to 38 %. This reveals that the female population has to be encouraged for getting better education right from the school going age to adult age. The composition of rural urban literacy during 1991 shows that it was 39.78 % in the rural population while in urban area it was 49 %. This also shows that even in urban areas the literacy awareness campaign is very much needed. Government is putting all efforts to improve the literacy in the whole state with so many means and ways.

The development of components of population not only depends in its individual care but also in the total development of region and its various economic sectors. In this direction the study on regional disparity is done on Chapter VII based on 1984 data with social, economic and demographic indicators reveal that Biligi is the most backward taluk while Bijapur as very high developed, Jamkhandi, Hungund, Indi, B.Bagewadi and Badami as high developed and remaining 4 talukas Viz., Sindgi, Mudhol, Muddebihal and Bagalkot as medium developed. Therefore, it is necessary to bring an economic development in the very low and medium developed and high developed talukas, in order of priority. It is hoped that the reduction of regional disparities will give further scope for the over all development of demographic situation in the district. Based on the trend of population growth, from 1901 to 1991 the projection of population of Bijapur district is estimated to be 32,14,256 by 2001, 35,65,975 by 2011, 39,73,986 by 2021, 44,38,289 by 2031, 49,58,884 by 2041, 55,35,771 by 2051. Therefore plans are
rigorously to bring down the population growth in all the talukas. The increased awareness of the dangers of population growth has to be brought to the knowledge of the people especially of the age group of 14 to 40. The population control can be effectively made if economic and educational awareness is brought to the notice of adultage population. A good education can become a natural contraceptive to reduce the population growth. It is, at the same time a very difficult task to diffuse the education in the rural population as it has been structured with several social dogmas.

Any geographical studies will not be complete without examining the situations at gross route levels. Therefore just one village survey is carried out here on Kuligiri, of Badami taluk. Due to shortage of financial resources on the part of this researcher and time constraint only one village is taken up for its demographic analysis. Kuligiri village located in the foothill of dry rocky hill to the west of Badami town at a distance of about 17 kms is a small village with 935 population as per author's survey carried out in June 1998. The population of this village in 1971 was 645, in 1981 it was 678 and in 1994 it was 935. Thus by 1998 it has gained 257 more people when compared to 678 people of 1981. The percentage of female population was 51.93 % in 1971, 50.14 % in 1981 and 41.92 % in 1998, which shows a gradual decline of female population. There are about 35 % of people as literate. The economy of the village has to be improved based on its agriculture. More than 45 % of households are in lower middle class and also another 47 % of households are under upper middle class whose annual income is below Rs. 5000/-. Therefore, it is very much necessary to improve the quality of life of nearly 97 % of households who need extensive programme of economic development of their families based on their agriculture. The landless population should get adequate works
throughout the year. Thus, this study of population aspects of drought prone Bijapur district gives us the broad salient features on Development of Human resources. It is hoped that it will give us some broad thoughts on the population aspects of Bijapur district which can evidently become a base for further in depth study. In this connection the areas of highly and sparsely developed talukas can be taken up for further investigation so as to find out hidden reasons for their high density and low density.

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