CHAPTER 3

PROFILES OF THE STATE AND THE SELECTED FIELDS

Sociological research works are distinct from other social science researches in terms of their approach and methods of data collection and analysis. Any research topic is usually dealt-with in holistic manner, because of which a researcher in sociology cannot and should not approach his/her research problem without speaking about the environment in which this problem is studied. Understanding of the broad features of the state of Karnataka and of the selected fields provides for the selection of the appropriate field. In this context profiles of the Karnataka state and also of Shimoga and Raichur districts are analyzed to provide such necessary background information.

Therefore, the present chapter is divided into three as shown below:

1) Profiles of the Karnataka state.
2) Comparison of the Shimoga and the Raichur districts.
3) And, profiles of the selected taluks which provide the field for the present study.

Part 1

In terms of area and population, Karnataka ranks 8\textsuperscript{th} in the country. Karnataka is a moderate and a more or less typical state in India in terms of man-land ratio, proportion of SC population, household size, level of literacy and several agro-climatic and other features. In 2001 it had a population of 52,850,562 and an area of 191791 sq kms belonging to 27 administrative districts and 176 divisions. The state consists of 29,406 villages and 270 urban centers which together constitute more than
1 crore 4 lakhs households, which means an average household size of 5.1 members. Karnataka is situated in the southern part of Indian peninsular stretching from 11.9 North latitude and 74.78 East longitudes. The state is bounded by Maharashtra and Goa on the North, Andhra Pradesh on the East, Tamil Nadu and Kerala on the South and Arabian Sea on the West.

The name Karnataka is derived from Karunadu, which literally implies lofty land or a high plateau land. The present name of Karnataka has come as a substitute to the preceding name Mysore state by an Act called the Mysore State Alteration of Name Act of 1993. On the basis of the linguistic re-organization of states, the present name is adopted on November 1 1973, because of which every November 1st is celebrated as Rajyotsav Day in Karnataka to begin the month long celebration of the emergence of the state.

The history of Karnataka can be traced to a period of the Hindu epic Ramayana, the age popularly known as Tretrayuga in vernacular. Two monkey kings, namely Wali and Sugreeva, were said to be ruling in Kishkinda, the relics of which are present in present Bellary district.

During the 4th century BC, Karnataka was a part of the great Mauryan Empire with Shivamgiri, (presently known as Kanakgiri in Koppal district) as the southern capital of the empire. Later around 30th century BC, Shatavahanas ruled Karnataka for a period of 300 years. Kadambas came to power with the disintegration of Shatavahana dynasty. The living relic of this period is the gigantic monolithic statue of Gommateshwara at Shravanabelagola, which is supposed to be a pilgrim's place for Jains of the country. From the beginning, 6th century AD commenced the rule of Chalukyas, whose capital was a place called Vatapi (Badami) at present in
Bijapur district. The territory of Karnataka was shared by Yadavas of Devagiri and Hoysalas of Dwarasamudra after the fall of Chalukyas. Belur, Halebidu, Somanathpura are the tourist places established by the Hoysala dynasty then.

Karnataka people take pride in the fact that they were a part of Vijayanagar Samrajya during the 14th century. The present Hampi, which was then a capital of the Vijayanagar kings, is a testimony for the level of civilization and socio-economic development achieved by the Vijayanagar kings particularly during the period of Sri Krishnadevaraya. The battle of Talikoti which ended the Vijayanagar kingdom came under the rule of Muslim Sultans of the Deccan such as Adil-Shahi rulers in Bijapur and Bahamani kings in Gulbarga. In 1399 Wodeyar dynasty with Mysore as the capital was established by Yeduraya, a ruler of the small principality. With the enlargement of principality, Srirangapatnam became the new capital of Wodeyar dynasty. Areas coming under Srirangapatnam were gifted to Hyder Ali in recognition of the service rendered to the Wodeyar kingdom. Tippu-Sultan, the son of Hyder Ali, popularly known as the Tiger of Mysore, fought against British and, therefore, today is remembered as Martyr of Indian Independence. With the defeat of Tippu the Wodeyars restored the power as a feudatory (Samantha in vernacular) of the British. And the British people, who came to India as traders, gradually established their Kingdom and ruled the country from England for about 350 years. In 1947 India got Independence and was freed from the colonial clutches of the British. After the exit of the British until the adoption of Democratic system in 1951, India was in a transitory phase. Shortly we are completing 6 decades after Independence.
With 5.32% of the population and 5.83% of the area, Karnataka has a density of 235 per sq km, as against 273 of India. Decadal growth rate of population is not more than 20% during the recent couple of decades, while it is 23 to 24% in India. This means family planning schemes and medical facilities are relatively effectively functioning in Karnataka. Another democratically encouraging feature of Karnataka is with respect to sex ratio. It is 927 for India and 960 for Karnataka. This also means that maternal mortality is relatively less in the state. This is further endorsed by the fact that as compared to the national averages, Karnataka has lower crude death rate (8.7%) and higher crude birth rate (27.9%)

Though Karnataka is not a striking district as Kerala in education, it has higher percentage of literates when compared to the national average. In 1991 the literacy rate of India was 52.11%, while that of Karnataka was 56.94%, which has further increased to 64.8% in 2001. In respect of female literacy rate, Karnataka shows a better picture, which may be attributed to educational activities of the Government as well as the private sector. Karnataka has several universities and deemed universities such as University of Mysore, Karnataka University, Gulbarga University, Mangalore University, Kuvempu University, Tumkur University, Karnataka state Women's University in Bijapur, University of Agricultural and sciences, Vishveshwarayya Technological University in Belgaum, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) and Rajiv Gandhi Medical University in Bangalore,

Karnataka is a representative state in respect to many characteristics such as proportion of SC population to general population, percentage of Buddhists to general population, proportion of buildings used for residential,
commercial and other purposes, proportion of kuchcha houses to number of houses, distribution of houses by the type of fuel used for cooking etc. However, Karnataka seems to be developed as compared to national scene in some aspects like sex ratio, proportion of ST population, literacy rates (male, female, total and among Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and others), proportion of population and households in urban areas, houses used for educational and religious purposes, percentage of houses with four or more rooms, number of houses with tapped water facility, percentage of electrified houses, percentage of houses using LPG, electricity and biogas for cooking, percentage of houses with separate bathroom, percentage of households owning bicycles etc.

Religiously Karnataka is as much heterogeneous as India, with Muslims, Christians, Jains, Buddhists, Parsees and other religious communities sharing the Indian nationality with the dominant religion, namely Hinduism. In 2001 in Karnataka Hindus constituted 83.86% of the state’s population. Muslims stand out as the dominant religious minority with 12.22% of the population, Christians constitute 1.9% of the population and Buddhists and Jains together account for 1.52% of the state’s population. Sikhs, Parsees and others assume 0.23% and are, therefore, found in very few areas and that too in urban centres.

Occupationally about 65% of the working populations are engaged in agriculture either as cultivators or as agricultural laborers. The corresponding figure for the country is little higher in the sense it is 66.5%. However workers in industry, other than household industries, business, transport, communication and services are marginally more in Karnataka, thereby maintaining the state as a typical state.
But in certain aspects like percentage of owned houses, percentage of cement concrete houses, percentage of households living in good houses, percentage of households owning scooters, motorcycles, mopeds, cars, jeeps and vans appears to be lagging behind as compared to the national averages.

Karnataka has got some major industries producing machine tools, aircraft electronic products, watches, telecommunication equipments, soaps and detergents etc. They include Hindustan Aeronautics, Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT), Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), Bharat Electronics, Bharat Heavy Electricals, Indian Telephone Industries, National Aeronautical Company, and Cogentrix promoted Mangalore Power Project and so on. Because of these, employment of women (17.4%) is more than the national average in percentage (14.1%).

**PART 2**

Shimoga and Raichur belong to northern part and southern parts of Karnataka respectively. Shimoga is surrounded by Haveri, Davangere, Chitradurga, Chikmagalure, Udupi, North Karnataka and Dharwad districts, whereas Raichur is surrounded by Gulbarga district in the north, Bellary district in the south, Bagalkot and Koppal districts in the west and AndraPradesh in the east. In respect of population in 2001 the two districts are more or less similar with 16, 42,545 people in Shimoga and 16, 69,792 people in Raichur. But in respect of area in sq km Shimoga has 8477 sq km as against 6827 sq km in Raichur. This means area is lesser and population is more in Raichur district as compared to the Shimoga district, which gets reflected in the density of population (man land ratio). Both have 9 each urban agglomerations. But in Raichur district percentage of urban population
is only 25.2% as against 34.76% in Shimoga. In contrast to this 830 villages of Raichur district together constitute 74.8% of the population, whereas 1443 inhabited villages together account for 65.23% of the population. This suggests that villages of the Raichur district are more populous compared to those of the Shimoga district. This gets reflected in the density of 241 in Raichur, as against 193 in Shimoga. An encouraging democratic characteristic of Raichur can be seen in the fact that it has got a sex ratio of 980 as against 864 in Karnataka. Shimoga is more or less similar to Raichur in this respect with the sex ratio of 977.

As for a religious composition of the two districts, Table 6 in appendix 1 reveals that in both the districts about 85% of the people belong to Hinduism, while the remaining 15% to religious minorities like Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, Parses, etc. Shimoga resembles the national scenario with respect to the percentage of Muslims to the general population. But Raichur has slightly higher percentage of Muslim population. In contrast to the Christians and Jains, then are relatively more in Shimoga than in Raichur. Thus the religious compositions of the two districts do not vary much as compared to each other.

But in respect of the percentage of SC and ST population the two districts are different from each other. While SC and ST claim higher proportions of population in Raichur district as compared to those in Shimoga district, the high handedness of Raichur district is more pronounced in respect of the ST population. The SC’s and ST’s population together constitute 37.15% of the district population in Raichur, while they together constitute nearly 20%. This perhaps, among other reasons, accounts for the general backwardness of the Raichur district.
In respect of worker – non worker characteristics, Shimoga and Raichur are similar to the state averages. Main and marginal workers together constitute 43.5%, 43.9% and 44.5% in Shimoga, Raichur and Karnataka respectively. However main workers are lesser in Raichur (32.6%) as compared to those in Shimoga and Karnataka.

In respect of the occupational structure the two districts show clear trends. In both the districts agricultural labourers are proportionately more than in Karnataka as a whole. However, cultivators and household industry workers are relatively more in Shimoga district with respect to workers engaged in other occupations. There is a difference of 10% (25% vs. 35.6%) between the Shimoga and Raichur districts. In respect of land used for agriculture and other purposes also the two districts show major differences. Net sown area and area sowed more than once constitute nearly 31% in Shimoga, as against nearly 73% in Raichur. Forest claims a lion’s share (32.65%) of the land in Shimoga while it is only 2.17% in Raichur, which is much below the state average of 16.11%. Fallow land is 21% in Raichur and permanent pasture is 19.5% in Shimoga. Thus it is clear that Raichur is characterized by subsistence agriculture, while Shimoga has flourishing agriculture because of irrigation (with 46.11% of irrigated lands against 18.64% in Raichur district) and good rainfall and rich forest resources after rainfall (2857mm in Shimoga as against 620 in Raichur).

The analysis of land holdings by size shows a different picture. Shimoga, though is agriculturally prosperous, has got a majority (53.8%) of marginal holdings as against only (5.43%) of medium and large holdings.
But Raichur has got 25.95% of marginal holdings and 15.35% of medium and large holdings.

Table 6 in Appendix 1 does not show much difference between Shimoga and Raichur in terms of distribution of census houses by their use. However in two respects, namely percentage of occupied houses used for other non-residential purposes we find some difference. In Shimoga 69.48% of houses are used as residences, as against 75.88% in Raichur. In contrast to this, 12.2% of the occupied houses in Shimoga are used for other non-residential purposes. The corresponding figure for Raichur is only 6.2%. Quality of houses in terms of lighting facility is better in Shimoga than in Raichur. Electrified houses account for 78.25% in Shimoga, which is nearer to the state average of 78.55%. But in Raichur such houses are 64.32% (14% less), whereas dependence on kerosene for lighting, a symptom of backwardness, is found to the tune of nearly 35% houses in Raichur. Similarly households having tapped water facility constitute nearly 52% in Raichur. Dependence on hand pump and tube well meant for public use is found to the tune of 24.8% in Raichur, while it is 14.7% in Shimoga. Quality of houses in terms of energy used for cooking is also better in Shimoga than in Raichur. Use of traditional firewood is found in about 64.5% of households in Shimoga as against 83.7% in Raichur. In contrast to this use of kerosene and LPG is found in 27.2% houses in Shimoga, as against 9.13% of houses in Raichur. Thus in terms of mode of lighting, source of drinking water and energy used for cooking Shimoga and Raichur show different levels of development.
Educationally also the two districts show a huge development gap. In 2001, nearly 75% of the population was literate in Shimoga while half of the population in Raichur was still illiterate. The gap in the literacy rate of the males is 20% and that in the case of females is 30%. Backwardness of the Raichur district in literacy rates, except in case of Janis, is reported in Table 6 in Appendix 1. This gives us a doubt regarding the achievement of Government and private sectors in education in Devdurg in six decades after Independence.

Infrastructurally Shimoga and Raichur are different from each other. In Shimoga district 114 hamlets are electrified as against NIL in Raichur. In Raichur 155 irrigation pump sets are energized. This figure is 4 times more in Shimoga. A cinema theatre on an average meets the recreational needs of about 48000 people in Shimoga as against 50,000 in Raichur. Veterinary institutions were 96 in Raichur as against 155 in Shimoga. In the banking sector also number of commercial banks, grameen banks, urban co-operative banks, other co-operative banks and PLD banks put together are 354 in Shimoga and as against 246 in Raichur. With greater population and lesser number of banks population per bank comes to 6788 as against 4640 in Shimoga.

In the co-operative sector too, Shimoga has an upper hand. Agricultural and Non-agricultural co-operative societies were 275 in Shimoga and 174 in Raichur. Non-credit co-operative societies (housing, marketing, dairy and others) were 700 in Shimoga as against 567 in Raichur. Similarly with 19 regulated markets and 13 railway stations. Shimoga shows a higher level of living than Raichur with 15 regulated markets and 7 railway stations.
Though agriculture is prosperous in Shimoga, it also provides other source of livelihood such as cocoon rearing, fishing and dairying to its people. In Shimoga, 60 tones of cocoon were produced while in Raichur it was only 32 tones. Similarly in Shimoga 5455 metric tones of fish was caught during 2005 as against 1611 in Raichur. Shimoga has 306 dairy cooperative societies, while Raichur has 106 only. Similarly Shimoga has 11564 small scale industrial units and 1 sugar factory working in 2003-04. But in Raichur there is no sugar factory and small scale industrial units are also relatively less (7611). In respect of factories Raichur appears to be better equipped (221 factories) than Shimoga (157 factories). But when we calculate the average number of employees per factory, it is more in Shimoga that is (112), than in Raichur (50).

In respect of developmental activities Shimoga and Raichur show development gaps. Shimoga has an upper hand in areas like quantity of electricity consumed for industrial and commercial purposes, per capita income at current prices, net district income at current prices and percentage of ration card holders. This is more so in terms of indicators of road transport development. Except in respect of state highways, Shimoga shows a better picture in the percentage of national highway, percentage of major district roads, percentage of surfaced roads and percentage of rural roads. Raichur is only relatively developed with respect to state highways. Similarly in respect of population per motorcycle, population per car, population per cab, population per auto rickshaw, population per omni-bus, population per goods vehicle, population per other vehicle, Shimoga is in a state of development when compared to Raichur.
PART 3

The taluks selected for doing field work for the present study, as explained in the introductory chapter, should be such that they are largely comparable. Taluk developed in respect of road transportation from the Shimoga district and taluk backward in this respect from the Raichur districts were to be identified. Teertahalli taluk in Shimoga district and Devdurg taluk in Raichur district were found to be such taluk’s respectively and hence were selected. Both the taluk’s are similar, in the sense that they are lacking railway transport facility in the vicinity. Therefore whatever changes we may notice because of the transport development may be attributed to road transportation only. However it should be remembered that agro-climatically they belong to districts which are dissimilar.

Teertahalli taluk which is located in the south – east of the Shimoga district has a population of 1, 43,207 in 2001. In the Raichur district the taluk nearest to the Teertahalli in population, as compared to Lingsoor, Manavi, Raichur and Sindnoor taluk’s is Devdurg.

Demographically Teertahalli and Devdurg taluk’s are appearing to be differing mutually. Teertahalli has got a sex ratio of 1025 as compared to 982 in Devdurg taluk. In this respect Teertahalli resembles Kerala state, which is unique from the national scene. In rural as well as urban areas child population constitutes 10 to 11.5% of the general population of Teertahalli taluk, whereas in Devdurg it exceeds 18% which means birthrate is more in Devdurg taluk than in Teertahalli. Males constitute 49.4% in Teertahalli as
against 50.45% in Devdurg and females constitute 50.60% in Teertahalli as against 49.54 in Devdurg.

In rural – urban characteristics the 2 taluk’s are not dissimilar. In Teertahalli taluk 89.65% of the population lives in villages as against 90.11% of such population in Devdurg. Similarly urban population constitutes 10.34% in Teertahalli and nearing 10% in Devdurg taluk. The development of the Teertahalli taluk and backwardness of Devdurg further get reflected in the percentage of SC and ST population in rural and urban areas. In the rural part of Teertahalli taluk 11.3% of the rural population belong to the ST and SC. Whereas 54.7% of the rural population in Devdurg taluk belong to the SC and ST. In urban part of Teertahalli taluk SC and ST population together constitute 11.15%, while 32.3% of the urban population belongs to the SC and ST. This means the general backwardness of Devdurg taluk is relatively less pronounced in urban areas than in rural areas.

Educationally also the 2 taluk’s show different levels of development, while it is a common feature that percentage of literates are more in urban areas than in rural areas in both the taluk’s, 69.13% literates in Teertahalli taluk and 31.26% in Devdurg taluk show a big development gap. This is because the educational are fewer in Devdurg taluk than in Teertahalli. For instance an Anganwadi center serves the needs of 961 people on an average in Teertahalli taluk as against 1301 in Devdurg taluk. With relatively less population Teertahalli taluk has got more number of primary schools (274 as against 236), high schools (29 as against 24), Pre-university colleges (7 as against 6), General colleges (2 as against 1), Libraries (12 as against 8). Therefore population per unit of these educational institutions is tremendously more in Devdurg that in Teertahalli.
Teertahalli has also got an edge over Devdurg in respect of hostels for backward community students in pre-metric and post-metric courses. Population per BCM hostel student in Teertahalli is 444 and 1194 for pre-metric and post-metric courses respectively. The corresponding fig for Devdurg taluk is 742 and 4449 respectively.

However in respect of SC / ST hostel for pre-metric and post-metric students, Devdurg seems to be better than Teertahalli. For every 138 persons belonging to SC only 1 student lives in the hostel in Teertahalli, whereas this fig is only 71 in Devdurg. Similarly in respect of SC hostels Teertahalli does not have any hostel which Devdurg has 1.

The relative backwardness of the Devdurg taluk can be seen in the fact that main workers and marginal workers together constitute 40% in it as compared to 56% in Teertahalli. And non-workers constitute 60% and 44% in Devdurg and Teertahalli taluk’s respectively. Therefore shows that the worker non-worker ratio (number of non workers / 100 workers) is about 150 in Devdurg and 78 in Teertahalli.

Though the predominant occupation in both the taluk’s is agriculture, as 76 to 78% of the working populations are engaged in agriculture, landless agricultural laborers are more in Devdurg (46.66%) than in Teertahalli (37.7%).

In contrast to this cultivators (cultivating owned or leased in lands) constitute 39.1% in Teertahalli as against 31.4% in Devdurg. Land available for cultivation is very limited (19.64% of the area sown) in Teertahalli
because of geographical factors. Such problem is not there in Devdurg as 71.7% of the geographical area is under cultivation. Marginal holdings are also of the order of 59% in Teertahalli as against 22.2% in Devdurg whereas semi-medium, medium and large holdings constitute 44.1% in Devdurg as against only 15.64% in Teertahalli. It is therefore that area under all crops put together does not exceed 20% in Teertahalli, while it is 71.7% in Devdurg. However an advantage of Teertahalli taluk is that normal annual rainfall is 3001mm as against 632mm in Devdurg. On an average 35 days in a year get rains in Devdurg while it is 116 days in Teertahalli. Besides irrigation facility is also provided to 9.16% of the geographical area in Teertahalli while it is 2.52% in Devdurg, thus it is clear that Teertahalli is naturally in a better position in agriculture with adequate rainfall and irrigation, while Devdurg lands are unfortunate in this respect.

In respect of civic and basic amenities like electricity, drinking water, sanitation etc. Teertahalli shows the symptoms of development as compared to Devdurg. 19.17% of the population used electricity in Teertahalli as against 8.9% in Devdurg. And therefore per capita annual income to Government from electricity consumption is Rs 22.5 in Teertahalli as against 8.31 in Devdurg. For every 162 persons there is a streetlight in Teertahalli, whereas this fig is as high as 1153 in Devdurg.

Among the electricity consumers only consumers for commercial purposes and use of IP sets constitute 9.90% in Teertahalli as against 7.49% in Devdurg. However electricity consumers for small scale industrial purposes are about 3.2% of the electricity consumers in Devdurg while it is only 1.17 in Teertahalli. This shows that Teertahalli doesn’t nurture industrial in trace to the extent Devdurg does. Teertahalli has got 4 police
stations for 1, 43000 people while Devdurg has 3 police stations for 2.22 lakhs of population. Here also Teertahalli has an edge over Devdurg. For every bore well dug in Teertahalli we find 145 users while in Devdurg it is 192 users. In drinking water facility also Teertahalli is far better than Devdurg. In respect of road transportation Devdurg and Teertahalli show a tremendous gap in development. For instance a motor cycle server on an average the needs of 42 people in Teertahalli as against 145 people in Devdurg. This trend is also true in case of population/car (378 verses 9672 people), population/autorikshaw (1659 verses 5561 people), population/goods vehicle (1120 verses 4361 people) and population/other vehicles (78 verses 384 people).

Teertahalli has a total road length of 1153 kms while Devdurg has only 923 kms. Within this road length 56 kms length of highway is reported in Teertahalli, while it is nil in Devdurg. 11.1% of the road length belongs to state highway in Teertahalli, while it is only 4.5% in Devdurg. In respects of percentage of village roads, percentage of municipality roads Teertahalli has an upper hand, just as Devdurg as in respect of major district roads, TDB roads and irrigation department roads, forest roads and other district roads are found in Teertahalli only. When we analyze road length per sq km of the geographical area of the two taluks also we get a clear comparison regarding the levels of development of the two taluks. Table 9 in Appendix 1 shows that, except in the respect of TDB roads, Teertahalli is better developed than Devdurg in respect of all other types of roads (national highway, state highway, major district roads, other district roads, village roads, municipality roads, irrigation department roads, forest roads and Panchayat roads.)