INTRODUCTION

Region is a dynamic concept which has been defined differently by different scholars. The areas of similar physical and cultural characteristics were called as pays by early French geographers, which means region. The generalization of the features of the earth surface is to make the infinitely varying world around us understandable through regional summaries even though it is difficult to divide the earth surface into regions of perfect uniformity.

It is also possible to have as many regions as there are physical [Topography relief, climate, soils, natural vegetation, minerals etc] cultural [religion, language population, agricultural] or organization as [Socio-economic institutions] phenomena. However, a more comprehensive and widely acceptable definition of region can be given as an area having the homogeneity of the physical or cultural phenomena and/or both. But demographic region is one, which has similar demographic characters.

Problem:

Population plays a vital role in the development of any region or state or country. To plan for the development of the economy, the study of demography is very useful which helps us to understand how a population phenomenon is related with economic progress.

When population is more, economic depression takes place followed by shortage of food, unemployment, lower capita income and standard of living. Hence maintaining balance between Economic development and population
growth is very significant. By checking high population growth an economy can accelerate its development.

To plan for the development of an Economy, the statistics about population is very important. Most of the countries main aim is to attain complete development. To accomplish this aim, natural resources of the country should be utilized judiciously. But without knowing the demands and required resources economy cannot be developed. Demography gives complete information about all aspects of human resources, including labour force, literacy level, illiteracy, dependents, unproductive population, sex ratio, student community etc., through census. Demography also gives information about how much food, clothing, housing, educational institutions, hospitals, doctors, engineer's, skilled workers are needed for the development of the country. Thus demography is vary useful to plan for the development of the country.

Further to take any important decision and to make any policies, government relay on population data for instance, reorganization of states and migration policies are based on demographic data. Thus demography is an indispensable asset for the administrators. Either very low population or very high population leads to social, economic and political disorders. To tackle these understanding population variables is very significant.

However population is not evenly distributed in any state/country. In some regions population is very high and in some other regions population is very low. Similarly, sex ratio, density, age structure, literacy, fertility, mortality etc., are not same in all the regions but vary from region to region.

Karnataka, the study area has also diversified characteristics in terms of population characteristics. The populations in all the regions of the state are not
evenly distributed. In some parts population is high and in some other parts it is low.

The characteristics of population have their influence on the developmental process of the state. In the state some regions are highly developed and some regions are underdeveloped. One of the reasons for this is the variation in characteristics of population. Finding out these characteristics and identifying the regions, with similar demographic features are therefore very significant. It is in this content delineation of demographic regions assumes important.

**OBJECTIVE OF THIS STUDY**

The main objectives of this study are basically two fold.

1. To identify and delineate the regions of homogeneous demographic characteristics in terms of density, growth, literacy etc.
2. To understand the underlying factors behind this differentiation.

The specific objectives are as follows:

1. To analyse the pattern of population density in the state.
2. To examine the growth trend of population.
3. To analyse the spatial variation in sex ratio, literacy and occupational characteristics.
4. To examine the process of urbanization and changing nature of rural-urban composition.
5. To analyse the distribution pattern of SC and ST population in state.
6. To account for spatial variation in various demographic variables.
7. To delineate the state into various regions on the basis of composite-demographic variables.
8. To relate the socio-economic and geographic factors with various demographic regions in the state.

HYPOTHESIS OF THIS STUDY:

The hypotheses of this study are,

1. There are pronounced spatial variation in demographic characteristics from one part to another part in the state.
2. Coastal area appears to be demographically forward region due to historical and educational factors.
3. Northern maidan of the state is closer to demographic characteristics of north India.
4. Southern maidan and malnad areas have demographic characteristics, which are favourable, and similar/closer to Kerala / Tamil Nadu pattern.
5. Historical, geographical, social and political factors play major role in differentiating the state demographically from one part to other.
6. Subsistence and backward agriculture appear to be major factor for demographic under development of the region.

METHODOLOGY

Any research work should follow a systematic methodology with regard to selection of sample, collection of data from various departments and with regard to analysis of collected data. This study mainly is based on secondary data.

Secondary data were collected from different sources like census offices, statistical office and other offices in addition to libraries, newspapers, magazines and books.

The study covers Karnataka state as a whole and is confined to a period of 40 years from 1961 to 2001, and takes taluk as unit of analysis.
In the present study, seven variables of demography viz., Distribution and Density of population, Growth population, Literacy, sex ratio, proportion of urban population to total population, occupation structure, Distribution of scheduled caste and scheduled Tribe population have been analysed.

In the beginning, collected secondary data has been transformed into percentage, then the data was analysed. In the third Chapter, the concentration Index method is used for analyzing the distribution of population in the state. In the seventh Chapter, the composite index method taking nine selected demographic variables viz., Density of population, Growth of population, sex ratio, literacy, Female literacy, proportion of urban population to total population, Ratio of non agricultural workers to total workers, Ratio of scheduled caste population to total population and ratio of scheduled tribe population to total population, has been adopted to demarcate the population regions of Karnataka state. According to composite index method, the taluks have been ranked using Kendall's ranking method individually for each variable and total rank is obtained for each taluk, on the basis of total rank, using taluks are grouped into demographically very high developed, relatively high developed, moderately developed, low developed and very low developed.

Analysis and interpretation of data has been done with the help of cartographic techniques. Choropleth mapping technique has been used to show the spatial pattern of different types of demographic variables and used the bar graph and line graph to show the temporal pattern of various demographic variables of state and nation.
ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

This thesis is organized into eight chapters:

**In chapter –I** the introduction, problem, objective and hypotheses are stated and it also deals with methodology of the study.

**Chapter –II** gives a structure of the study area. This chapter in the first part gives information regarding geographical settings of Karnataka. Here a detailed account of Geology, Relief, Drainage, soil, climate and vegetation of the study area is given.

In the second part of this chapter a detailed account of the historical perspective of Karnataka is given while in the third part socio-economic structure, administrative aspects and demographic characteristics of the state are given.

**Chapter III** deals with the distribution and density of population of the state, this chapter also deals with the theoretical background of the distribution and density of population and it also has analysed the temporal trend of states, country’s population. Further it deals with spatial pattern of population distribution and density.

**Chapter IV** deals with the growth of population in the state both from temporal and spatial perspective, Exhaustive review of literature on population growth, temporal analysis of population from 1901 to 2001 about state and country are dealt with and a detailed spatial analysis of state from 1961 to 2001.

**Chapter V** deals with the population composition, Which includes detailed account of sex ratio, occupational structure like agricultural workers and non–agricultural workers, distribution of urban population, distribution of Scheduled Caste and Tribe population and also includes theoretical analysis
Chapter VI deals with the pattern of literacy and also deals with the female literacy and review of literature on literacy.

Chapter VII deals with the demographic region of the state, nine demographic indicators are used to analyse the problem.

Chapter VIII which is the concluding chapter contains the summary and conclusions, which includes findings, limitations of this research work and scope for further research.