Religion and society are inextricably interwoven. In spite of the views expressed, contrary, religion has been gaining, in contemporary world, authority and control over social welfare, education, health, recreation and so on, apart from its authority over the purely spiritual matters. The present investigation tries to sift evidences from a study of a major religious organization and reach certain formulations which may have a bearing on social work practice.

The Jagadguru Moorusavira Math, Hubli, a popular Virasaiva monastery in the region, is selected for intensive study to find out its role in the promotion of social welfare in Dharwar district.

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A note on procedure of use of local terms seems to be necessary here. All local terms, occurring for the first time are underlined and usually explained parenthetically. In any case the glossary of the important of these terms given at the end of the thesis, it is hoped, will assist the reader in understanding the terms in proper perspective.

Dharwad
June 6, 1978
(G.S. Bidarakoppa)