CHAPTER II
PROFILE OF DHARWAD DISTRICT

Geographical background is very much essential to understand the present position of any region. The assessment of development through time provides comparative outlook of a particular region. So, here an attempt has been made to deal briefly with location and extent of the region under the study.

LOCATION:

Dharwad district is situated in the western sector of northern half of Karnataka state. The district encompasses an area of 4263 square kilometers lying between the latitudinal parallels of 15.15 North and 15.35 South and longitudes 75.00 East and 75.20 West. The district is surrounded by Belguam district in the North, Gadag district in the East, Haveri district in the South and Uttar Kannada district in the West.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF DHARWAD DISTRICT:

The East India Company first formed Dharwad district after the conquest of southern Maratha state in 1818, presenting itself as a fragmented and irregular broken belt of Patawardhan and Savanur erstwhile princely states. The intersected areas of the district, which were administered by the former states of Jamakhandi, Miraj, Savanur and Ramadurg, were merged in the district of Dharwad on 1st August 1949. At the same time there was an exchange of a few villages with that of the erstwhile Hyderabad state. Thus the present compact
shape of the district is the result of a long process of merger and exchange of areas.

**RELIEF:**

On the basis of the spatial difference in topography, Dharwad district is divided into two zones, namely;

a) The Semi- Malnad Zone and

b) The Maidan Zone

The Poona- Bangalore highway runs through the region and seems to divide the region into two physiographic divisions.

a) **THE SEMI-MALNAD ZONE:**

The Semi-Malnad part of the region, lies in the western part of the district. The taluks coming under this region are Kalaghatagi and the western part of Hubli-Dharwad. The hills abruptly rise and move towards west. The much-eroded face especially on the west has a poor soil cover and natural vegetation. This region has given rise to many small streams, which are converted in small tanks for irrigation.

b) **THE MAIDAN ZONE:**

To the east of eastern margin of the Sahyadries lies an undulating plain drained by the streams Malaprabha and Tungabhadra. This plain forms an up land covered with poor grass and is associated with a senile topography. It has long geographical history. Maidan has witnessed many cycles of erosion and presently it has reached an advanced stage of maturity. The taluks like Navalagund, Hubli and Dharwad belong to this region.
CLIMATE:

The influence of the climate is very remarkable on human economic activities particularly on agriculture and allied secondary and tertiary activities. It also affects the mode of life and economic pursuits. Dharwad district belongs to the tropical monsoon climate, which however has spatial and temporal variations. The climate of the area on the whole is agreeable and healthy. The western belt has a more pleasant weather. The year is usually divided into the four seasons. Summer starts during the second half of February and lasts till the end of May. The highest temperature recorded during the month of May is 33°C. This season is marked by hard Easter winds, rising temperature, whirl winds and occasional thunderstorms accompanied by a sharp shower. Southwest monsoon season starts during early June and lasts till the end of September. This is a period of cool and damp climate. The months of October and November constitute the post-monsoon or the northeast monsoon season and this period witness a gradual rise in day temperature and sustainable amount of rainfall as well. The highest rainfall is received during the month of July, August and September and lowest in month of January. The winter season covers the period from December to mid February. Dharwad district enjoys moderate weather and it is not subjected to extremes either during summer or winter.

DRAINAGE:

The district is drained by two major rivers: Malaprabha and Tungabhadra, with the main tributaries such as Bennihalla, Varada
and Kumudvati. Bennihalla drains about 6240 square kilometers of area of northern portion of the district, which is one-half of the total area and joins the river Malaprabha. Varada and Dharma with number of small tributaries drain half of the region. The river Kumudvati located in the far south of the region. All the chief rivers flow towards east to join the Bay of Bengal. Shalmala a small river drains a small portion in the north-west and flows through the taluk of kalaghatagi and parts of Hubli-Dharwad taluks, runs towards west to join the Arabian sea.

RAINFALL:

The average rainfall of the district as a whole is 722mm. Kalaghatagi taluk receives higher amount of rainfall 1076mm and kundgol taluk receives lower amount of rainfall 488mm.

AREA AND POPULATION:

The geographical area of the district is 4263 square kilometers and the population is 8,17,756 according to 2001 census. Navalagund taluk is the biggest taluk with the area of 1080 square kilometers, and Hubli taluk is the smallest taluk with an area of 631 square kilometers. The district is divided in to five talukas for the administrative purpose. The talukas coming under Dharwad district are: Dharwad, Hubli, Navalagund, Kalaghatagi and Kundgol.

FORESTS:

Amongst the districts situated in northern maiden of the Karnataka state, Dharwad district especially its western portion is relatively rich in Flora and Fauna. The forests of the district are of
three types: The Monsoon forests, Anacia or thorna forests and the scrub forests. The wild animals found in the district include the panther, Leopard cat, Bear, Wolf, Hyena and the Jackle besides the Indian fox and deer.

AGRICULTURE:

The main occupation of the region is agriculture. Dharwad district is an agriculturally advanced district in Karnataka state served with moderate rainfall. The total geographical area of the district is 4.27 lakh hectors as computed by survey of India. The total cultivated area in 1999-2000 was 3.31 lakh hectors. Some of the important crops grown in the district are jawar, wheat, groundnut, cotton etc.

IRRIGATION;

The main problem of the district is the inadequacy of the irrigation. Navalagund and Hubli taluks are irrigated by the Malaprabha river project. The total irrigated area of the district was 0.44 lakh hectors in the year 1999-2000.

EDUCATION:

Education in Dharwad district had its beginning in Agraharas, which were centers of learning in ancient times. Dharwad district is known for education in north Karnataka. It is called a famous educational center, because all types of educational facilities are available in this region.
EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE:

The following data throw light on the sound educational base that the district can be proud of:

Table 3

Showing the educational institutions in Dharwad district

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Educational institutions</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>Primary Schools</td>
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<td>High Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Pre-university colleges</td>
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<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Degree Colleges</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Universities</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LITERACY:

In 2001, the literacy rate in Dharwad district was 67.04% of which male literacy was 76.29 and female 57.45 percent.

LANGUAGES:

Dharwad district is a unique district, where numbers of languages are spoken. Kannada is the mother tongue of considerable sections of people in the district as major spoken language. In Dharwad-Hubli, mixture of Urdu and Marathi language is also spoken. Despite the existence of various linguistic and cultural groups
like Urdu and Marathi, Kannada has been the predominant language in this district.

**IMPORTANT CASTES IN THE DISTRICT:**

Caste system is the peculiar character of Hindu society. Dharwad district is consisting of different caste people. Thus ranging in to variety of languages. The major caste groups are Lingayats, Kurubas, Muslims, Christians, Dhore, Madigas, Holeyas etc.

**PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS:**

Absence of mineral and fuel resources and retarded growth of industries, inadequate means of good transportation and other accessibility means, relatively less fertile soil and scarcity of rainfall especially in Maidan region, low percapita income, increasing mass of unemployment and inadequate and irrelevant planning measures are the problems of large proportions faced by the region. Lack of mineral resources in the region is another draw back for the unbalanced growth and concentration of settlements.

The important measures to resolve all these problems would include the extension of irrigational facilities, construction and improvement of roads and other accessibility means, extension of electricity facilities and establishing small scale agro-based industries to provide greater employment opportunities and also in secondary and tertiary activities, providing urban amenities to rural areas, increasing the water power potential and so on. Implementation of these measures relevantly and in a proper way takes long term for all-round development of the economy of the district.