CONCLUSION

In this chapter an attempt is made to offer conclusion on the political awareness of the masses, the role of political participation of the people with respect to their socio-economic status and the impact of exposure to mass media on the people. This chapter includes suggestions for the enhancement of maximum and effective political awareness and the areas for further development.

There appears to be a rapid change in the Indian social structure and Koppal district is no exception to it. There has been a steady growth in the indigenous people as well as an influx of immigrants from neighboring states such as Andra Pradesh and Maharashtra, serving as conglomerate units of distinct religion and caste communities. This change had an impact upon old groups, whether the old ethnic and caste boundaries still survive or there is a breakdown or change in the traditional social milieu is an interesting aspect. Rigid consideration in matters of religion, caste and other distinct categories in the social life have broken down along with developments in the field of modern science and technology. It is seen in Koppal district that, literacy, urbanization, industrialization and immigration has lead to modernization. Interaction between different communities through offices, shops and other public utility works also lead to a break down in the traditional social barriers.

Respect for human rights will come before democracy, No person wants to be despised, and all want to be admired, to be respected. This is possible
only in democracy where individual rights are protected and people are the makers of their own destiny. But in the words of Pendleton Herring (1940:18) "Democracy can mean government of the people, by the people, and to be preserved for that reason. But when democracy is analyzed, not in the language of its high prophets but in terms of its behaviour, we observe that it is a system and an attitude of mind that tolerates many elites in many groups jostling and struggling for power".

This is the reason, when the researcher approached the people in the area; most of them replied about their leaders and the system that, "Whether Rama rules or Ravana rules, we are going to gain nothing". (Whether good person rules or bad person, the common people's life will not be affected or changed.) Which vibrates in people's thought, having deeper implications and meanings and this above slogan tells upon the character and calibre of the political parties and their leaders in the area.

Analysis of this survey has shown that a large proportion of the electorate feels politically powerless because it believes that the community is controlled by a small group of powerful and selfish individuals who use public office for personal gain.

With the attainment of independence and the grant of franchise to all the citizens of the country, voters have to play a decisive role in the Indian democracy. There are still serious handicaps, no doubt, which people have to overcome if they are to choose their leaders wisely. They are socially, economically and educationally backward and this is why factors like caste,
money, groupism and intimidation and violence in elections still operate in India. (Darshankar 1979; 34). It is prevalent in Koppal district where ignorance and poverty of the electorates are used for the benefit of the leaders and rich people of the area.

With little faith in given democratic processes and procedures, our people are neither expected nor trained to critically examine in depth the so-called democratic values, processes and procedures, to examine whether the kind of democracy we have worth supporting or not. At the same time it's an interesting observation that despite the weaknesses of our democracy, Indians are able to run the democratic institutions without any crack, because of the overwhelming faith of the people in democracy and parliamentary institution.

The findings of the field survey are as follows, the informants' group consists of all the section and strata of the society. Majority of the people voted more than twice, and they decide on the candidate, which party to support, majorities of the voters participate, mainly in voting process. Main criteria considered by the people while voting is a good candidate. In unconventional participation, more males participate in strikes but in general everyone opined that the effect of strike is not good. They are aware of the disadvantages of the strike. Majority of the people influenced by mass media and by the elders in the family while franchising their vote. News paper, Radio and television are the popular media to get information about the politics to the majority of the people. Most educated people are know about their fundamental rights and duties, majority of the respondents know the name of the MLA, MP, Chief
Minister and Prime minister of India and their political parties. Majority of the people supported the women reservation in politics, continuation of SC-STs reservation and educated candidate for legislatures; majority of the people condemned the demolition of Babri masjid. Majority of the people wants Ram mandir in that place. People are optimistic about the overall process of the district, many people opined that their children’s future will be better than their lifetime, and majority of people are responsible towards their family.

In this context the researcher has come to the conclusion that majority of the people of Koppal district have faith in democracy, though people are not satisfied by the present administration, they are optimistic about the future polity. Majority of the people opined that, their district is developing compared to that fifteen years back history. This is the sign of development of the system, and not deterioration of the system.

Data analysis, proved that majority of the people participated in the politics. They are well aware about present politics, given the satisfactory information for the research schedule, but as it is put under the socio-economic measurement. Most of the female informants were not interested to discuss about politics and they are not motivated towards their strength.

Being more than 45% of the total population, women of the district must use their majority and through their voting power, they can turn the system as they prefer it to be, then the 33% reservation, women empowerment etc, will not be needed. The drama of the politicians to grab the attention of the women in wrong way will stop. To stop the exploitation against women this is the
positive way that, they must recognize their own strength of being equal to 
man in numbers and also in intellectual strength. Only proper education in this 
direction can be suggested as the best solution for women. At the same time it 
is equally significant that, male members of the society should recognise the 
importance of female participation in politics and their encouragement within 
the sphere of family and public life is considered to be valuable in Koppal 
district.

A democratic citizen is supposed to be active in politics and his 
participation in the political process is expected to be based on rational 
criterion and not emotions. This type of participation can be expected if the 
people have civic culture. This culture makes people behave rationally. Those 
who have participant political culture will have civic culture too. Civic culture 
will enable Koppal district people to participate in the political process more 
meaningfully.

It is all the more important to indicate the rationale behind people's 
participation. The participation may be due to compulsion or fun or any other 
reason. But for a healthier democracy, participation of the people in the 
electoral process should be on the basis of an overall understanding about the 
functioning of the political institutions. (Palanithurai 1993:128).

When the question was posed as to how far do the common voter in 
Koppal district conform to the test of rationality? It was answered that if 
rationality is defined merely as the possession of the information necessary to 
make a decision, take decisions on that information, and the self conscious
evaluation of a decision, then the voter of Koppal district by and large is not rational.

From the data analyzed, people in majority participate in politics, and are aware of their system. They are not satisfied with the system, because political participation and political awareness go hand in hand, without political awareness people can’t participate in politics and without positive participation in politics, people will not be aware about the system. What is required to develop democracy and the system, as a whole is to prepare the electorates to know the system well.

It could be said with certain justification that neither the press nor the political parties made sustained effort to educate the electorates of Koppal district. This failure to considerable extent is contributed to the “candidate-Orientation” of the voters. Apart from illiteracy, this factor also could be regarded as making the Koppal district elections less dominated by issues and ideologies and more by personalities.

In Koppal district, majority of the electorate’s preferred to vote for a candidate rather than party or ideology. Because, majority of the people are from the lower rung of the society and they are unaware of the philosophies and ideologies of the democratic system.

If the system is to operate effectively, it must be based on education of the electorate. So that he/she will have an intelligent opinion and exercise a real choice. Education of the civil servants so that they will be able to identify the people’s will and have the convictions, the managerial and the technical
skill necessary to carry it out. Education of the people to their rights, what they can do to protect them, to their responsibilities as citizens, and the need for their loyal support of the democratic process. An uneducated democracy is a contradiction in terms, for the simple reason that the power will remain with those who can manufacture opinion at their will. As happened in Koppal district

Where economic and social development is essential, expansion of education is an absolute necessity and not only an increase in technique but also as many observers have noted a change in the whole national psychology is required. The people must learn that their future is at least partly in their own hands. This is true of Koppal district, where illiteracy is high, and people need guidance from education system.

Political democracy, roughly represented by the idea of every person having a vote, its obvious that a vote by itself does not mean very much to a person who is down and starving, such a person will be much more interested in food to eat than in a vote. Therefore political democracy by itself is not enough. Except that, it is used to obtain a gradually increasing measure of economic democracy, when the good and basic needed things of life will become available to more people and then gross inequalities will be removed and democracy or any political system can flourish positively.

As the society becomes modernized and as the community becomes increasingly involved in the large societal complex, political power to start with would tend to be disassociated from hereditary social-administrative
status and depend upon economic power. As a cumulative effect of adult suffrage and democratic decentralization some political power would percolate (filter) into the lower social and economic strata as well. Reduction in economic inequalities would help to accelerate the process of equalitarian distribution of political power.

As seen by people in Koppal district, reservation for minorities and women has not succeeded in distributing power among the poor people. The wealthy people of that group use reservation and poor do not even know about the privileges they have got from the government. That’s why Rousseau (1968:96) said, “No citizen shall be rich enough to buy another and none so poor as to be forced to sell himself” or kill himself as it is happening to poor farmers of Koppal district. According to him, “economic equality means not absolute equality but rather than the differences that do exists should not lead to political inequality”.

In Indian society, person’s position and ability is measured by the social background rather than educational or economic background. The Religion and caste plays major role in determining the destiny of the people in Koppal district also. Still lower caste and scheduled tribe people are not able to come out of the social barriers in the villages. More painful is that, though they are still below poverty line and not given equal status in the society, they are seen by other higher caste people as more privileged and more benefited people of the system.

Importance of the inter relation between religion and politics in modern India is, it is also one of the most elusive and complex fields for study. A
general survey of what many authors on this subject have written reveals not only its complexity but the passion and controversy it has aroused. The democratic processes and the democratic institutions in this area are to some extent distorted owing to the factor of caste. But at the same time these processes and institutions are undermining the hold of caste. No one can foretell the date when caste would disappear from Indian politics. But the strengthening of parties, Pressure groups and political loyalties on the basis of economic programs would be the way to unloose the stronger hold of caste.

People are capable of evaluating the legitimacy of the political system. But they have a limited competence to understand the affairs of the political system. In this area, the people who appear to be partly modernized and politicized display this type of orientation towards politics. Such people have knowledge about their political leaders but do not have competence to evaluate the latter's performance. On the whole people of this orientation in Koppal district can say whether their leaders are sincere and honest in political administration or not. But they can't understand why the performance of their political leaders or political institutions is not satisfactory.

Though programs are organised to increase the standard of living and thinking of the people, elected politicians of Koppal district from all the parties are only in a position to arrange for a road here or a school there, to get a permit or license for a local businessman or merchant. To fix up admission into the local college for the child of a voter and to help sugar cane and paddy growers to obtain a loan from local authorities. Politicians are concerned not with political awareness but with the delivery of minimum services. As long as
these kinds of services are delivered, the development policies of the state government and of the national government seem to be of little significance to the local party or to voters of the area.

It is an organised effort of leaders to evoke the public interest of the people for mass action to achieve the desired goals. Moreover it's not only the leader's efforts but also the level of perception of the people about their life would determine the nature of movement. So it is a harmonious blending of the leader's efforts and the perceptions of the people of Koppal district about their position in public life that would determine the level of development. When the electorates are awakened, the government would be alert and attentive to respond to the demands of the people of Koppal district.

In this direction the role of mass media and educational institutions is vital. Though, people of Koppal district are exposed to media of mass communication, its not well spread to villages and not utilized by urban people as such. Rather it is used as a media for some entertainment and relaxation. Also the political education is not seen in media, they provide only political information to the people. The printing media, electronic media and the educational institutions have to undertake the program of educating the leaders and the people of Koppal district. In particular the educational institutions must stress on making of good citizens of India, and not exam experts and job oriented students.

In this way the mass media and the educational institutions, can take steps to awaken the people. In the absence of such enlightenment the danger to democratic institutions and values would increase.
To conclude, the researcher can say that, democracy is the best form of political organization that people can hope to have. If it has failed to some extent, it’s because it has not had the fulfillment of certain conditions, which are required for its success. It’s the cursedness of human nature that people can talk more fluently of ideals than live up to them. A vote is a sacred responsibility, but it can be bought or sold for hard cash. The first and foremost condition of success of democracy is education, then free press, liberty, tolerance for other minority groups, social and economic equality are the urgent requirements to develop and strengthen the Koppal district.

The whole work was designed to suit the local politics and people. Formulated to make an in depth study of the area. The political awareness being universal concept is generalised to suit the other areas for further research. A brief base is given by the researcher to study the Koppal district and as time passes the politics of the area needs more research.