Chapter- II

KOPPAL DISTRICT: A PROFILE

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2.1 Introduction:

Koppal as a district has been recently constituted on 15th August 1997. Earlier it was a part of Raichur district. For that reason to study about Koppal district, researcher has to go through the history of Raichur district and gazetteer of Raichur.

The Koppal district is situated in the North eastern part of the Karnataka state, falls within the Northern plains (maidaan) region, the chief characteristics of which are large expanses of treeless plains, black soil with a bare hillock here or boulder there, and some lower belts following the main river. It lies on the bank of river Tungabhadra.

The general slope of the district is from the north-west towards the south-east. It’s average height above the mean sea level being 1,311 feet. Four districts surround it namely Bagalkot to the north, Bellary to the south, Gadag to the east, and Raichur district to the western part.

The total geographical area of Koppal district is 5559 sq.kms and its population is 11,93,496 according to 2001 census. It is triangular in shape, flat at north and becoming sharp at south. The district comprises 588 villages and four town corporations.

Koppal district covers 2.90% area in Karnataka state and has the share of 2.13% population total to Karnataka; it has 18th place in geographical area and 24th place in population distribution of Karnataka, its 4th smallest district in Karnataka after Bangalore (city), Udupi and Kodagu.

2.2 History of Koppal District:

The district was a part of the Hyderabad State till the re-organization of states on 1st November 1956. The district of Raichur has a memorable past. It
had an eventful and rich history beginning from the days of the Mouryan king Ashoka. Number of inscriptions, rock edicts, temples, forts and battlefields bear testimony to this fact. Lying on the bank of Tungabhadra, this potentially rich tract had been a bone of contention between kingdoms. In 1997 because of administrative purposes Raichur district was divided into Koppal district and Raichur district. Today Koppal district constitutes 4 taluks, they are; Gangavati Kustagi, Koppal and Yelburga.

The recorded history of the district is traced to as far back as the 3rd century BC. The fact that two minor rock edicts of Ashoka are found near Koppal viz.; in Gavimath and at Palkigunda, prove that this area was included in the dominions of the great Mouryan king Ashoka (273-236B.C). At that time this region was under the governance of a viceroy or ‘Mahamatra’ of Ashoka.

In Buddha times Koppal figures prominently. The Chinese pilgrim, Hiuen tsang visited the region in 7th century and his ‘Konkinapulo’ may perhaps refer to Koppal which was known in ancient times as Kopana or Kupana and Buddhism flourished here from the 3rd century B.C to the 7th century A.D.

Jainism also flourished in the district, the existence in certain places like Adur, Koppal, Halageri, Madinur, Rajoor and Kanakagiri of Jains relics is testimony to the glorious past of Jainism in the district. Koppal was considered to be a very sacred place among the teerthas or holy places.

Early in Christian era the district appears to have been a part of the kingdom of the shatawahanas, the Vakatkas, who reigned during the 3rd and 4th centuries A.D. They seemed to have held sway over Koppal for sometime, after that it appears to have been included in the Kadamba dominion.
The next dynasty of importance, which ruled over this region, was that of the Chalukyas of Badami. According to an inscription from ‘Aihole’, Pulakeshi II having defeated the pallavas, occupied this region and made it a province in his empire under the governance of his son Adityavarma.

Later Rastrakuta’s ruled from 8th century. Nripatunga, a Rastrakuta king has described Koppal in his Kannada work, ‘Kavirajamarga’ as ‘the great Kopananagara’.

From 10th-12th century Chalukyas of Kalyana ruled the region, numerous inscriptions and magnificent temple of Mahadeva in Itagi of Yelburga taluk testify to this fact. Then came the Kakatiyas in the 13th century; The Hoysalas also exercised sovereignty over this region for several years during 12th-13th century.

After Hoysalas, during the Vijayanagara period Tungabhadra Doab (a place surrounded by two rivers) had become an object of constant dispute between the Vijayanagara kings and Bahumani sultans of Gulbarga and Adil shah’s of Bijapur. However, during the period of sangama dynasty this region formed a part of Vijayanagara empire for a long period. Withstanding the periodic fights between the contestants, it was one of the strongest frontiers of the Bahumani kings towards the close of the 15th century, after which it was incorporated in the Adil shahi kingdom of Bijapur.

Again under Krishnadevaraya, ‘doab’ area gained great eminence, in the historic battle of Raichur of 1520 AD Krishnadevaraya recaptured it. However after the fall of Vijayanagara dynasty in 1565 A, D, it fell into the hands of the muslim rulers and later became a part of the dominions of the Nizam of Hyderabad. The taluk of Koppal and Yelburga were jahagirs of Sir Salarjung
and together constituted a separate jahagir district, but in 1949, it came under
the Raichur district, by the abolition of the jahagirs in Hyderabad state.

2.3 Freedom Struggle in Koppal District:

After sepoy mutiny in 1857, like all over India, in this region also the
spirit of nationalism and political awakening made people fight against the
despotic rule of Britishers. After the establishment of Indian national congress
in 1885, new movements started in freedom struggle. Its activities spread over
northern part of Karnataka. A reading room cum khadi prachara kendra was
started at Koppal (1916-17) Putta Bhat was an active worker of this kendra
who helped in spreading the message of constructive programme among the
people in the area. In 1922 Shri R B Desai established the national school by
name ‘Vidhyananda Gurukul’ at Kukunur with the assistance of Ramaswamy.
This helped in arousing a spirit of nationalism among the people.

In 1930, Gandhiji during one of his tours halted at the Banapur railway
station in Yelburga taluk. On this occasion sriyuts; Sirur Virabhadrappa,
Mattammanavar, channabasappa, Kotrabasappa and others collected funds for
Harijan welfare and presented the same to Gandhiji. In Muradi (Kustagi taluk)
local leader ‘Bhimmajja’ motivated youngsters to participate in freedom
movement and spread the philosophy of ahinsa satyagraha of Gandhiji to
villagers.

After independence, when Nizam of Hyderabad denied to join Indian
union and started torturing rebelled hindu people by the help of Razakars, the
region was filled with bloodshed and inhuman activities. So military action
was taken against Nizam’s despotism by Nehru and Sardar Patel and this
region was included in Indian union in 1948 on 17th September. When
language based reorganization occurred in 1956 Raichur came under the Mysore state, because of its large Kannada speaking people.

Before 1997, Raichur district with a geographical area of 14,017 sq. Kms. had a population of 23.10 lakhs (1991 census) in 1997, this large district was divided and a new district of Koppal was created for administrative benefits and also because of the agitation going on in Koppal for separate and new district. On 15th Aug of 1997 by dividing Raichur district, Koppal district came into existence with four taluks namely Koppal, Gangavati, Kustagi and Yelburga.

Table 2.1

Population, Towns and Villages of Koppal District

(2001 census)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the taluks</th>
<th>Hoblis</th>
<th>Inhabited Villages</th>
<th>City town Corporation</th>
<th>Geographical area in sq km</th>
<th>Population 2001</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gangavati</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1328</td>
<td>4,05,076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koppal</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1375</td>
<td>3,13,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kustagi</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1366</td>
<td>2,39,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yelburga</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1490</td>
<td>2,35,263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td><strong>588</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td><strong>5559</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,93,496</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.4 Geographical Features of Koppal District:

Climatic Conditions:

The climate of the district is characterized by dryness, for the major part of the year and a very hot summer. The low and highly variable rainfall renders the district liable to drought. The year may be divided broadly into 4 seasons.

1) The hot season (Summer) called 'Besige Kala' in kannada, (in native term) from Feb-May.

2) South-West monsoon season, rainy season called 'Malegala or 'Mungaru', June –Sept.

3) Post or retreating monsoons called 'Hingaru' in Oct-Nov.

4) Cold season, 'Chaligala' Dec-Feb.

Table -2.2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the taluks</th>
<th>Ranging stations</th>
<th>Normal rainfall (mm)</th>
<th>Actual rainfall (mm)</th>
<th>Actual rainy days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gangavati</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>523.20</td>
<td>666.20</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koppal</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>599.90</td>
<td>689.80</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kustagi</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>571.40</td>
<td>748.48</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yelburga</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>593.20</td>
<td>734.80</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>572.00</td>
<td>709.90</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hills:

There is chain of small hills in Kustagi taluk. Originating from the Badami group of hills in Bagalkot district and running into Gangavati taluk. This chain is locally called ‘Yemme-Gudda’ a bare hillock of boulders.

River:

The only and important river in this district is Tungabhadra river, which form the Southern boundary-of the district. It has been associated from time immemorial with regional cultural and religious activities and has several famous shrines on its banks. In the historical and cultural developments of the country, the river had played a vital role. Legend and tradition have sanctified these perennial sources of water, which has given an immense impetus to civilization and prosperity of the land.

The Tungabhadra is formed by the union of two rivers viz: The Tunga and Bhadra, both of which rise at Ganga mula in the Varaha Parvata of the Western Ghats. This is also a perennial river, very deep in certain places and almost unaffordable even in the dry season. This river enters the district near ‘Kesalapur’ village at the South-Western tip of Koppal taluk.

Old Kannada inscription have hailed the river as the ‘Ganga of South India’. In the past notably during the days of Vijayanagara kings it had been dammed at several places for irrigational purposes. In this district also bridges of large blocks of stones were constructed in several places of Koppal and Gangavati taluk, canals laid along both sides of the river are serving as effective means of irrigation for the cultivation of paddy and sugar cane near Munirabad dam.
Soils:

The reddish sandy soil is confined to the zones of the pink gneisses in the neighborhood of Gangavati and Kustagi. The major portion of district comprises of black cotton soil.

Minerals:

As in other parts the Dharwad rocks of the district are fairly rich in economic minerals, important among them are Iron ore near Kustagi, Mica near Hanchanal, Tawargere. Quarts in Sangapur, Mallapur, building and ornamental stones in Munirabad, Soapstones near Tawargere, Budagumpa and Laxmigudda.

Forest:

Except the bank of the major river, the whole of the district is practically devoid of forest vegetation. The rainfall is inadequate and erratic. There are no distinct hill ranges owing to the geological formation of the land. The dry tropical climate is also not helpful to forest growth. Added to all this, whatever forest cover the district possessed in the remote past, has been destroyed by man in his persistent effort to clear such land for the cultivation of his food grains and collecting fuel and timber.

The forests existing today are of the mixed dry deciduous type, consisting of open scrub jungle, full of weeds and bushes except in few parts where some timbers of economic value are grown. The conditions of drought and extreme heat of the summer season preclude any active and profitable regeneration of forests. The area of forest land is only about 29.451 Hectors (5.33%) of the districts total area as against the minimum of 33% desirable according to the national forest policy.
Table -2.3

Land and Forest Distribution in Koppal District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gangavati</td>
<td>132131</td>
<td>14482 (19.17%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koppal</td>
<td>136755</td>
<td>10779 (36.60%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kustagi</td>
<td>135779</td>
<td>4110 (13.95%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yelburga</td>
<td>147830</td>
<td>.80 (0.05%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>552495</td>
<td>29451 (100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: District at a glance 1999 Z.P. Koppal.

The belts of vegetation that can, if at all be called as forests are confined to the upper and lower reaches of the river in Gangavati and Koppal taluk. The taluk of Yelburga is entirely devoid of forestland, while Kustagi have small area of greenery.

Flora:

The minor forest produce consists of Taarwad bark, Tupra (beedi) leaves, rouse grass, Sharifa (Seethaphal), honey and wax, Soap nut and Tamarind, Neem and Mango trees. The shrubs are Dikmali, Gotti, and Tangadi-used for fencing the fields, main trees species found in the district are,

a) *Cassia fistula* (Kakke)

b) *Acacia arabica* (Jali)

c) *Tamarindus indica* (Hunise)
d) *Pongamia glabra* (Honge)

e) *Albbizzai amore* (Chujjalu)

And main growing crops are Jowar, Paddy, Sugar cane, Groundnut, Wheat, Cotton, and Sunflower.

**Fauna:**

The vegetation accounts for almost a total absence of denizens of the forest that can be said to belong to the big game variety. An occasional Leopard (Chirate) and Bear (Karadi) may be seen for from human habitation in one or the other of the rocky hills.

The hyena (Katte Kiruba) is found frequently, wolves (Thola) are found in the craggy portions of the rolling plains in winter.

As in the other dry parts of India, Koppal district is abounds in snakes (Havu), scorpions (Chelu) and lizards (Halli). The cobra (Nagara havu), Russell’s viper (Kari havu) Mannu mukka havu (two headed snake) Neeru havu is also found.

Among the game birds Partridge (Koujugada hakki) and Quail (Purali hakki), may be seen near the tanks in the winter time, also wild Duck (Kadu Koli), water Fowl (Neeru Batukoli), can be seen.

The more important among the domesticated animals are the Dog (Nayee), Buffalo (Yemme), Cow (Hasu), Sheep (Kuri), Goat (Meke) and Donkey (Katte). The large numbers of cattle belong to the Ilhari breed. Horses (Kudure) and ponies are in large population. Poultry consists of more country variety, also white leg horn and Rhode Island Red.
Fig. 2.1
A weaver of Kustagi taluk, weaving the well known ‘Ilkal Saree’

Fig. 2.2
A view of corpentory work in Koppal taluk
2.5 People and Social Life:

The position of Koppal district almost in the heart of the Deccan plateau has made it, comparatively speaking less open to racial intermixture than the coastal regions which have had from time immemorial traded with the western and eastern countries.

The Dravidian with admixture of the Aryan has had their influence on the culture of the people of the district. After the Muslim conquest of the Deccan there was a rapid racial mixture in the region. Present population of Koppal district consist mixture of races, and communities all over India. The life of people is very much influenced by Hindu Puranas, Vedas, Smrutis and two big epics Ramayana and Mahabharata. Though with some modern influence, people live with traditions, beliefs and rituals of hindu religion.

Table-2.4

Population Growth rate in Koppal District 1981-91

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taluks</th>
<th>1981</th>
<th>1991</th>
<th>Decadal Growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gangavati</td>
<td>2,57,194</td>
<td>3,20,394</td>
<td>+24.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koppal</td>
<td>1,99,821</td>
<td>2,51,713</td>
<td>+25.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kustagi</td>
<td>1,36,864</td>
<td>1,89,891</td>
<td>+38.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yelburga</td>
<td>1,54,343</td>
<td>1,96,080</td>
<td>+27.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7,48,222</td>
<td>9,58,078</td>
<td>+28.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By this table one can find out that population growth in Koppal is high and its high compared to state's growth rate which was, 21.12% and by observing taluk wise growth rate we can infer that in Kustagi taluk population growth is high compared to other taluks.

Table -2.5

Density and Sex Ratio of Koppal District

(1991 census)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taluks</th>
<th>Density per sq.km.</th>
<th>Female Sex ratio/1000males</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gangavati</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koppal</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kustagi</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yelburga</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>981</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: District at a glance Z.P Koppal 1999.

The Density of population is lower in Koppal 166 (2001 census) people per square km. So population growth is not really a pressure in Koppal. The high rate of growth can be related to the low rate of literacy (55.02%). Early marriages, lack of medical facilities, failure of family planning programs in rural area is the reason for the population growth.
Table-2.6

Literacy and Education System in Koppal District

(1991 census)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taluks</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Schools</th>
<th>Colleges</th>
<th>Libraries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gangavati</td>
<td>48.62%</td>
<td>23.66%</td>
<td>36.25%</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koppal</td>
<td>57.82%</td>
<td>26.33%</td>
<td>42.20%</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kustagi</td>
<td>52.46%</td>
<td>18.06%</td>
<td>35.34%</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yelburga</td>
<td>56.79%</td>
<td>21.30%</td>
<td>39.15%</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>53.47%</td>
<td>22.78%</td>
<td>38.23%</td>
<td>888</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census of India 1991.

According to 2001 census, the literacy rate was increased effectively 55.02%. Taluk wise data is not available, but female literacy increased to 40.76% and males to 69.15%. Educational institutions are not developed much, except in Koppal where, B.A.M.S. College, Hindi B.Ed College are there. Degree colleges are there in every taluk place.

Religion:

Though Koppal region has a memorable past of Buddhism and Jainism, these religions people are hardly found here. Hindus are large in number, Muslims, Christians, Marwadi religion people can be seen in small quantity.

Hinduism:

The term Hindu is wide in its connotation and includes many faiths. The dominant religious faiths coming under Hinduism are Brahminism and
Veerashaivism. In Koppal district these main two faiths are followed, while having several points in common, both differs from its beliefs and rituals.

Brahminism is represented for instances by the various sects of Brahmins like madhva smaartha, shrivaishnava. Veerashaivism, or Lingayat consist of number of sub-castes, depending on occupation. Viz; Lingayat-Vokkaligas primarily engaged in tilling the land, Banagigas are practicing trade, Hatkars and jadas practicing weaving. Ganigas are oilmen by traditional occupation; Jangams are the priests of Lingayat caste people.

Muslims:

The largest numbers of Muslims in the district are found in Koppal taluk. In rural areas their main occupation is weaving and agriculture. Most of the Muslims in the district follow the Sunni faith. The main sects of muslims in the district are sheiks, Mughals, Pathans and Syedh.

Christianity:

There are both Catholics and Protestants in the district and mostly live in urban places and run convent schools, some are teachers, also work in government offices.

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:

SC/STs are the people who are down trodden by higher caste people from centuries in India, after independence now they are recognized by government of India and are given adequate facilities and reservation to develop themselves. In total population, SC/STs are 2, 08,603 (21.71%) in number. Practicing number of occupations, most of them are poor and backward. 56,011 (29.08%). SC/STs are agricultural labors, not having land of
their own. Their literacy rate is also very low. Beda Jangam, Holey, Madiya, Samagara, Mala, Mochi, etc, are main scheduled castes in district, Valmiki, Thoti, Koya, Bhil, Sudugadu Siddha are recognized tribes.

Language:

The main language spoken in the district is Kannada; along with that, Telugu, Tamil, and Urdu are also spoken by people, who are also quite familiar with Kannada. Urdu is spoken by the Muslims. Until recently it was the official language and the medium of instruction in the erstwhile Hyderabad state. That's why the Kannada language spoken in Koppal has many Urdu and Telugu words. Along the belts of Tungabhadra the Telugu immigrants have settled down from many years. So, Telugu is also a main spoken language in the district, Marathi is also understood in some trade circles, since there has been always a trade connection in cotton and groundnuts with Sholapur and Mumbai. Along with these, Banjari, Hindi, Marwadi, Korava, Gujarati, Konkani and Malayalam speaking people are found here.

Food Habits:

The staple food of people is Jowar (Jola); Jowar is ground into flour and made into bread (Roti) which is eaten with condiments (Uppinkai) and vegetables (palya). The poor sections of the community, who can’t afford vegetables, eat the Jowar bread with ‘Chutney’. The vegetarian food consists mainly of Roti or wheat Chapatis, Rice (anna), vegetables ghee (tuppa), Pickles and happalas or papad and Curd (mosaru) or butter milk (majjige). They prepare special dishes like Holige, Kadubu, Sajjakke etc, on festivals and special days like jayantis, jatras.
In addition to principle meals, they take a breakfast (Nashta), in the morning like Uppittu, Avalakki, Dose, Idli etc, with tea or coffee. In evenings tea or coffee with light snacks like Bhaji, Mirchi, Mandal, are also taken by males in tea shops. Except the Brahmins, Lingayats, Vyshyas, Jains etc, most of the other communities eat meat and fish. The Hindu avoids beef and the Muslims pork.

Dress and Ornaments:

The usual traditional dress of the elderly men consists of a ‘dhoti’ worn in the ‘Katche’ style, a full or half shirt, a Coat and an ‘Anga-Vastra’ called ‘Shalya’ and a head dress consisting of a turban called as Rumbalu, working class wear on there head Rumbalu to protect from the heat of sun. Men working in administrative and business offices wear a pair of trousers and a Bush-shirt. Working class wear on there head Rumbalu to protect from the heat of sun. The Dress pattern of women also follows traditional lines. A Tight-fitting bodice called’Kuppasa’ and seere or saree are worn. The latter end of the saree called ‘Seragu’ taken over the head by elder women. Among the Madhvas, the Saree is particularly worn in the ‘Katche Fashion’. Girls, before puberty or till marriage wear a skirt (Langa) or Salwar Kameez (Chudidar), boys’ wear a shirt and shorts (Angi and chaddi).

The sultriness of the climate makes it essential for the people to go in for lighter types of clothing. The well-to-do go for silk (Reshime) and other costly fabrics. While the middle and the poor classes wear cotton clothes.

The practice of wearing heavy and old fashioned ornaments has given place to that of light ornaments. The old-fashioned ‘Nagamuragi’, Gejji, and Vanki, have disappeared now, women wear simple gold necklaces, small ear-
rings (Kiviyole) nose studs (Mugabattu) studs either made of gold or set with precious stones, light gold bangles (Bale) and finger rings (Ungura).

**Family System:**

Joint family system is still prevalent in the district, although quite a few families follow this system unquestioningly. Nuclear families are increasing in number, the reasons being changes in the pattern of society, new laws of inheritance and of course education and new job opportunities. Head of the family either in joint families or nuclear families, still has the power to take decisions regarding marriages, finance, education and franchise of the family members.

**Marriage and Morals:**

Records of the old times reveal the existence of the system of polygamy among the Hindus in the district. It had continued to be in practice until recently. The Hindu marriage Act of 1955 put an end to this system, which was already disappearing and marked a milestone in the onward march of the Hindu society, polygamy is, however, prevalent among Muslims. Many sections in this district, widow marriage are prevalent. This marriage is called 'Udike' unlike the usual marriage which is called as 'Maduve'. Among the orthodox Hindus, divorce is not in practice, but marriage Act of 1955 grants divorce for Hindus.

In respect of marriage alliances, there are many restrictions among the generality of castes. A man must not marry outside his caste and if he is a member of a sub-castes, he may not marry outside the particular sub-caste, the rule is that the bride and the bridegroom should not belong to the same gothra (sept). Along with these restrictions, there exists a custom, which allows
marriage among some relatives. Marriage between cousins is not prohibited among the Muslims. But a person cannot marry his sister’s daughter.

Nowadays, marriage ceremonies have become more fashionable than traditional. In a single day all marriage rituals are completed. In all castes, dowry system and extravagant marriages with video coverage are more popular.

**House Type:**

The people in the village of the district live in houses built of mud with the mud roofing. The walls are raised by heaping mud layer after layer and leveling the sides with a wooden leveler. In the eastern parts of the district palm leaves and stems are used for roofing and are found to be quite useful. Presently, construction of concrete roofing houses with brick walls are taking place of mud roofing. Few rich people of the village are having modern type of constructions.

Houses in the rural areas are built with scant respect for sanitation and hygiene; more of them are ill-ventilated and often lack elementary amenities like drains for waste water. Cattle live in enclosures very near to the house and add to the insanitation of the houses. Fields round about the village are used for calls of nature and in many of the house, there are no latrines. The summer season witnesses a period of water scarcity in many villages. The scheduled castes and scheduled tribe people live in a separate area called ‘Keri’ now a days because of Ambedkar Ashraya Yojane few people are having well built homes, instead of huts/Jopadi.

In urban area, house pattern is same, as in rural area, but got the touch of modern techniques and style. Multi storey buildings, mini vidhana souda/ D.C
Position of women:

The emancipation of women is an integral part of social progress not just a woman’s issue, but the position of women in Koppal district is one of economic dependence. They are mainly prepared for a career of wives and house keepers very few go to college and become jobholders. Now a days though they are becoming more educated, the position of women in family is dependent on their elders. But in lower castes women, though uneducated because of their poverty, they work along with their men folk. And have more independence than the higher caste women.

Pilgrimage centre and Jatras (Fairs):

In Koppal district many pilgrimage centres are there, where people visit and have their wishes fulfilled by their ‘Harike’. ‘Huligi’ in Koppal taluk is a sacred place for Hindu people. Itagi and Aanegundi are historical places. The important fairs/Jatras are–the adavirayanagudi Jatra at Kustagi, the Gavisiddheshwara Jatra at Koppal, the Kanakgiri Jatra in Gangavati taluk, the Mangaleshwara jatra at Mangalore in Yelburga taluk. The Shukumuni Jatra held at Dotihal in Kustagi taluk are main Jatras in the district. Where people enthusiastically participate and perform many pujas to the deity. People from all castes and religions enjoy and participate in jatras.

2.6 Economic System:

Economy plays a vital role in the life of an individual. The rich and flourishing economic system will be a boon for an individual to develop himself. In this regard the study of economic system of Koppal district is significant in knowing the people’s economic life.
Agriculture:

The dominant feature of Koppal district’s economy is that it is primarily dependent on agriculture, which is the chief occupation of the people. Nearly 80.65% (1991 census) of the population of the district derived their livelihood directly or indirectly from agriculture.

The pattern of land distribution in the district said to be broadly similar to that in other parts of the states, which is characterized by numerous small holdings, a large portion of them uneconomic a small number of middle class peasants and a sprinkling of substantial owners. In Koppal district, big landlords holding more than 10 hectares of Agriculture land average size of holding is 14.22, but 18.35% of holding are just, 0.60 in size.

Table-2.7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of holdings</th>
<th>No. of holdings</th>
<th>Area of land holdings</th>
<th>Avg. size of land holdings.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very small holdings</td>
<td>28773 (18.35%)</td>
<td>17257 (3.82%)</td>
<td>0.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;1Hectare</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small holdings</td>
<td>50279 (32.07%)</td>
<td>74738 (16.55%)</td>
<td>1.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2-hectares</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium holdings</td>
<td>46238 (29.49%)</td>
<td>1.29.839 (28.74%)</td>
<td>2.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4. Hectors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big holdings</td>
<td>26.365 (16.81%)</td>
<td>1.56.816 (34.71%)</td>
<td>5.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-10 Hectors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very big holdings</td>
<td>5141 (3.28%)</td>
<td>73094 (16.18%)</td>
<td>14.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;10 Hectors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1.56.796</td>
<td>4.51.746</td>
<td>2.88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on above table we can infer that land holding in Koppal is very unequally distributed, and also small land holdings are large in number, which cannot serve the livelihood of the poor farmers.

**Crop Pattern:**

Based on the seasonal conditions the district has three distinct seasons, which are also based on the crops grown. viz;

A) Khariff season, which starts from June, ends in the month of August.

B) Cotton season-which starts by August and lasts up to the end of March.

C) Rabi season, which Commence from middle of October and ends in November.

**Main Crops Grown in these Seasons are as follows**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main crops</th>
<th>Area grown in hectares</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grains</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Paddy</td>
<td>57.967hs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Jowar</td>
<td>84.776hs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Bajra</td>
<td>47.599hs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Wheat</td>
<td>12.422hs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) Corn/mazie</td>
<td>7.133hs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) other grains</td>
<td>1.868hs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.21.785(60.42%)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pulses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Area (hectares)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>g) Bengal gram/Kadale</td>
<td>12,949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h) Torr dal/togari</td>
<td>14,958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) other pulses</td>
<td>58,971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>86,878 (16.07%)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Commercial Crops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Area (hectares)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>j) Groundnut</td>
<td>51,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k) Sugar cane</td>
<td>2,912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l) Cotton</td>
<td>24,711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total commercial crops</strong></td>
<td><strong>78,973 (21.52%)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Total area used for growing main crops is 3,56,729 hectares (98.01%), in that high yielding crops are grown in 1,46,610 hectares (39.94%) area.

Irrigation:

The meagre and mostly unreliable rainfall of the district resulting in frequent visitations of droughts set a serious limit to the progress of agriculture and this was continuously hindering the economic well-being of the district.

The importance of conservation, control in utilization of the water flowing down the perennial river is needed in Koppal district. The Tungabhadra and other small streams of the district is indeed great help and the inhabitants of Koppal district owe a deep debt of gratitude to the originators of the Tungabhadra project. 67% (3.67 lakhs) of total geographical area has been
brought under cultivation. However the area under irrigation is only 21.5% (80.375Hs). Out of total 4 taluk three blocks are categorized as white and only Kustagi block is categorized as 'grey', no black area exists in the district.

Irrigation:

A) By Canals-17337 Hectors
B) By Tanks- 1939 Hectors
C) By Wells and Bore wells-28063 Hectors
D) By other sources-3242 Hectors

Only two taluks Koppal (36%) and Gangavati (55.56%) are benefited by left bank canal irrigation other parts of district depend on pump sets and rainfall.

Horticulture:

In Gangavati and Koppal taluk there are many fruit gardens along the left bank canal of Tungabhadra river. Important fruits grown are Mango, Sapota, Guava, Citrus, Fig, Banana, Pomegranate, Grapes, etc. Which are rich earning fruits for the farmers.

Fishery:

Fishery is also encouraged in the district. The Tungabhadra reservoir promises immense scope for the development of fisheries in district. A fish farm is established at Munirabad. It has an area of five acres for breeding and stocking fish.

Industry:

In Koppal district, industry and industrial activities are not developed well. Agriculture is the main activity, followed by cottage, tiny, small-scale
industries. Some big industries like solvent oil, sugar factory, ferrous (Kirloskar) are existing. In addition M/S Kalyani steels, Mukund steel factories are also working. Poultry is another agro based industry, which is well established in the district.

Small scale industries - 3.013
Medium and large scale industries - 7
Total - 3.020
No. of Workers in this unit - 12.250
No. of Handlooms - 4041
No. of power looms - 912

2.7 Transport and Banking:

To develop industrial sector the third sector has to develop, transport is needed to mobilise manufactured goods to other parts of the country, and banking is needed for the transaction of money and financial help can be given to agriculture and industry to develop.

Road Transport:

In Koppal district there is 48 kms road for each one square km of area and 276km road is there for one lakh people. This is the standard measurement to check the transport facility in the region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Road</th>
<th>Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Road line</td>
<td>-2647Kms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National highway</td>
<td>-73Kms  (N.H.13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State highway</td>
<td>-338Kms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District roads</td>
<td>-537Kms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village roads</td>
<td>-1687Kms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Road transport is not adequately developed in the district. 63.73% of the road is village road and not good for transportation of goods and services.

**Railway:**

There is a 55Kms railway line connecting Bellary-Gadag district, its only available to two taluks viz; Koppal and Yelburga, the passenger trains are useful for village people to transport and trade.

**Banking and Finance:**

Incentives for saving and ability to modify the saving into investment are the qualities of financial institutions. Organized banking system is necessary to mobilized money for developmental purposes and also can help in erasing the evils of unorganized money lenders like zamindars and dalals, whose high interest rates make poor people poorer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial institutions</th>
<th>Gangavati</th>
<th>Koppal</th>
<th>Kustagi</th>
<th>Yelburga</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Commercial banks</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Regional rural banks</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>09</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) DCC banks</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) PLD banks</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) KSFC</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Chandreshaker T R -1999.
2.8 Political System:

Being a part of Indian parliamentary democratic system, Koppal district has all features of democracy parliamentary system and decentralization. Every adult (above 18yrs) person has got the right to vote for Lok-sabha, Rajya-sabha, Vidhana-sabha and local Panchyat elections.

3 tier system working well in Koppal district total 134 Gram panchyats are there for 588 villages, 4 taluk panchayats and one zilla panchyat working well in Koppal. Out of 5 constituencies (viz: Koppal, Gangavati, Yelburga, Kustagi, Kanakagiri) 4 constituencies have overwhelming majority for congress. More on politics will be discussed in on going chapters.

2.9 Conclusion:

Koppal district though has a rich history now being a very new district is facing many problems which have to be overcome by local governments.

The more pressure on agriculture leads to low wages and poverty of the poorer section of the society. Establishment of more industries in the district can make 1.92 lakh land labours to have more opportunity in choosing their livelihood. It will also help in solving unemployment problem.

In Koppal district the four taluks are not equally developed Gangavati taluk with 55.56% irrigated land and 35.71% of banking system and also good health care centers leads in development process. Koppal taluk partially irrigated and now being a district place developing fast. But Kustagi taluk with its low rate of literacy and high rate of population growth needs special attention and yelburga taluk with its low percent of forest and dry land is very backward in its facilities and developing slowly. This regional imbalance has to be overcome by newly emerged Koppal district then only it can come forward and compete in all aspects with modern world.