The Constitution of India ensures equality of all human beings in the country. This can be achieved only by implementing the programmes on need based and with the appropriate methodology to fulfill the needs in the particular sector. By following the standard process, the sustainability can be ensured in the sector. Rural drinking water supply and sanitation sector is one of the fields, which needs to be reviewed from time-to-time and appropriate strategies to be developed. With this in mind, I have started developing the idea of studying the existing rural drinking water supply and sanitation sector and wished to come up with an appropriate methodology, which is more feasible for the present situation and to accelerate the sector reform approach in the country.

This study was intended to analyze the structure and process of implementation of rural drinking water supply and sanitation bilateral projects in Karnataka. More specifically the process followed, strategies applied in the Danida assisted rural drinking water supply and sanitation project in Chitradurga district and the World Bank assisted rural drinking water supply and sanitation project in Gulbarga districts of Karnataka. Many persons and organizations have helped me in conducting this study. I gratefully acknowledge their cooperation and contribution.

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The thesis has been divided into six chapters and they are being dealt in detail separately. Chapter – I deals with the introduction of the problem under study and details of developments related to rural drinking water supply and sanitation in India and more specifically in Karnataka. Chapter – II focuses on the studies conducted in India and abroad on this topic. Chapter – III throws light on the methodology adopted in the process of conducting this study. Chapter-IV deals with the main findings of the study. It has been divided into three parts- A, B & C and first part-A consists of 5 sections. In section 1, it gives the details of the respondents of the study area. Section 2 was concentrated on details of the Water resources available in the project area and its use by the community. Section 3 deals with the process of decision-making and implementation procedures adopted in the process of implementation of the Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation projects. Section 4 focuses on the concept of sanitation, its process and achievements by various projects. Section 5 looks into the Operation & Maintenance (O&M) part of the projects with reference to the sustainability of the projects implemented. Part B deals with the data related to the project staff and Part C deals with the Government staff Chapter –V is focused on the views of the Researcher on various concepts and matters, which require due attention of the authorities. Chapter- VI comes out with the conclusion of the study.

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