 PREFACE

For well over four decades, the Panchayati Raj institutions in India have been a major concern of policy makers in the State and Central Government. Successive governments have appointed Committees for reforms in these grassroots level institutions and consequential legislation has been enacted, but the problem of rural poverty, hunger and disease still loom very large on the socio-political and economic horizon of India. It was felt necessary to make an objective academic study of the Panchayati Raj institutions of Dharwad district consequent upon the enactment of the new Panchayati Raj legislation in Karnataka entitled "The Karnataka Zilla Parishad, Taluk Panchayat Samithis, Mandal Panchayats And Nyaya Panchayats Act 1983" which came into force in 1987 with the constitution of various new bodies. This is an empirical study looking into the relevant and multi-farious dimensions of the working of Panchayati Raj institutions in Dharwad district. Hopefully, this thesis can generate new data and new ideas about rural local self-government institutions in Dharwad District. This point of focus and frame of reference should make this a fruitful study.

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