CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

ROLE OF ELITES IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT:
A CASE STUDY OF NORTH KARNATAKA
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Introduction :

India is a large country and is widely spread in terms of its geographical region. It is divided into 25 States based on linguistic, developmental and other national priorities from time to time. Quite often, disturbances and demands within its federal units and between the various States concerning issues like river water sharing, representation or sub-regional demands encompassing issues such as linguistic chauvinism, problems of minority, ethnic clashes and disparity in matters of development are heard, seeking immediate solutions to such demands. Such demands have often reached high proportions threatening the very unity of the country and posing challenges for its survival. Although, for many years now, various studies made in this direction to understand these upheavals have seen partial success, such demands either legitimate or illegitimate, have always confronted the state, making it difficult for the states to reckon with such problems. Political rhetoric such as, the need for national integrity, unity in diversity or the arguments favouring
the united India, etc., have often been used deliberately by the political elites to keep 'low', the intensity of such demands, despite of the fact that such demands are acknowledged to be the result of the democratic character of Indian quasi-federal political set up. Being component parts of this Great Nation, the federal states in India have always resisted any move made by such movements to break away from the Union of India. They are by now, familiar with this kind of disturbances, and have learnt to respond to such demands by adopting various measures of control.

Most often, such demands are either controlled by responding to the demands of such groups, by conceding to certain of their demands, however, if the state is not satisfied the legitimacy of such a demand, the states have also responded by adopting a stringent measures of control, by which such groups are brought under the coercive powers of the state. Apart from this, there have been many other modes through which such demands within a State are encountered by those in power. Ameliorating those who cause disturbances within the State structure, or as a part of the State's mainstream activity or by accommodating them in the available space of states sphere of activity or by recognising it as political party and giving it the
legitimacy to participate in a democratic manner in the decision making process, etc., thus adopting the political bargaining tactics are some of the Machiavellian ways the State employs. When nothing clicks, the State will use force against them as a last resort to quell such movements. But as one can understand, all such attempts of the state have been either short-lived or partially successful. While renewed demands with same or similar contents have always put the State in a tight spot. Sub-regionalism is one such recurring phenomenon in the context of Indian States, which has often challenged the very legitimacy of State and its incumbents from time to time. The present thesis is an attempt to understand this basic political issue involving renewed demands of sub-regionalism with specific reason of 'neglect of a region', as the central theme of this issue particularly in matters of planning for the area of Regional Development is taken up as a case study with specific reference to North Karnataka in this study. Although this is not a completely new phenomenon in this region its eruption suddenly in the political circle itself with active involvement of the people in the region has brought this problem to the forefront once again.

In the present thesis, the term 'regional' is used to explain what regionalism explains in the context of a nation, but is
referred to in actuality the sub-regional discontentment of the NorthKarnataka region, within Karnataka State, in matters of its overall development. Thus making it more appropriately a case study in focus.

The Problem:

North Karnataka, as the name itself suggests, is pseudo division of the geographic region of Karnataka accepted for various politico and administrative reasons. The history of the region indicates that these were the parts of erstwhile Bombay Karnataka region and Hyderabad Karnataka region, which were brought under unified Karnataka during the time of Reorganisation of States in 1956. The problem in focus is, therefore, the result of a very sensitive understanding of the Bombay Karnataka region in particular, which for all practical purposes is very much an important part of NorthKarnataka in particular and Karnataka in general. However, for a study of Bombay Karnataka as the study area, this specific restriction is imposed here for academic reasons and the limitations of a doctoral dissertation, however, the choice of this area alone in no way blocks its identity and its representative character that encompass the content of the problem faced by North Karnataka region in particular. A summary understanding of the history of
North Karnataka clearly indicates that there are certain gray areas in matter of State's attitude towards this part of Karnataka, which fought for its merger with the erstwhile princely State, i.e., the old Mysore State for reasons of its linguistic identity and cultural commonness. However, differences in the indicators of socio-economic and politico-cultural issues between the old Mysore State and the North Karnataka region, which are rather apparent throughout its historical context. As one reads through the history of Karnataka and about the unification movement one encounters at various points of time, there has been a 'show' of displeasure by the North Karnataka region blaming the southern part, picking up reasons of maltreatment meted out to them in matters of, politico-social and economic related to the region, be it in matters connected to the political institutions, political parties or the economic planning, since the state and the capital of Karnataka is located in southern part of the state.

An attempt is being made in this study to understand this expression of displeasure by that section of the population, which resides in the northern part of Karnataka and which comparatively (compared to the southern part of Karnataka) has certain glaring differences, (See Appendix) be it in the matters of civic amenities, infrastructure, the process modernisation or the
attitudinal aspects of its citizen, which of course is complicated by the general apathy of people within this region at large. From a sewage system to the demand for location of vital infrastructure, governmental organisations like that of the divisional railway office or the establishment of High Court Bench, the step-motherly attitude of the State and the general apathy of the people, is at times glaring and thus supports the fact that there is, perhaps, an iota of truth, in the general feeling of the public and elites of the region in particular, that there is disparity in treatment by the 'State' between its two most important parts viz., southern and northern Karnataka.

But politics as it is and Social elites as such, are understandably the caretakers of such a feeling of high emotion, which if left uncared for, may strengthen itself to develop into destabilising force. It is in this context that the questions like, what are the responsibilities of elites in a society? How are they helpful to find solutions to the problems and what should be their efforts, etc., confront a researcher apart from making efforts at understanding the reasons for long silence of the people of this region. Is it that these elites have failed to motivate its larger, but more or less homogeneous and economically viable group in this part of Karnataka? Or is it because that the people in the
region in this part of Karnataka are less literate? And so on such confronting questions will have to be examined and this forms the crux of the problem. Hence, the problem to study the perceptions of elites about Regional Development with special focus on North Karnataka.

Objectives of the Study:

Following are the objectives.

1. To understand and examine the causes for disparity apart from attempting to conceptually framing the problem of northern Karnataka.

2. To attempt to examining the role of and the contribution of elites in matters relating to the problem of Regional Disparity.

3. To work towards the probable policy alternatives to overcome the problem of Regional Disparity in the Bombay Karnataka region of northern Karnataka as a case in focus.

A preliminary survey to this effect was conducted to evaluate the potential for research in this area, followed by organising academic symposia (the details of it is mentioned in Appendix) and discussing among elites, the feasibility of the
proposed study. The study has been undertaken with the following hypotheses.

Hypotheses:

a) That, the causes for disparity in northern Karnataka may have been due to lack of political farsightedness.

b) That, the lack of farsightedness may have resulted from limited demands of the people in the region, while involving themselves in the democratic process and,

c) That, the weakened demands of the people in the region may have been due to their misplaced political priorities.

Review of Literature:

Parimal C. Sarker's¹ (1999), book is quite informative. In this the author has discussed various issues related to Regional Development in India, which narrate the levels of disparities in development during pre and post-independence era in India. The author has given details of the Regional Disparity studies undertaken within and outside India. He has highlighted inter-state disparities and opines that the development varies in terms of agricultural productivity, which has direct bearing on industries. The author has looked Regional Disparity problems
and issues from economic point of view using the rank correlation analysis, shift analysis, cluster analysis. He says that the states differ in socio-economic infrastructure, which leads to maximum disparity in agriculture sector, which is under private ownership. He also opines that underdevelopment is the result of poor industrialisation.

R.K. Sapru's (1997) book gives details about the development administration. More emphasis is laid on the bureaucracy, which is the sole implementation authority. The author has described various theories and approaches of development. The book deals with Bureaucracy and Development.

B.N. Ghosh et al., in their book provides information regarding the constituents of development economics namely, theories of development and underdevelopment, growth, planning, etc. The authors hold poverty, social institutions, low aspirations among the people, who do not want to change and lack to initiate a process of virtuous economic growth, market imperfections, low investment, low productivity, capital deficiency as the bottlenecks for development.
Regional Development is possible only by the fullest utilisation of resources in depressed areas so that the fruits of over all economic development may be shared by the people in order to raise their standard of living. The authors have laid importance for the establishment of economically feasible industries to overcome regional disparities. The authors also stress for the effective role of the State in order to widespread the infrastructure facilities. The improper implementation and conceptual defects in the planning technique and strategies have led the Indian planning, resulting in Regional Disparity, they add.

Shashilata Puri⁴ (1978) has assessed the role of elites especially legislative elites, who are elected by people and few are nominated by the Government recognising their eminence in social services. Legislative elites are the policy makers. They make laws to cater to the needs of the people. Normally, the legislative elite arrives from a well socio-economic and political background that play an important role in bringing about changes in the society. Legislative elite are expected to mediate between the State and people. In case of their failure the development activities crumbles down.

R.C.Swarnakar⁵ (1988) has explained in detail the various theories of elite advocated by Vilfred Pareto, Gatenomosca.
Bottomore, Nadel, Kornhauser, Burnham, Miller, Cole Laseweel, Dahl, Meisel, Aron, etc. Certain characteristics like, status, wealth, power are attached to the notion of elite, who are the prime movers of society and are few who rule the majority and are the Political elites the decision-makers. The author has made 3 categories as:

(i) General elite, ordinary or common legislators of ruling and opposition as well,

(ii) Ranking elite occupying positions at various levels who are not legislators and thirdly the top ranking elite occupying different key positions amongst ranking elite. Thus political elites hold formal positions, exercise influence. This kind is observed irrespective of occupations like, agriculture, business, law practice, a significant proportion of teachers, ex-service men, medical practitioners, engineers and journalists, who are elites in their respective areas of working. In a democratic republic it is the political elites who are above all he says.

Thakur, R.6 (1981) provides detailed information about the administrative elite recruited through a certain well-defined mode of selection, who influence decision-making and also implement decisions. Administrative elites enjoy high status in the community by virtue of their occupation and merit. Tasks of
nation building and modernisation lie upon the administrative machinery. Administrative elites have more important place especially as agents of social change who can drive or hold the wheel of progress. Due to lack of communication between the policy-makers and administrative elites, the progress is curtailed. The bureaucratic arrogance keeps people away and this in turn hinders development.

Vijayalaxmi Pandit’s (1985) book has eight chapters. The first chapter deals with elites. The author has made an attempt to analyse the functioning of local political elites to solve the basic problems and to provide civic amenities, which are quite necessary for urban areas. The author observes a gap in direct communication between local political elite and the masses except during elections. Sometime the elites change their constituencies to avoid facing the hostile electorate. Elites always highlight national issues ignoring local issues. This in turn paves way for uneven development.

R.N.Thakur (ed.) (1988). This is an edited book. The various kinds of elites namely, the professional elite, the academic elite, the political elite, the military elite, the power elite, economic elite, etc., have been covered in this volume.
Part-I is concerned with elites in Europe and America. Alan George fielding describes how the professional elite, especially the medical and legal elites are playing their role in the British political system, where privatisation has been the current trend in policy.

Part-III explains the political power elite in Indian context. Who are the decision-makers in a democratic set up. They play vital role in framing the laws. Kamini Adhikari has talked about economic elites in Indian context. Who wield enormous pressure upon the political elites and try to influence the governments to formulate convenient policies in the present globalisation scenario. They donate huge sums on various occasions to political parties to gain the political favour, exemptions through government policies.

K. Puttaswamaiah’s (1980) book gives a detailed information about irrigation projects in India in general and Karnataka in specific. The data show that Karnataka has an ultimate irrigation potential of 25.00 lakh hectares of which 14.9750 hectares have been developed up to 1991-992. The percentage utilisation of potential created is 87.32 per cent. The Cauvery Basin projects include, KRS, Harangi, Hemavathi, Kabini, Devraj Urs canal, Yagachi project, Arkavati, Chiklihole, Iggalur.

Mohamad Shafi's¹⁰ (1985) book is a work on developing region namely, Shekhawati in Rajasthan, which after suffering a long spell of feudal social order has moved slowly on the road of modernity. The author points out that the Birlas, Dalmias, the Poddars, the Singhanias, the Goenkas, etc., who virtually control the economy of the nation hail from this particular region. Paradoxically, however, very little industrial development was witnessed and even today this region is relatively less developed. The author observes the lack of zeal among the business elite and the Government to develop this region. Further the author explains that the variations in agricultural productivity lead to regional imbalances, which has a direct reflection upon the economic development of an area in specific and state at large. In order to bring about development the Government must announce industrial package to attract entrepreneurs to set up industries, which cater to the needs of public and develop this area.
U.P. Sinha,\textsuperscript{11} writes, industrialisation and Regional Development has a close relationship and hence industrialisation of a region is essential for economic development. In the eighth chapter, discussions have been made regarding urbanisation, industrial location, which promote Regional Development. It is also observed that for Regional Development, urbanisation provides necessary infrastructure facilities, which act as the modest transport centres, administrative headquarters and social, economic capitals. The author has suggested to utilise the available resources at maximum on planned basis through managerial control, technological assistance, institutional help and local participation to develop a region.

The studies of elites in India are not many although social scientists and in particular political scientists have conducted a number of studies, of late, historians have shown their interest in this problem. While the sociologists and political scientists focussed on the structure, recruitment, socialisation and acculturation process of the Indian elites. The sociologists have analysed the pattern of social mobility and circulation of elites in the traditional, medieval and British periods of Indian society.

André Beteille\textsuperscript{12} (1966) in his book \textit{Caste, Class and Power} has studied the distinctions and characteristics of the elites in
different spheres of life. He listed the characteristics of elites in political field, in bureaucratic structures and among business executives. He also relates them to old status groups like castes and the new status groups which are emerging as a result of westernisation and urbanisation in Indian state/society.

Sirsikar, V.M.\textsuperscript{13} (1970) has studied the rural elite in which he has selected the leaders of Zilla Parishad in three districts of Maharashtra and has tried to find out the motivations which made them to participate in politics and their value orientations \textit{vis-a-vis} their social and economic background. He has also analysed the relationship between support bases and power linkages, which they establish with state level and national level leaders.

On a more general level, Joshi, P.C.\textsuperscript{14} (1980) in his article on \textit{Economic Development and the Indian Elite} has examined the role of the elite especially, the political elite. In the process of development, political elite being a decision-maker has an important role to play in bringing about changes in the realm of economic development but which looks to be impossible in the near future is his observation.

Desai, I.P.16 (1965) *The New Elite*, discussed about the nature of elites, and opines that contact with the Britishers and the impact of new education has resulted in the emergence of new elites in India.

Seshadri17 (1971) in his paper on, *Mass Elite Interaction*, views, the elites give lead to society but there is a wide gap between the elite and masses observing that "under normal circumstances, the gap between the elites and masses of our country is so abysmal that any interaction between these two is impossible".

Mehta, S.R.18 (1972) in his empirical study, *Emerging Pattern of Leadership*, while talking about new rural leadership maintains that the grass root level leadership is quite important and normally the elites at the grass root level are responsible for initiating change in villages as the area of operation is quite small and they can easily influence the people and as well as the policy makers as the most of the political parties depend largely on the
rural electorates thus new elites emerge out of every elections that occur frequently.

Lal, Sheo Kumar\textsuperscript{19} (1980) in a study, \textit{Approaches to the Identification of Elites}, on urban elites in Rajasthan has focussed on positional, reputational and issue based participation approaches to the identification of elites. The reputational elites exercise greater influence on the society he says.

Singhi, N.K.\textsuperscript{20} (1980) \textit{Elite Phenomenon with Reference to the Bureaucratic Elites}, concentrating his study on the bureaucratic elites, finds that this class is responsible for bringing about innovations and creativity. The bureaucratic elites are responsible for preservation, continuation and equilibrium of society. He also makes a classification of elites on attributional basis.

Ahuja, Ram\textsuperscript{21} (1980) in his study, \textit{Political Elites Recruitment and the Role in Modernisation}, discusses about the elites. He considers elites as a dominant group, which possesses distinctiveness and exclusiveness. According to him, the elite character has always been changing. They move from microstructures to the macro ones. He concluded that elites are by and large status quoits.
Sachidananda\textsuperscript{22} (1977) in his book, adopted educational criteria for identifying an elite among Harijans. Sachidananda points out that elites among the Harijans must act as 'torch-bearers' of social change, should become the most active and powerful agents for social transformation. He opined that the elites among the Harijans should act as catalysts of change.

Abbasayulu, Y.B.\textsuperscript{23} (1978) in his book, while identifying the elites among the scheduled castes in Andhra Pradesh, he evolved some new criteria for defining elites. According to him, elites are those who possess intellect and rational judgement capacity while participating in decision-making and occupy some position of trust and responsibility. Abbasayulu points the necessity of role of elites in the development of scheduled castes that must reflect the grievances of their group through various means.

Srivastava, Saraswathi\textsuperscript{24} (1969) in her book, \textit{The Pattern of Political Leadership in Emerging Areas: A Case Study of U.P.}, subsumes an exhaustive and critical analysis of the recruitment, circulation of elites and behavioural dimensions of state legislative and their respective role and interactions with the political system as part and parcel of a study of political elites in Uttar Pradesh. Some significant findings of the study are:
1. Legislators tend to be heavily drawn from higher socio-economic groupings in society in terms of caste, occupation and education.

2. As political elites, legislators mediate between the citizen and the government and at times among and between citizens.


1. General elite, ordinary on common legislators of ruling as well as opposition parties.

2. Ranking elite, occupying different ranks like Deputy Ministers, State Ministers, ex-Chief Ministers, Party Presidents, leaders of main opposition party.

3. Top ranking elite holding key positions like Chief Ministers, Cabinet Ministers, etc.

Mehla, H.S.25 (1989) has analysed the availability of local resources for the growth of industrial structure in a backward region Shekhawati in Rajasthan. The untapped sources must be
properly developed. The devil of illiteracy is to be won over, agriculture is to be reorganised on modern and scientific lines, irrigation facilities are to be developed to achieve Regional Development.

He is also of the opinion that human element plays a significant role in the economic growth and industrial development of a region. Due to lack of resources and underdeveloped infrastructure the top businessmen of the country hesitate to invest which in turn results to underdevelopment he says.

K. Munirathna Naidu's (ed.) (1988) book is an outcome of contribution of seven articles pertaining to industrialisation and Regional Development, regional planning, etc., which gives an thorough information regarding the pattern and inter-state variations in industry. The authors have identified variations in the level of per capita income, variations in the size of the market and the availability of power as responsible factors for the variations in industrial pattern creates regional imbalance. The efforts of the government, people and the entrepreneurs, etc., would help in reducing of regional imbalance they say.

John Faithfull Fleet,²⁸ (1988) gives a first hand information related to the various dynasties that ruled over the Kanarese districts of Bombay Presidency. This is the first of its kind book to know about the present Bombay Karnataka area details in the united Karnataka. The author has mentioned about various earliest epigraphic records to trace the Kanarese districts history, is found in this book.

Sharma, R.C.²⁹ emphasises on micro-regional planning programmes for the removal of regional imbalances in the distribution of socio-economic pursuits. The degree of distribution of improved amenities and socio-economic infrastructure have a positive effect on economic growth. Therefore, the success of any Regional Development planning programme basically requires the infrastructural facilities for preparing the region viable for economic development.
Singh, Abhimanyu\textsuperscript{30} analyses the causes for the tardy growth of eastern region, especially Bihar. Apart from paucity of resources, which is accentuated by the lack of political will to mobilise the resources he says.

Bhargava, B.S.\textsuperscript{31} (1980) throws light on the irrigation, which is one of the important inputs of agriculture and a pivotal component of the rural infrastructures for development.

The Irrigation Commission (1972) has assessed the Karnataka State, as a category of areas exposed to a high degree of drought and famine. Hence, the author appeals to priorities, the efforts to exploit the surface and ground water potential to the maximum extent as to provide assured irrigation facilities in the state of Karnataka.

The author points out the need that people must realise their needs and must come forward to participate in the schemes and programmes for their upliftment and to support the government to achieve desirable results. This is more so in view of the fact that government's responsibilities have expanded enormously.

Singh, Hanuman\textsuperscript{32} stresses for micro area planning for reducing regional disparities. The planners must keep the local
needs of the area while formulating the plans, schemes and welfare programmes he says. This book gives details of variations in the level of development and highlights the role of market centres and urban places to play an important role for the reducing the regional disparities.

Mishra, R.P., et al., provides a comprehensive account of growing regional disparities in India. The authors express their opinion that the urbanisation and industrialisation process plays a catalytic role in Regional Development. Hence, they mention to formulate spatial development plans designed to accelerate urban and industrial development, as urbanisation provides the basic infrastructure. The overall development of a region depends upon the agricultural transformation, industrialisation and infrastructural development.

Mishra, Jaganath, and Sinha Chakradhar's volume of writing is a collection of papers presented at a seminar, 'Planning for Development and Regional Imbalance in India with Special Reference to Bihar'. The authors point out the historical background, improper/insufficient allocation of funds, resources as the responsible factors for regional imbalance. Further, the poor resource base, in terms of infrastructure, people's passive participation further enhance the degree of regional imbalance.
Lack of serious efforts to solve this has kept this issue alive. Hence, the planning mechanism so to be strengthened to reduce the regional imbalance. The existence of 'regional problem' in the process of development was virtually ignored by the classical and neo-classical economists in the early years of development studies. The actual theoretical generalisation about growth of regional economic disparities started with the commendable works of Perrox (1955), Myrdal (1958) and Hirschman (1958), who gave the concepts of 'backwash vis-a-vis spread' effects or of 'polarisation vis-a-vis trickle down' effects. Their view was that in the early stages of development, the backwash effects are stronger than the spread effects. Similarly, Hughes Jr. (1961) also argued that a free market system of organisation by its very nature causes, advanced regions to grow, at least in part, at the expense of other regions due to self perpetuation phenomena.

The author has surveyed early studies in regionalisation, Regional Development and regional disparities. The empirical findings of various studies in India have been summarised briefly with a view to understanding clearly the patterns and trends in regional disparities in Indian development process.

Booth (1964) has conducted regional analysis for USA and has indicated that regional variations widened and were
confirmed the case for 'self-perpetuation' of regional income variations as stated by Hughes.

Koropeckyj\textsuperscript{36} (1972) experimented the statistical relationship between the level of development and the changes in regional inequality in socialist countries and examined the various factors that might influence it. According to socialist ideology all citizens, no matter in which region they reside are assured of equal opportunity for a higher standard of living and for social achievement. His study was based on eight former socialist countries of East and Central Europe (including the former USSR). He found no direct co-relationship between the rate of industrial output and the rate of decrease in inter-regional inequality.

Roberts and Noon\textsuperscript{37} (1987) studied the role of industrial promotion and inward investment in the process of UK Regional Development. Industrial promotion would lessen the disparity they believe and the quantum of inward investment will also lead to reduce the glaring disparities.

Campbell and Barnes\textsuperscript{38} (1987) was based on the contribution of the European Investment Bank (E.I.B.) to UK Regional Development. The implication to be drawn from the study was that (E.I.B.) was contributing towards the balanced
development of the economy and therefore, achieving the major objectives. Their observations were that the largest amount had gone to the less prosperous regions of UK, Scotland, Wales and North and Northwest (the traditionally depressed) regions. By this one can notice that the financial institutions have a greater role to play in curbing the disparity problem.

The problem of regional imbalances exists in the small countries like Switzerland too. Brugger and Stuckey (1987) brings out the details of the study carried out under the auspices of the Swiss National Research Programme, 'Regional Problem in Switzerland'. The impact of relationship between innovative activity at the entrepreneurial level and regional disparities in the Swiss economy. Emphasis was put on the product market and process innovators. The studies showed that sectoral, structural and the entrepreneurial changes in the global economy had both direct and indirect spatial impacts on the productive activities in Swiss regions.

In India, regionalisation has been one of the neglected branches of social research. The socio-economic problem did not surface in the early years of Independence. The Government of India aimed at attaining a high rate of growth of the economy through concentration of investment in the comparatively
developed regions and in selected sectors. But such a situation could not last long without generating serious stress in the Indian polity and the need for articulation of viable regions was strongly felt. During the fifties, the regional schemes proposed were based almost exclusively on physiographic factors.

Williamson\(^{40}\) (1965) as a part of his international study also briefly investigated the pattern of regional inequalities in India during 1950’s and observed variations in development index by this one can notice the fact that India experienced regional imbalance right from pre independence as Britishers developed a few regions to suit their convenience instead of over all development. The same problem has been continued even today calling one’s attention and thus came to the conclusion that this decade marked the phase of increasing inequality.

Gupta\(^{41}\) (1973) studied the role of the public sector in reducing regional income disparity in Indian Plans. The uniform distribution of public sector units in the state can highly contribute to cut down the increasing disparity.

Singh\(^{42}\) (1982) argued that ‘since agriculture is the main source of income of rural population in India, imbalance in its
growth in different regions has resulted in the imbalances in the incomes and levels of living.

Studies by Nair (1985), Tewari (1985), Rao (1985) and Singh (1985) also confirmed that the fact of increasing regional disparities, in terms of inter state income disparities, Disparities in levels of development, inter state difference in levels and rates of growth of income in India respectively.

Dholakia (1985b) analysed regional disparities in economic growth in India taking 15 major states. He has analysed the trend in state income inequalities considering the sectoral classification. He employed crucial aggregates such as real output, employment and the real stock of capital in the states and his analysis shows increased disparities in India till 1980's.

Das (1993) explains in his paper, though there were attempts to disperse industries to backward regions, the already advanced states managed to obtain a lion's share of the benefits. Due to lack of essential infrastructural investment. the agricultural development also became lopsided. While talking about Centre-State relations, he opined that..... political party affiliations, the financial allocation to state vary a lot and with an biased version the disparity continues.
Abdul Aziz and Sudhir Krishna (1996) in their detailed study of Hyderabad Karnataka region economy, covering its problems and prospects for development, provide valuable information regarding recent development. They have identified various factors such as poor irrigation facilities, local consumption of power for agriculture, poor communication facilities, which are considered as bottlenecks for overall development of a region. They also suggested to improve the above mentioned factors in order to cut down the glaring variations between the various parts of Karnataka state and they also suggested that the HKADB to focus its attention on larger effective and qualitative regional planning by interacting with local self government institutions and it must identify the thrust areas for development of backward areas.

Akthar Majeed (ed) (1984) says that regionalism is the outcome of unequal sharing of the benefits of developmental activities. Ethnic variations and regional imbalances often overlap each other. The erratic policies of decision makers has further led to uneven distribution of resources and varied levels and paces of development in different regions. This latter perpetuates the already existing imbalanced growth giving an
added momentum to regional movement, as it is evident now in India.

C.R.Kothari (1997) provides a complete knowledge about the research methodology, which is a scientific way to solve the various problems in the society. The book contains various research designs, details about sampling designs, various measurements and scaling techniques, different methods of data collection, application of parametric tests for hypothesis. This book is like a co-guide to researchers while pursuing their research.

Rationale of the Study:

This study is primarily undertaken to understand the prevailing notion that North Karnataka region is underdeveloped and therefore, it is necessary that a study be undertaken to understand how development, can be designed to promote the interests of this region. North Karnataka being the study area within Bombay Karnataka region the following districts namely, Dharwad, Bijapur, Belgaum, Karwar, were considered for an in-depth study choosing elites of various categories belonging to these districts only however due to recent political decision of redefining the districts in the year 1997 the districts of Dharwad
and Bijapur were further divided into Gadag, Haveri and Bagalkot respectively since the area of North Karnataka covers 12 districts, the entire region starting from the borders of Chitradurga down to Bidar covering an area of – having nearly 52 per cent of the total population of the state it was found unsuitable to undertake a study of the entire region for Ph.D dissertation. Therefore, the commonly identified and accepted area namely, the erstwhile Bombay provincial regions have been taken up as the study area.

A number of attempts have been made by various studies including that of Sri H.K. Patil\textsuperscript{52} to understand the problem of Regional Disparity in this region. However in rationalising the disparity it is often seen that many of such studies have attempted at an analysis of the statistical details alone. As against such simple studies, this study is glaringly different because it is attempting to understand the problem in a holistic manner and, hence this study, of elites' perception taken in to cognizance. While doing so, we have been very clear in choosing the elites from socio-political, cultural groups in the region and also in analysing it with primary and secondary source materials. Assembly debates, discussions, Who's Who, the archival visits, to understand the ministerial noting in the files, etc. have helped us
finalising this study while our attempts at evolving a theory called a 'peripheral theory' of Regional Disparity has yielded considerable success.

Methodology:

In order to arrive to a stage of formation of a theoretical presentation of data collected, after due deliberations, employing scientific methods, a field survey was carried in the Bombay Karnataka region, which forms 28 per cent of the total area of Karnataka, which is a major portion of northern Karnataka region which covers seven districts. Several criteria including variations found in Bombay Karnataka region, such as Karwar, Belgaum, Dharwad and Haveri, which represent parts of Malnad, Western Ghats, coastal belt, etc., have all been taken into account while choosing the area for the survey, giving priority to the presence of elites in various walks of life in the region, generally termed as North Karnataka.

Purposive stratified sampling method (C.R.Kothari, 1985) was employed in choosing the respondents in the region, depending upon their availability covering almost 0.024 per cent of total population. Political elite, literary elite, religious elite, business elite, administrative elite, general elite, etc., formed the
various categories chosen for the purpose, covering about 271 respondents with a sample size ranging from 4 to 170 in each category including the political elites in the local government units. This forms about 0.024 per cent of the total population in the region and after assessing the need for the sample size for employing the stratified method for doctoral study through experts in the area of application of statistics methods. The above number was finalised.

Depending upon the information to be collected and collated, schedules were prepared with certain general questions and certain specific questions depending upon the information to be collected from among the chosen respondents. The questions were so framed to suit the computer-aided analysis and to extract information about Regional Disparity problem covering various objectives and hypotheses formulated. Being aware of the complexities of the problem, apart from collecting the data from the schedules served, stress was laid on informal discussions, which, in some of the cases, have been recorded. After processing the data, which are rather inter-disciplinary in content, extracted from influential elites, it has been interpreted with the help of primary and secondary sources which were collected after extensively touring the capital and other cities concerned.

Structure of the Study:

The study has been structured on the model of ICSSR research design with five chapters. Having chapter one, encompassing a brief Introduction, Research Problems, Aims and Objectives of the Research, Hypotheses, Review of Literature, Significance of the Study, Methodology, which are extensively presented.
Chapter - Two; pertains to the profile of North Karnataka in specific terms. While an attempt is made to focus the area from macro level, i.e., India to Karnataka and then profiling the Bombay Karnataka region, which is the study area in North Karnataka giving enough database for the references both in terms of primary and secondary sources. This chapter, in fact, helps the reader to appreciate the problem with historical perspective.

Chapter - Three; is a theoretical one, covering the concept of elites, and Elites and Development. This is an extensive chapter carefully worked to give an inter-disciplinary emphasis, particularly so, because the issues of studying Regional Disparity falls under the developmental economics. While the theoretical aspects of elites covers wide range of its advocates, right from Vilfred Pareto to Gateno Mosca, Bottomore, Saint-Simon and Karl Mannheim, the theoretical perspective of development draws its theories from classical and neo-classical theories to the Marxian theory of economic development and post-Marxian theories.

This chapter primarily attempts to establish a relationship between elites and development. While it examines the role of elites within developmental process.
Chapter – Four; is an empirical exposition of data collected with a focus on Role of elites in developing a region and the possibility of them influencing the process of political decision-making.

As a core chapter, this carries as many as 76 graphs, a good number of tables, diagrammatic presentation, substantiated and argued, supported by primary and secondary sources. Since most of the questions covered under schedules served, had multiple options, depending upon absolute necessity, various statistical tests have been applied to verify the strength of the data and to scientifically work out the thesis. In fact, this chapter helps us to understand both the problems of Regional Disparity and possible role, the elites can play in finding panacea to this problem.

Chapter – Five; covers the results of the study undertaken and suggestions discussed, as a result of the study. Presented with illustrations, establishing very clearly, the fact that, there is Regional Disparity and that it is because of the lack of political farsightedness and so on. Some of the results arrived at after empirical survey is presented in Graph-1.
Footnotes:


32. Singh, Hanuman, *Planning Regional Development and Disparities in India*.


34. Mishra, Jaganath and Sinha Chakradhar, *Planning and Regional Development in India*.


