CHAPTER - II

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND AREA OF STUDY

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RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND AREA OF STUDY

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

Since inception, Sociology has been facing difficulty in using methodical tools for the collection and analysis of data. Yet, it becomes hard to collect exact and precised data for the analysis, as it is with human relations and human interactions, which tend to be highly abstract and qualitative. Human nature and man’s environment are so complex that it is more difficult to comprehend and predict human behaviour than the physical phenomena. Studying human nature is not an easy task, as no man is consistent from one moment to another. The behaviour of human beings is, influenced by biological, psychological, socio-cultural, and environmental factors. However, in the present study, investigator has taken a good care in implementing and analysing all the diversified nature of the respondents into a systematic form with the help of required scientific tools.

RESEARCH DESIGN:

The research design adopted in this study is both explanatory and exploratory. In sense, it tries to explain and explore the familiar terms with the, socio-economic background of the Lingayat Elite, occupational mobility including intra and inter-generational mobility and the role of ‘Lingayat Elite’ in the progress of the society. The modern ‘Lingayat Elite’ can be found in
diverse areas as 'Educated- Professional Elite', Education and Research, Medical, Legal, Business, Banks, Industry and Technology in the private sector; as Self-employed Specialists and Professionals, Defense, Public Administration, Politics, Public Sector Corporate, the Press and other media and in variety of modern literary, Religious, Artistic and Cultural fields and etc. The categories are large in number and growing rapidly. However, only three of these were selected for this study: Civil Servants i.e. *Administrative Class-I Officers*, Politicians comprising *Corporators, Zilla Panchayat (ZP) Members, Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLA's), Members of Parliament (MP's)*, and *Ministers* and, *Swamijis*. Since, these groups of category attract the greatest number of serving the society. Focusing on these three groups inevitably means leaving out many other important constituents of the 'Lingayat Elite' like: Doctors, Engineers, Teachers, Military Officials, and Writers, which is an indication of the need for further more research studies in respect of the 'Lingayat Community' which has not been extensively and intensively studied from the angle of Sociology. Such specification of areas for further research helps research scholars to formulate new hypothesis and to widen the scope of research on the 'Lingayat Community'.

Thus, all the 'Lingayats' who are *Class-I Officers, Politicians covering Corporators, Zilla Panchayat Members, Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLA's), Members of Parliament (MP's) and Ministers and, Swamijis (who have completed their graduation)* of Belgaum district in Karnataka State,
India, are considered under the definition of ‘Lingayat Elite’ of various types, they are:

- Administrative Elite
- Political Elite
- Religious Elite

SELECTION OF THE RESPONDENTS:

Operationally, ‘Elite’ are those who use intellect and rational judgement while participating in the decision making process and occupy some positions of trust and responsibility. The investigator contacted all the Government Departments and Matts to secure the detail lists of all the ‘Lingayat Elite’ personnel who are working in various fields. The following were the offices contacted:

- Government Offices.
- Corporation Office, Belgaum.
- Zilla Panchayat Office, Belgaum.
- Social Organisations.
- Religious Mattas of Belgaum District.
- Central Research Library of Lingayat Studies, Shivabasava Nagar, Belgaum.
- Personal Contacts.

From these offices, the investigator received in total 171 (One Hundred and Seventy One) ‘Lingayat Elite’ in the entire Belgaum district of Karnataka.
State. Since, the number was not very large, the investigator decided to investigate all the total number of respondents without adopting any sampling procedure.

SOURCE OF DATA - RESEARCH TECHNIQUE AND TOOLS USED:

The study is a 'Case study' method and the data used in the study is derived from two principal sources: 'Primary' and 'Secondary' data. The primary data collected from the respondents with the help of an interview schedule through personal interviews. The instrument for this data collection was a 'Structured Questionnaire' with 'Closed-ended' and 'Open-ended' questions. The open- ended questions, which gave an added qualitative feel to the instrument, provided the logic or rationale for the behavioural patterns, attitudes, and social insights. In addition to the primary research, secondary data was collected from various standard publications and sources through Government records, reports of the commission, gazetteers, census reports, research papers, journals, literature by social organisation of Lingayat community, research work of other scholars on the subject submitted to different universities and with an updated worldwide web references, etc. The statistical techniques employed are quite simple ones – both tabulation and percentages for the data accumulated through this inquiry.

FIELD WORK PROGRAMME:

The field survey was spread over the entire Belgaum district of Karnataka state, for over a period of one year from 'March 2008 to March 2009'.
The researcher had personally contacted most of the respondents, expecting a few who were not available at the time of the visit. For them, the questionnaire of 'Interview Schedule' was mailed by post and to few of them through e-mail. Luckily, most of the respondents were relatively open in response during the interviews. Beginning with personal, factual, and biographical questions greatly helped in preparing the respondents for a gradual and deeper involvement in the interview, which were mostly held in the respondent's residence and in few cases, in their office chambers and maths (for Swamijis). In some cases, the interviews were usually relaxed and friendly and followed by a more informal discussion.

**PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS OF DATA:**

After the fieldwork, the data was obtained from the 171 respondents. Later, the information was fed into the laptop for compilation, processing, and analysis to arrive at the opinions on various issues. Certain operational concepts like 'Lingayat' and 'Lingayatism' are explained in the relevant contexts and used as synonymous terms.

**AREA OF STUDY- THE PROFILE OF BELGAUM DISTRICT:**

The present study is confined to Belgaum District of Karnataka State. Hence, it is essential to study the general profile of the district; such an analysis will throw light on better understanding and analysis on the objectives of the paper. With such intention in mind, a brief profile of the district is been highlighted in the study. Among the 30 districts of Karnataka
state, Belgaum district is situated in the north-western part of the state. The district covers with thick forest on the western side along the western ghat ranges. However, the district is been considered, as developed from over all points of view, including agriculture etc. This trend is strengthened by the construction of the two dams across the Ghataprabha and Malaprabha rivers, which lies in the Krishna basin. Almost the entire district is been covered by these two projects. The Krishna, the Ghataprabha and the Malaprabha cut across its length. The district has the credit of producing the hydroelectric power at the Gokak Falls, Gokak taluka, for the first time in India, as early as in 1887.

ORIGINAL NAME OF THE DISTRICT:

As seen in a record of the Shilaharas for the first time, the name of 'Belgaum' is originally found, as 'Velugrama' or 'Venugrama' and 'Venu' stands for 'Bamboo', meaning 'Bamboo Village', which is plentiful in this area, where there were thick forests. Hence, it is called as 'Malnad Pradesh (Region)'. With the creation of Belgaum as the new district in 1836 A.D. and as headquarter in 1838 A.D., the district was given the name of the headquarters town, which was called in Kannada as 'Belagavi' in records of later years.

HISTORY OF BELGAUM DISTRICT:

At the rise of the historical period, Belgaum district region was under the Shatavahanas of Paithan (century 30 BC to 300 BC) and the region was
known as a part of Kuntala. Soon after the fall of the Shatavahanas, part of the Belgaum district might have come under the Bhojas of Chandor in Goa. Later the Kadambas of Banavasi (c 345 AD to 540 AD) started ruling over the Belgaum district and Halasi in Khanapur taluk was their secondary capital. The most ancient place in the district is Halsi and according to inscriptions on copper plates discovered in its neighborhood, Halasi was once the capital of a dynasty of nine Kadamba kings. It appears that from the middle of the 6th century to about 760 A.D., the area was the in the clutches of Chalukyas of Badami, who were succeeded by the Rashtrakutas. Rashtrakuta power and domination survived in this region for a long period even after the Rashtrakutas ceased to be a paramount power in 973 A.D., for about 400 years. The Ratta Makamandaleshwaras or Rattas for short, administered large portions of Belgaum district, at first as the chief feudatories of the Rashtrakutas, then as the subordinates of the Goa Kadambas and finally from 1170 A.D. as independent monarchies and made 'Venugrama' their capital.

Inscriptions give evidence of a long struggle between the Rattas and the Kadambas of Goa, who succeeded in the latter years of the 12th century in acquiring and holding part of the district. By 1208, however, the Kadambas had been overthrown by the Rattas, who in their turn succumbed to the Yadavas of Devagiri in 1250 A.D. After the overthrow of the Yadavas by the Delhi Sultanate (1320 A.D.), Belgaum was for a short time under the rule of the latter; but only a few years later the part south of the Ghataprabha River was subject to the Hindu rajas of Vijayanagara.
In 1347 A.D., the northern part was conquered by the Bahmani Sultanate, which in 1473 A.D. took the town of Belgaum and conquered the southern part too. When Aurangzeb overthrew the Bijapur sultans in 1686, Belgaum passed to the Mughals. The Mughal rule of this part of the country was of a purely military nature and it did not last long. The death of emperor Aurangzeb in 1707 A.D. led to the establishment of two Maratha principalities under Shivaji's grandsons, Satara under Sahu and Kolhapur under Sambhaji.

In 1719 A.D., Sahu received imperial grants from the emperor, which conferred on him the right to collect *Chaut* or *one-fourth* (1/4<sup>th</sup>) and *Sardeshmukhi* or *one-tenth* (1/10<sup>th</sup>) of the revenues of the six Deccan provinces, including Belgaum. In 1726 A.D. on the excuse of collecting these revenues, Peshva Baji Rao marched into Karnataka and plundered places as far South as Shrirangapattana. In 1730 A.D. under a treaty between the chiefs of Satara and Kolhapur, the country between the Krishna and the Tungabhadra was assigned to Kolhapur. In the meantime, the Savanur Nawab, who was subordinate to the Nizam, gradually acquired a large territory. In 1746 A.D. he ventured to resist the authority of the Marathas to collect their due share on the revenue in this region. This resulted in a Maratha invasion and in 1747 A.D. he had to agree to a treaty by which he yielded large tracts of lands to the Peshva. The Belgaum fort was passed on to the Peshwas in 1756 A.D. and in 1763 A.D. Peshva Madhava Rao subdued the Desai of Hukkeri.

In 1764 A.D. Hyder Ali of Mysore marched against Savanur and reduced the Nawab to submission while his general Fazal Ullah Khan...
marched up to Dharwad. This resulted in counter attack by the Peshwa, and Hyder Ali was compelled to retreat. Once again, during 1776-78 A.D. Hyder Ali invaded these territories and in 1779 A.D. as the Poona ministers were worried to secure his aid in their battles against the English, Hyder Ali’s right to the Maratha territories, south of the Krishna was admitted, on payment by him of a yearly sum of Rs.11 lakhs to represent the Maratha share of the revenue. Later, in 1782 A.D. Nana Padnavis tried to persuade Hyder Ali to restore the territory i.e., north of the Tungabhadra river. After the death of Hyder Ali in 1782 A.D. Nana Padnavis called on Tippu Sultan son of Hyder Ali. Tippu acknowledged the tribute, which was due but evaded payment. In 1785 A.D. by demanding a higher tribute, Tippu separated Venkat Rao, the chief of Naragund, who had been his tributary since 1778 A.D. Venkat Rao sought for and obtained the help of Nana Padnavis. On the assurance of Tippu Sultan the Maratha army re-crossed the river Krishna. There after Tippu pressed the siege of Naragund with increased force and took the fort. Kittur fort was also seized likewise and both the forts were garrisoned by Mysore troops. Fears of an English invasion led Tippu to balance and take advantage with the Marathas. As soon as the Marathas had re-crossed the river Krishna, in total disregard to all his promises, Tippu re-took Kittur. The Marathas were much annoyed by Tippu’s faithlessness and formed an offensive alliance, which mounted an attack in 1809 A.D. The whole of Bombay –Karnataka region thus passed to the Marathas and remained in their possession until 1818 A.D.
By the beginning of the 19th century, major parts of the present Belgaum district fell into the hands of the British after the defeat of the Peshwas in 1818, but some other parts were under the Maratha chieftains like Kolhapur, the Patwardhans of Sangli, Miraj, etc. The Desais of Nipani, Kittur, Ramdurg and Siransangi. In 1824 A.D. Desai of Kittur who did not have a son and was on his death bed, adopted a boy and named him as his successor. The British officials, however, refused to accept the right of the adopted child to the chieftaincy and in accordance with the 'Doctrine of Lapse' demanded the surrender of Kittur. The widowed queen, Rani Channamma, who raised the revolt against the British policies, did not accept this. She put up a courageous fight against the mighty Britishers, who finally succeeded in annexing Kittur, under the leadership of Sangoli Rayanna. Later, the Britishers put him down. Rayanna was captured and was hanged to death at Nandagad of Khanapur Taluka of Belgaum district. Britishers captured Kittur and the areas, which were directly under them, were now in Dharwad district of the British in the Bombay Presidency. Chikodi and Manoli taluks, which originally belonged to Kolhapur but changed hands several times during the second half of the 18th century and early part of the 19th century till their final take-over by the British.

In 1836 A.D., the new Belgaum district was created by splitting Dharwad district and by adding Bagalkot, Badami and Hungund taluks (presently of Bujapur District, but then of the Dharwad district) also to it. However, when the new Kaladgi (Bijapur) district was formed in 1864 A.D.,
these taluks were merged with it. With the death of Patwardhan of Chinchni in 1839-40, and with that of the Patwardhan of Kagwad, their Jahgirs and of Nipani too, were merged into new Belgaum district in 1848 A.D. Belgaum was chosen as the venue for the 39th session of Indian National Congress in December 1924, under the presidency of Mahatma Gandhi.

The British rule came to an end on August 15th, 1947 and with the merger of the princely states in 1948 and their integration later on, the boundaries of Belgaum district were re-organised. In 1956, because of the re-organisation of states, Belgaum district excluding Chandgad Taluka came to be included in the erstwhile Mysore state. This enlarged the then Mysore state has since been re-named as Karnataka. Belgaum happens to be the headquarters of one of the four administrative divisions of the State. The jurisdiction of this division extends over the district of Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwad, Uttar Kannada, Gadag, Haveri, and Bagalkot i.e. the territories which formerly belonged to Bombay state. Thus, the customs and traditions of Belgaum have been influenced by both the Kannada and Marathi cultures.

LOCATION:

The district is located in the north-western part of the State. It lies between 15° 23' to 16° 58' north latitude and 74° 5' to 75° 28' east latitude. The most elevated portion of the district lies to the west and south along the line of the Sahyadri hills. The district is between 450 to 900 meters above MSL and extends over an area of 13,415 Sq. Km which is 6.99 percent of the total
geographical area of the State. It measures about 160 Km from north to south and 80 to 130 Km from east to west. Belgaum district is bordered by the districts of Maharashtra state in the north, i.e. Kolhapur district in the west, Vengurla district in the north-west, and Sangli in the north. Bijapur and Bagalkot districts of Karnataka state in the east, Dharwad and Uttar Kannada districts of the same state in the south and Goa territory and Maharashtra state in the west.

AREA AND POPULATION:

The area of the district is 13,415 Sq. Km and population was 47,78,439 in 2011. An area of about 36 sq. km. was transferred from the district in 1983 to the Uttar Kannada District to rehabilitate persons in Supa and other villages submerged under the Kali project. Athani taluka is the biggest taluka with an area of 1,995.7 sq. km. and the Raibag is the smallest taluk with an area of 958.8 sq. km.
Fig. 1: Map of India showing Karnataka, map of Karnataka Showing location of Belgaum district and map of Belgaum District showing tahsiles.
ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS:

Belgaum is the district headquarter as well as a divisional headquarter of north Karnataka. The district is divided into ten (10) talukas namely: Athani, Bailhongal, Belgaum, Chikkodi, Gokak, Hukkeri, Khanapur, Raibag, Ramdurga and Saundatti. For Administrative purpose district is divided into three Sub-Divisional Head Quaters namely:

→ Belgaum Sub-Division: Belgaum, Khanapur and Hukkeri.

→ Chikodi Sub-Division: Chikodi, Athani and Raibag.

→ Bailhongal Sub-Division: Bailhongal, Ramdurg, Saundatti and Gokak.

These are headed by the Assistant Commissioner, and 10 taluka headed by Tahasildar. The Deputy Commissioner is the head of the district. The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) will assist him/her in all the administrative activities of the district. The district is having 35 hoblies, 1,138 villages and 26 villages without population and 20 towns. In the district there are 01 municipal corporation, 02 city corporations, 07 municipalities and 06 Town Panchayats. All developmental activities in the district are undertaken by Zilla Panchayat, 10 Taluka Panchayat Samithies and 485 Gram Panchayats. The district is endowed with good natural resources, healthy climate and irrigational facilities as also infrastructural facilities. These have resulted in diverse economic activities and provide tremendous scope for development.

The following table 2.1 highlights the population figures of Belgaum district, as revealed by 'Directorate of Census Operations in Karnataka'.

53
Table: 2.1

Total Population in Belgaum District:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2001</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actual Population</td>
<td>4,779,661</td>
<td>4,214,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>2,423,063</td>
<td>2,150,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>2,356,598</td>
<td>2,064,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Growth</td>
<td>13.41%</td>
<td>17.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area Sq. Km</td>
<td>13,433</td>
<td>13,433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Density/ Km2</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion to Karnataka Population</td>
<td>7.82 %</td>
<td>7.97 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Ratio (Per 1000)</td>
<td>973</td>
<td>960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Sex Ratio (0-6 Age)</td>
<td>934</td>
<td>921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Literacy</td>
<td>73.48</td>
<td>64.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Literacy</td>
<td>82.20</td>
<td>75.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Literacy</td>
<td>64.58</td>
<td>52.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Child Population (0-6 Age)</td>
<td>626,269</td>
<td>624,031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Population (0-6 Age)</td>
<td>323,761</td>
<td>324,816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Population (0-6 Age)</td>
<td>302,508</td>
<td>299,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literates</td>
<td>3,052,032</td>
<td>2,305,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Literates</td>
<td>1,725,548</td>
<td>1,381,748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Literates</td>
<td>1,326,484</td>
<td>923,531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Proportion (0-6 Age)</td>
<td>13.10 %</td>
<td>14.81 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Proportion (0-6 Age)</td>
<td>13.36 %</td>
<td>15.11 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Proportion (0-6 Age)</td>
<td>12.84 %</td>
<td>14.49 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Directorate of Census Operations in Karnataka.

http://www.census2011.co.in/census/district/244-belgaum.html Accessed on 15-09-2013, 04.11 pm
BELGAUM DISTRICT POPULATION 2011:

In 2011, Belgaum had population of 4,779,661 of which male and female were 2,423,063 and 2,356,598 respectively. In 2001 census, Belgaum had a population of 4,214,505 of which males were 2,150,090 and remaining 2,064,415 were females. Belgaum District population constituted 7.82 percent of total Maharashtra population. In 2001 census, this figure for Belgaum District was at 7.97 percent of Maharashtra population.

BELGAUM DISTRICT POPULATION GROWTH RATE:

There was change of 13.41 percent in the population compared to population as per 2001. In the previous census of India 2001, Belgaum District recorded increase of 17.61 percent to its population compared to 1991.

BELGAUM DISTRICT DENSITY 2011:

The initial provisional data released by census India 2011, shows that density of Belgaum district for 2011 is 356 people per sq. km. In 2001, Belgaum district density was at 314 people per sq. km. Belgaum district administers 13,433 square kilometers of areas.

BELGAUM SEX RATIO 2011:

Concerned to Sex Ratio in Belgaum District, it stood at 973 per 1000 male compared to 2001 census figure of 960. The average national sex ratio in India is 940 as per latest reports of Census 2011 Directorate. In 2011 census,
child sex ratio is 934 girls per 1000 boys compared to figure of 921 girls per 1000 boys of 2001 census data.

**BELGAUM LITERACY RATE 2011:**

Average literacy rate of Belgaum in 2011 were 73.48 compared to 64.21 of 2001. If things are looked out at gender wise, male and female literacy were 82.20 and 64.58 respectively. For 2001 census, same figures stood at 75.70 and 52.32 in Belgaum District. Total literate in Belgaum District were 3,052,032 of which male and female were 1,725,548 and 1,326,484 respectively. In 2001, Belgaum District had 2,305,279 in its district.

**BELGAUM CHILD POPULATION 2011:**

In census enumeration, data regarding child under 0-6 age were also collected for all districts including Belgaum. There were total 626,269 children under age of 0-6 against 624,031 of 2001 census. Of total 626,269 male and female were 323,761 and 302,508 respectively. Child Sex Ratio as per census 2011 was 934 compared to 921 of census 2001. In 2011, Children under 0-6 formed 13.10 percent of Belgaum District compared to 14.81 percent of 2001. There was net change of -1.71 percent in this compared to previous census of India.
TOPOGRAPHY:

The Karnataka State is divided into two distinct regions Malnad and the Maidan (Sharma, B. D, 1984), Belgaum is the part of Malnad region. Topography is predominantly undulating, covered with small flat topped hills. The district is divided into four tracts (Kamath, 1987):

→ **Western Fringes**-

The most elevated portion of the district is to the west and south along the line of Sahyadri hills. The area is covered with trees and bushes, mostly moist to evergreen type of forests. The extreme west is a succession of valleys running between spurs that stretch east at right angles to main ranges of Sahyadris. The upper slopes are almost bare, the lower slopes and valleys are fairly wooded mostly wooded with evergreen to moist deciduous patches.

→ **Northern Belt**-

It is formed between the Ghataprabha and the Krishna River. The area is with some plateaus of basaltic lava flows and poor soil ranging from 90-120 M higher than the plains. In the far east the area is with low rolling bare hills with flat tops that disappear further near the Krishna river. The terrain is flat and poor with long stretches of sheet rock. The bare plain is broken by steep solitary peaks and granite rocks. The people mainly depend on north-east rain.

→ **Central Belt**-

The area mostly with undulating terrain having sparsely distributed knolls and tors. In some parts especially in Ramdurg and Saundatti taluks,
hills with elevations between 686 and 783 M AMSL are present. The drainage of Malaprabha is separated by the Belgaum hills on the west and by succession of low, bare sandstone ranges in the east. Hills near Gokak are flat topped, terraced and the sides are covered with the trees and only the tops are tilled.

→ **Southern Belt**

Mostly covered with high rugged hills. The land is more open, leveled and arable, broken by gentle downs and sometimes by sudden masses of granite. The south-west rainfall is abundant. In the extreme south-east the area is broken by ranges of hills that run north and south and towards the east they become gradually lower and less wooded. The left bank of Malaprabha is a low rolling, very strong and barren plateau of sandstone hills. North of this is a rocky wilderness of poor sandy soil covered with scrub jungles.

The district is thickly covered with ranges of hills except in some parts of Athani in the north and Bailhongal in the south. The hills are generally flat topped and slopes are covered with bushes. The Belgaum district is crossed from west to east by two great spurs, the north Ghataprabha and the north Malaprabha spurs. The north Ghataprabha spur runs from Chikodi and the sandstone, table topped and iron clay capped hills in this part are formed by this spur. The Malaprabha spur rises into high ridge known as Kasar Gudda. This region consists of long sandstone ridges with grass cover on steep slopes. The Mahipalgad ridge, the Bailur ridge and the Jamboti ridge are the three
important minor spurs of the district. The hills are mostly wooded in these spurs. The highest point of the district being 1,064 M above MSL is in Bailur ridge. The detached hills are noticeable some in north of the Krishna, some to the north of the Ghataprabha and some both north and south of the Malaprabha.

RIVERS:

The important rivers of Belgaum district are the Krishna in the North, the Ghataprabha in the Centre and Malaprabha in the South. The district lies in the Krishna basin and drains in eastward direction. The volume of flow in the Krishna is much reduced and the other two rivers shrink into streams during summer.

→ The Krishna River-

It runs for about 75 kilometers in the district, entering in the north of Chikodi and draining the Chikodi, Athani and Raibag taluks, with its tributaries Dudhganga, Vedganga and Halhalla.

→ The Ghataprabha-

This river flows for about 70 kilometers. It originates at Sundargad in Western Ghats, from Chikodi and Gokak taluks through the sandstone hills with its tributaries, the Hiranyakeshi and the Markandeya.
The Malaprabha-

This river originates in Western Ghats passes through Khanapur, Sampgaon, Parasgad and Ramdurg taluks. The tributaries are Bennihalla, Tuparinala, Ballarynalla.

Other Rivers-

The other rivers that originate or flow through the district are the Mahadayi, the Tarava and the Agrani. The Hidkal dam and Dhupdal wall along the Ghataprabha river and the Navilteertha along the Malaprabha have been constructed for providing irrigation that has improved the economic condition of the district.
Fig. 2: Map showing drainage of Rivers and Nallas of Belgaum district
SOIL TYPES:

The soils of Belgaum district can be broadly classified into red soils and black soils. By and large, black soils predominates the Deccan trap terrain and the red soils are formed in the south western and south eastern part of the district in the Gneissic terrain (Raychaudhari, et al., 1963). These soils can be grouped into following seven (7) categories:

→ **Shallow Black Soils**-

These *Shallow Black Soils* occur in Deccan trap region, to some extent are also developed in schist, shale, and lime stone terrains. They are grayish to dark grayish brown in colour, with clayey texture.

→ **Medium Black Soils**-

These *Medium Black Soils* are predominantly derived from the Deccan traps and occupy large parts of the district. They are dark grayish brown to very dark grayish brown with clayey texture.

→ **Deep to very Deep Black Soils**-

The *Deep to very Deep Black Soils* occupy large tracts in Deccan trap terrain along the Krishna river and in the gneissic terrain. These soils are dark grayish-brown to very dark grayish brown in colour and have clayey texture. Occurs in plains or lands having gentle slopes. These exhibit wide cracks in summer.
→ **Mixed Red And Black Soil**-

The *Mixed Red and Black Soil* occur in Northern parts of the district. They are reddish-brown to dark grayish brown in colour with silty clay to clayey loam textures.

→ **Red Loamy Soils**-

The *Red Loamy Soils* occur as small strips in the valleys adjacent to the Western Ghats. They are loamy to silty loam in texture.

→ **Lateritic Soils**-

The *Lateritic Soils* occur at high levels as *insitu* in Deccan terrain and at low levels as transported. They are red in colour.

→ **Alluvial Soils**-

The *Alluvial Soils* are developed over the alluvium deposited by the Krishna River and its tributaries. These are local in distribution. They are composed of coarse sand, Sandy loam and loams.
Fig. 3: Map showing Soil and their distribution in the Belgaum district
CLIMATE:

The climate of Belgaum district can be broadly divided into four seasons (Kamath, 1987) viz. the Summer, the Monsoon, Post Monsoon and the Cold Seasons. They are as follows:

→ Summer Season-

It includes the months from March to May. Temperature increases steadily with its maximum in the month of temperature April. The western part remains pleasant with compared to the eastern part of the district, which is too hot and temperature rises up to 42° Celcius.

→ Monsoon Season-

The monsoon starts on the onset of the south-west monsoon which arrives in May end to June, that lasts until October. Humidity during this season is highest of all the seasons. The eastern part of the district receives North Eastern Monsoon rain during September-October.

→ Post Monsoon Season-

It includes the months of October and November. Humidity decreases in this period to the minimum, heavy fogs gather soon after sunset and towards the morning.


→ Cold Season-

It includes the months of December to February. During this season, the temperature is at its minimum.

RAINFALL:

The average annual rainfall in the district ranges between 600 to 900 mm. The southwestern part of the western part of the district in the close proximity of the Western Ghats receives very high annual rainfall of about 1683.6 mm; the same externally decreases towards the eastern part to about 509.5 mm.

TEMPERATURE:

The temperature or summer season is milder in the western parts of the district especially in the narrow tract parallel to the Sahayadri. The Temperatures are higher in the eastern parts of the district during summer. The average temperature during day rises up to 43°C in the eastern parts and 38°C in the western parts.

HUMIDITY:

The humidity is generally high being over 85 percent in the monsoon season and decreases in the post monsoon period. The drier part of the year is the period from January to April, when relative humidity is about 30 percent.
AGRICULTURE:

Belgaum is an agriculturally advanced district in Karnataka state. Served with moderate rainfall, one-fifth of its cultivable land is provided with irrigational facilities. Its soil is also comparatively rich. 4,05,753 hectares of land is irrigated. The district took advantage of the cotton boon and there are spinning units too taking advantage of its cotton crop. Other agro-based industries like sugar have provided fillip to sugar cane cultivation. Tobacco and chilies are grown in north-western parts of the district. The district is famous for its vegetable crops. Even in historical times, Belgaum district was renowned for its agricultural progress. The industrialists, agriculturists of Belgaum have been very quick in adopting modern methods and ideas in agriculture.

IRRIGATION:

Irrigation is an inseparable part of agriculture. The irrigation projects of the Malaprabha and the Ghataprabha have been a boon to the district. A number of minor irrigation projects were also taken up and completed. The percentage of net area irrigated to the net area sown in the district during 2008-09 was 52.80. The percentage of net area irrigated by different source of irrigation for the year 2006-07 was by canals 20.70 by tanks 0.53 by wells 26.00, by bore wells 24.57, by lift irrigation 10.26 and by other sources 17.94.
Table 2.2

Irrigated Area in Belgaum District: 2008-09

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Taluka</th>
<th>Total Irrigated Area (Hectares)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Net Area Sown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Athani</td>
<td>83,345</td>
<td>56.73</td>
<td>1,69,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Bailhongal</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>24.32</td>
<td>1,21,867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Belgaum</td>
<td>5,534</td>
<td>09.79</td>
<td>68,311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Chikkodi</td>
<td>43,203</td>
<td>54.59</td>
<td>98,853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Gokak</td>
<td>85,687</td>
<td>93.71</td>
<td>1,12,967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Hukkeri</td>
<td>20,304</td>
<td>35.25</td>
<td>74,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Khanapur</td>
<td>15,247</td>
<td>29.66</td>
<td>52,432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Raibag</td>
<td>66,547</td>
<td>94.12</td>
<td>1,02,807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Ramdurg</td>
<td>41,442</td>
<td>44.48</td>
<td>95,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Saundatti</td>
<td>60,400</td>
<td>53.86</td>
<td>1,64,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Belgaum District Total</td>
<td>4,39,809</td>
<td>52.80</td>
<td>10,61,017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Belgaum District at a Glance, 2008-09.

Table 2.2 reveals that during 2008-09, the total area irrigated was 4,39,809 hectares, which accounts for 52.80 percent of net area sown in the district. The Taluk-wise analysis shows that Raibag (94.12 percent) and Gokak (93.71 percent), has large percentage of area irrigated. Belgaum (09.79 percent) and Bailhogal (24.32 percent) Talukas have less irrigated area. Thus,
Irrigation is one of the key to the socio-economic development of Belgaum district.

EDUCATION:

Education in Belgaum district had its beginning in the ‘Agrahars’, which were centers of learning of the ancient times. The earlier kings and queens found educational institutions to encourage scholarly pursuits. There was no facility for general education on a wider scale before the advent of the British, and there was very limited facility for education of girls in the district. The first Government Primary School was opened at Belgaum in 1830, which was a Marathi School, followed by a Kannada School in 1838. Four more Schools were opened at Saundatti, Sampgaon, Bidi and Bailhongal in the same year, followed by the Gokak School in 1840. The passing of Primary Education Act, in 1923 was perhaps the most important event in the history of Primary Education. The Act, transformed the control of Primary Schools to Taluk/ Local Bodies, despite the Second World War during 1944- 45; a steady progress was seen in all the branches of education. There were 528 Schools (49 for girls) in Belgaum District in 1922, and in 1932 their number rose to 859 (81 for girls) and by 1942, this figure reached 1,194 (90 for girls) and in 1947, the total number of Schools was, 1,159 (93 for girls). At the time of re-organisation (1956), the district had 5 Colleges and 883 Secondary Institutions and had 1917 Primary Schools. By 2008-09, the number rose to 3,857 Primary Schools, 755 Secondary Schools, 174 Pre-University Colleges, 133 Degree Colleges, 07
Engineering Colleges, 02 Dental College, 10 Medical Colleges, 10 Polytechnics, and 517 Libraries. Further, there are three Universities in the District namely Rani Channamma University, Visveshwarayya Technical University, and KLE’s Deemed University. Thus, with these educational institutions, Belgaum district’s overall literacy rate as per 2011 Census was 64.56 percent, of which male literacy constituted 72.18 percent and female literacy constituted 56.70 percent.

HEALTH:

Prior to the advent of the Allopathic System of Medicine, the indigenous systems were popular in the district; Belgaum was the centre of Ayurvedic practitioners in the past and had produced many eminent Pandits of Ayurveda. Opening hospitals and dispensaries by the British, introduced the Allopathic system of medicine. The earliest Allopathic institution in the district was the District Hospital stated as Civil Hospital in 1859 followed by the dispensaries at Gokak (1865), Athani (1871), Saundatti (1875), Chikkodi (1882) and Khanapur (1887), which were managed by the local bodies. During 1882 A.D., there were five grants-in-aid dispensaries and one Civil Hospital in Belgaum, where 306 inpatients and 21,021 outpatients were treated. The number of hospital and dispensaries raised to 21 in 1953, managed by the Government and the local bodies with the attendance of 9,896 inpatients and 1,66,540 out-patients. Later, medical facilities were extended to the rural areas
of the district under the five-year plans and private nursing homes and clinics were established in greater numbers.

Belgaum District is fortunate to have some of the best Health Institutions, which are serving people, not only in the District but also, in people from all over Karnataka and other states. The K.L.E Hospital of Belgaum is the Second Largest Hospital in Asia, which provides all the modern facilities and treatment. Recently, a Cancer Research Center has been inaugurated which has now made Cancer treatment easier and affordable. The services and hospitality of A. M. Shaikh's Homeopathy and Medical College, ranks Third in India. In addition to these, there are many other reputed Doctors and Health Institutions serving people selflessly and paying valuable contribution towards a Healthier Belgaum. The following are the main Health Facility Centers:

→ KLE's Dr Prabhakar Kore Hospital and Medical Research Centre, Belgaum.
→ KLE's Vishwanth Katti Dental Hospital and Research Centre, Belgaum.
→ The Belgaum Cancer Hospital, Belgaum.
→ And Other Institutions

ECONOMY AND INDUSTRIAL PROFILE:

As Agriculture is the main resource of the district and Agro and Food Processing Sectors are prominent for investment. There are about 26 large and medium industries with an investment of Rs. 1932.53 crore. Sericulture is gaining prominence in the district with nearly 481.90. Hectares under
Mulberry cultivation. Rich Deposits of Bauxite are found in Belgaum and this has led to the creation of Aluminum Industries. Deshnur, a village in Belgaum district has ample deposits of Uranium. Thus, Belgaum has been an important center for manufacture of heavy machine tools and high pressure oil hydraulics. The geographical advantage of Bangalore, Mumbai and Pune being nearby has led to a major support of Automobile and Aerospace Industries too.

TRANSPORTATION:

Belgaum district is known for its trade and commerce from time immemorial. Many crafts flourished in this region-giving rise to create transport facilities, most of these roads were not possible in all seasons. Most of the villages were cut off and inhabitant to store their food for more than five months. The rivers like Krishna, Malaprabha and Ghataprabha which flow across the district have been a major hurdle for free movement. The road network gradually improved and they were classified as National Highways, State Highways, major district roads, other district roads and village roads. According 2008-09, the road length accounts National Highways 201 kms, State Highways 234 kms, Major District Roads 2,119 kms, Other District roads 1,878, and Village roads 3,796kms.

The Railway service was introduced in this district in 1887. The Londa -Vasco line was commissioned in 1888. However, the construction of railway line started as early as 1880. The railway construction between Pune and
Harihar via Belgaum and Dharwad had begun by 1889. The system of railway extended from Pune to Mysore via Bangalore. The total length of line of the district is 219.72 kms.

Belgaum was placed in the air map around 1940 for military needs. Airport is situated at Sambra, about 11 kms from Belgaum city. It occupies a land area of 480 acres and 1,800 meters of runway which was provided in the year 1955. The Administration of Airport is taken over by the Government of India. This is also considered as a stand by port to Goa Airport.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX:

The Human Development Index for the Belgaum district increased from 0.545 in 1991 to 0.648 in 2001. This indicates an improvement in Human Development. Districts percentage of improvement in the Human Development is lower than that of the state average. Of the total districts, Belgaum district’s HDI rank was 9th in 1991 and in 2001, it was 8th Rank.

GENDER DEVELOPMENT INDEX:

The Gender related Development Index or GDI measures the levels of women’s human development relative to men. A comparison of the GDI with the HDI helps to assess the extent of gender equality prevalent in society. The GDI in Belgaum district improved from 0.525 in 1991 to 0.635 in 2001.