

CHAPTER THREE

SETTING OF THE STUDY

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UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT : A BRIEF PROFILE

INTRODUCTION :

We have noted earlier that Gavalis are mainly settled in the Western Ghats area of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Goa. To the east of Uttara Kannada district they are found in the Western talukas. As we have studied the Gavalis of Uttara Kannada district as such it would be useful to have a Birds eye view of the salient features of the district.

LOCATION :

Uttara Kannada district is situated in the Western Ghats and is one of the Coastal districts of Karnataka state. It is situated between the Arabian sea to the West and plains to the East. The district is located in the Mid-western part of the state. It lies between $74^{\circ} 9'$ to $75^{\circ} 10'$ east longitude and $13^{\circ} 55'$ to $15^{\circ} 31'$ north longitude.

AREA AND POPULATION :

The total area of the district is 10,291 Kms. which is 5.37 percent of the total area of the State and ranks 10th in the state. It extends to about 328

Km. north-south and about 160 Kms. east-west. Its population according to 1991 Census is 12,28,260. The district comprises of Eleven talukas (see Table 3.1).

TOPOGRAPHY :

The district is hilly and thickly wooded in most of the parts. It's major part is essentially high land, lowland being restricted to pockets along the courses of rivers of somewhat broken and irregular Sahyadri range of Central hills with an average height of 700 metres divides the district into two parts, the uplands or the regions above the ghat with an area of nearly, 7,77. Sq. Km. is 600 to 700 metres above sea level and the low lands covering about 3,370 Sq. Km.

HILLS :

The district is almost covered with hills which may be arranged into three groups, viz. the bare flat-topped block as of laterite from 60 to 90 metres high which roughen the coast belt; the westerly spurs from the central hill from 300 to 600 meter high stretch rugged and woody to the coast; and the main range and eastern spurs of the central hills.

RIVERS :

In Uttara Kannada district there are four big rivers - namely Kalinadi, Bedthi, Donihalli, and the Gersappa. Kalinadi is in the north, Bedthi or Gangavali in the south, the Donihalli or Tadri in south of North Kanara (UK)

and the Gersappa river flows twenty miles south of Tadri. Apart from these big rivers there are small streams and rivulets.

RAINFALL :

The average rainfall per year is 115 inches approximately. The rest of the year the weather will be relatively dry. The north-west monsoon is the major sources of rain.

MINERALS :

The district is rich in many minerals. Investigations have been conducted in the district by the Atomic Mineral Division of the Geological survey of India and the State Department of Mines and Geology. The economically important minerals available in the district are the Iron ore, Manganese ore, Limestone, Quartz, Bauxite, Lime shell, Silica, Sand and Clays. The district is an important centre for Iron and Manganese ores and it is second only to Bellary district in the state in the production of these minerals.

MAJOR LANGUAGES :

Kannada is spoken by majority of the people and people in Karwar speak Konkani and Marathi including the Gavalis of the three talukas Halyal, Mundgod and Yellapur. Many of them do speak Kannada the regional dominant language.

EDUCATION :

In Uttara Kannada there are 2162 Primary schools, 234 High Schools, 28 Pre-University colleges, 13 Polytechnic and Engineering colleges, 2 B.Ed. colleges and 2 Law colleges.

POPULATION :

Uttara Kannada is divided into Eleven Administrative talukas. They are Ankola, Sirsi, Yellapur, Mundgod, Siddapur, Honnavur, Bhatkal, Karwar, Haliyal, Kumta and Supa. Out of them, five are coastal talukas and the rest of them lie on the Ghats. The coastal talukas are more popular than those of the Ghats.

The Gavalis are spread all over the Ghat areas of Uttara Kannada district. Their settlements are situated mainly on Mundgod, Haliyal and Yellapur talukas. (Please see map).

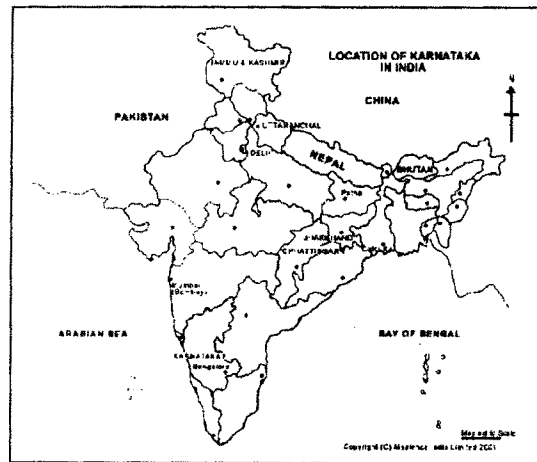
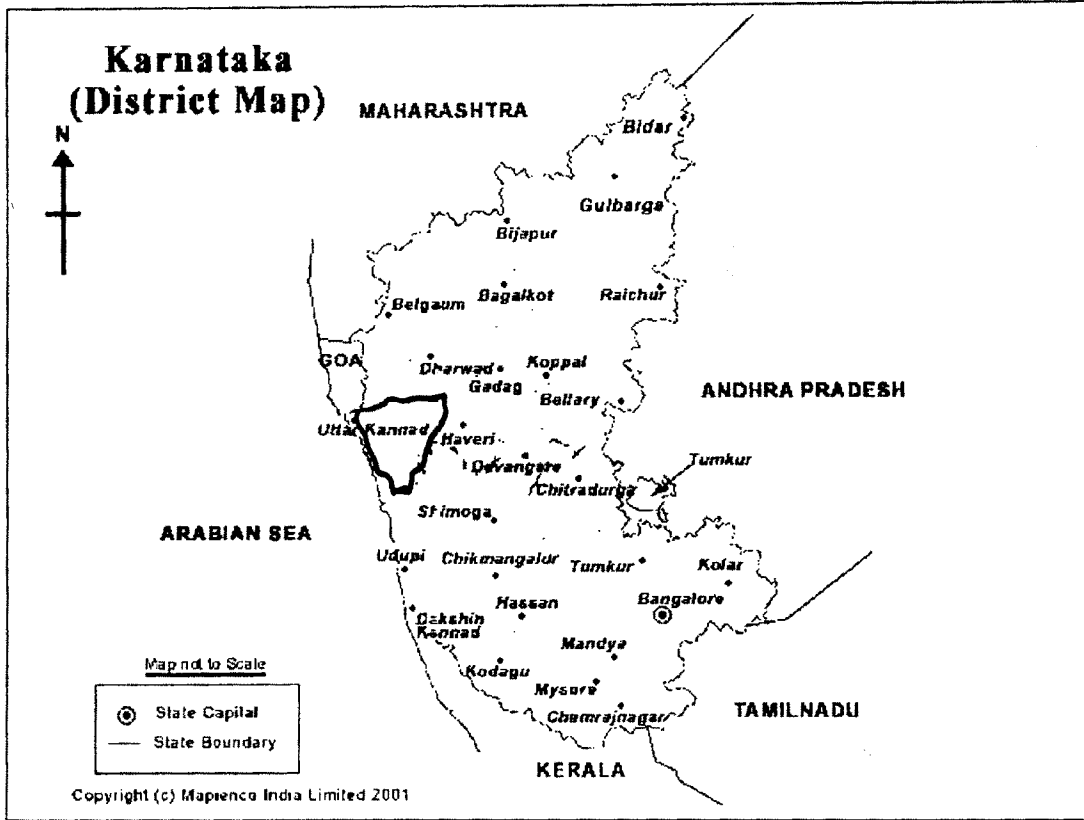


Table 3.1 Shows Population of District as per 1991 Census of India

| Sr. No. | Town/city | Rural | Urban | Total |
|--------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. | Ankola | 77801 | 13509 | 91310 |
| 2. | Bhatkal | 97539 | 31478 | 129017 |
| 3. | Haliyal | 70294 | 76770 | 147064 |
| 4. | Honnavar | 129650 | 16192 | 145842 |
| 5. | Karwar | 79416 | 60866 | 140282 |
| 6. | Kumta | 107963 | 26181 | 134144 |
| 7. | Mundgod | 75046 | - | 75046 |
| 8. | Siddapur | 91656 | - | 91646 |
| 9. | Sirsi | 102040 | 50895 | 152935 |
| 10. | Supa | 43447 | 3371 | 46818 |
| 11. | Yellapur | 50902 | 15254 | 66156 |
| Total | | 925744 | 294516 | 1220260 |

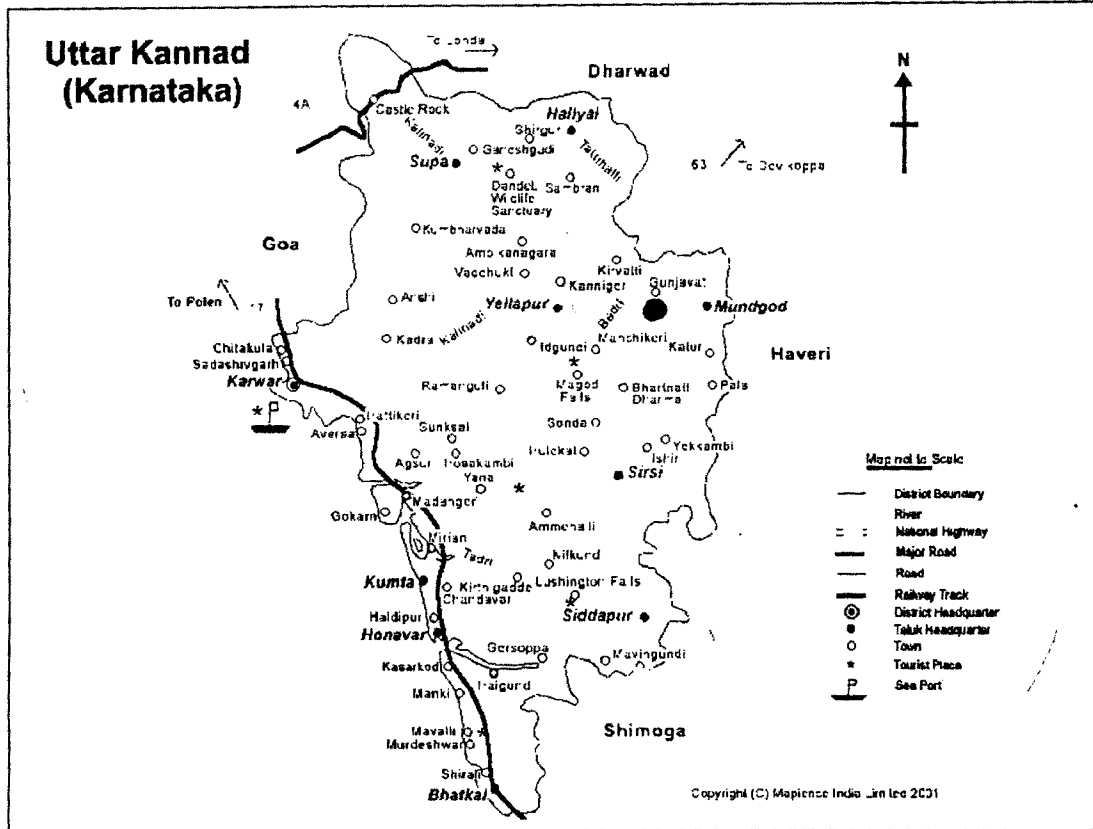
Source : District Statistical Information Officer, Asani - 61/1991

Uttara Kannada District. Karwar-301.

The population of entire Uttara Kannada district was 5,17,780 in 1951, 6,89,549 in 1961, 8,49,105 in 1971, 10,72,032 in 1981. During 1991, population was 12,20,260 out of which 9,25,744 (81.39%) people live in villages. The urban population is 2,94,516 while total scheduled caste population is 91,990.

THE STUDY VILLAGE :

Two villages i) Jogiswarala and 2) Kandrankoppa (Please see map for location have been selected for the present study). Jogiswarala settlement is located at a distance of 3 Kms. from Mundgod town while Kandrankoppa is at a distance of 40 Kms. from Mundgod.



THE ABOVE MARK INDICATES STUDY VILLAGES



JOGISWARALA

KANDRANKOPPA

