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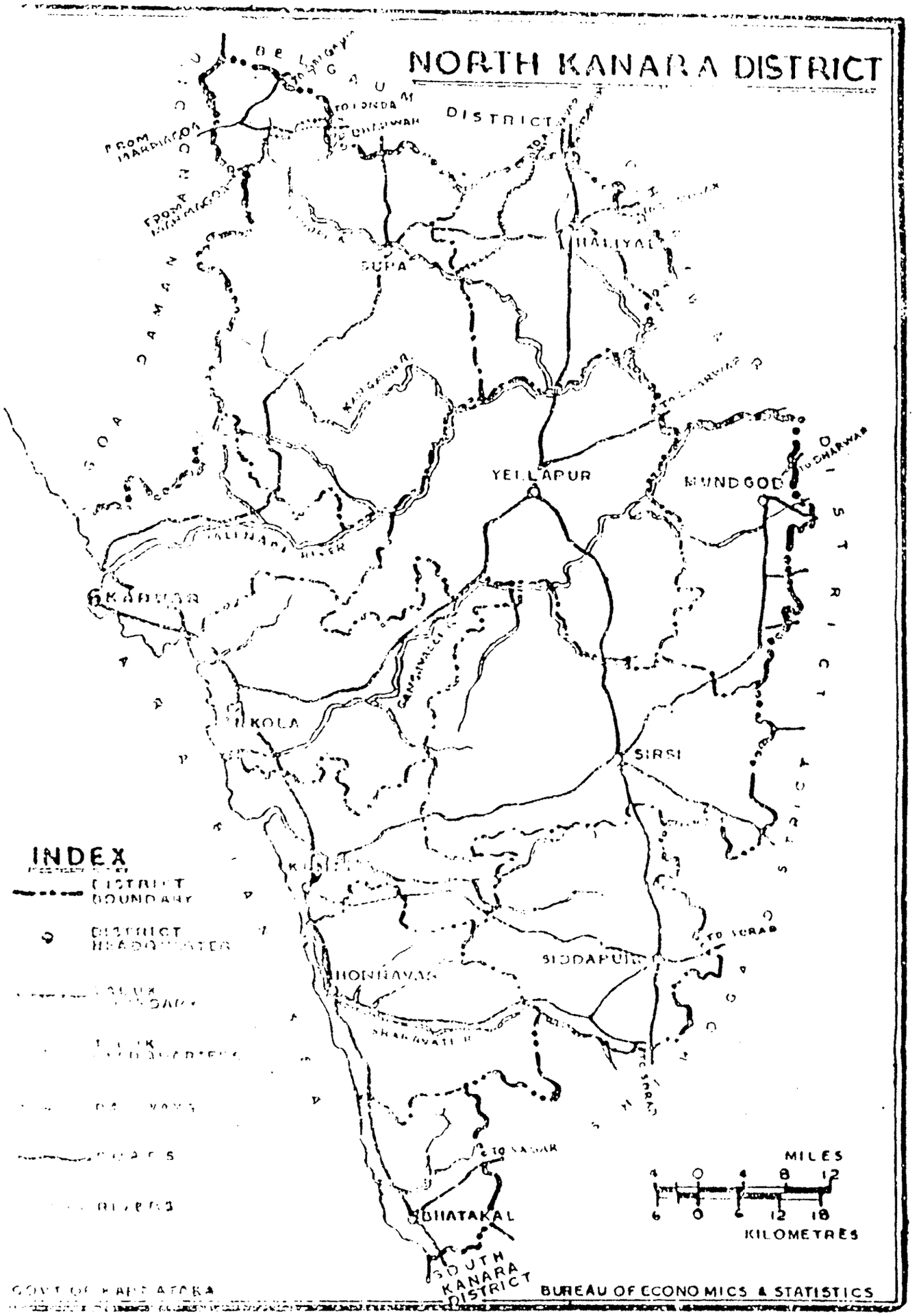
NORTH KANARA DISTRICT
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# C H A P T E R III

## KARWAR DISTRICT AND ANKOLA TALUKA - A PROFILE

### ABOUT KARWAR DISTRICT

Karwar district, one of the major districts in Karnataka is situated in the north-western sector of the state and is bounded by the Arabian Sea on its west covering an expansive area of 10,291 sqaure kilometers. This district lies between the latitudinal parallels of 13° 55' N and 15° 13' N and the longitudinal parallels of 74° 03' E and 75° 05' E. From north to south and from east to west the district spans a distance of 328 Km and 160 Km respectively. The southern most portion of the district is only 10 Km wide and the district bulges out mainly to the east as one moves north.

Consequent to the publication of the Karnataka State Government Order No. RDF 6 TNV 76 dated 31st January 1977, the name of this district was changed to Uttar Kannada. Traditionally this coastal area of the state consists of the deshas or countries named Konkana, Haiga and Tuluva as one moves from the north to south. The district, comprising of a narrow coastal strip, a section of the Sahyadri mountain range and an expansive tract in the table-land to its east, has a hoary past.

For administrative convenience the eleven talukas are grouped into three revenue sub-divisions as follows Karwar sub-division

comprising of Karwar, Supa and Haliyal; Kumta sub-division, comprising of Kumta, Honavar, Bhatkal and Ankola; and Sirsi sub-division comprising of Sirsi, Siddapur, Mundgod and Yellapur. The district itself comes under the jurisdiction of Belgaum Division.

Karwar district has 1338 villages of which 55 are un-inhabitated. The rural population is thus scattered amongst 1283 villages comprised in 11 talukas.

The overall density of population in Karwar district is 104 persons per square kilometre. According to 1981 census the total population of karwar district is 10,72,034. Out of which 8,00,241 people are living in rural areas and 2,71,793 reside in the urban area. In Karwar district there are 958 females for every thousand males. The literacy level of the district is about 48.35 percent. In the 1981 census there has been a threefold classification of population, namely main workers, marginal workers and non-workers. Medical of one type or the other are reported from 146 out of the 1283 inhabitated villages. Postal facilities are locally available in 371 villages, i.e. only 28.92 percent of the inhabitated villages. Further, the villages which are provided with electric power constitute only 49.34 percent of the total inhabitated villages. Topographically the district can be divided into three distinct zones. Kali, Bedthi, Aghanashini and Saraswati are the principal west flowing rivers of the district. Karwar district is very rich in forest wealth as about 81 percent of its total area stands classified as forests. The district receives an annual rainfall of 2741.7mm per annum. As early as in 1948, a

Central Marine Fisheries Research Sub-station was set up at Karwar. Now, Karwar also has a fishermen training centre. The district is also comparatively rich in mineral wealth. Paddy is the principal agricultural crop of the district grown all over including Ankola which is one of the talukas of the district that is considered for the present study.

## ANKOLA TALUKA

The taluka comprises of a narrow coastal strip, one section is covered by the Sahyadri mountains and a table-land on the east. The taluka according to an old mythological tale is said to have been retrived from the sea (the coastal area) by Parashurama the sixth incarnation of Lord Vishnu.

Ankola taluka is situated at the north-western part of Karwar District. It is about 33 Km away from the city. The total population according to the 1981 census is 81,057 of which 68,904 make up the rural population while 12,153 constitutes the urban population. This is clearly indicative that about 90 percent of the population is rural and depend mostly upon agriculture and other subsidiary occupations for their livelihood.

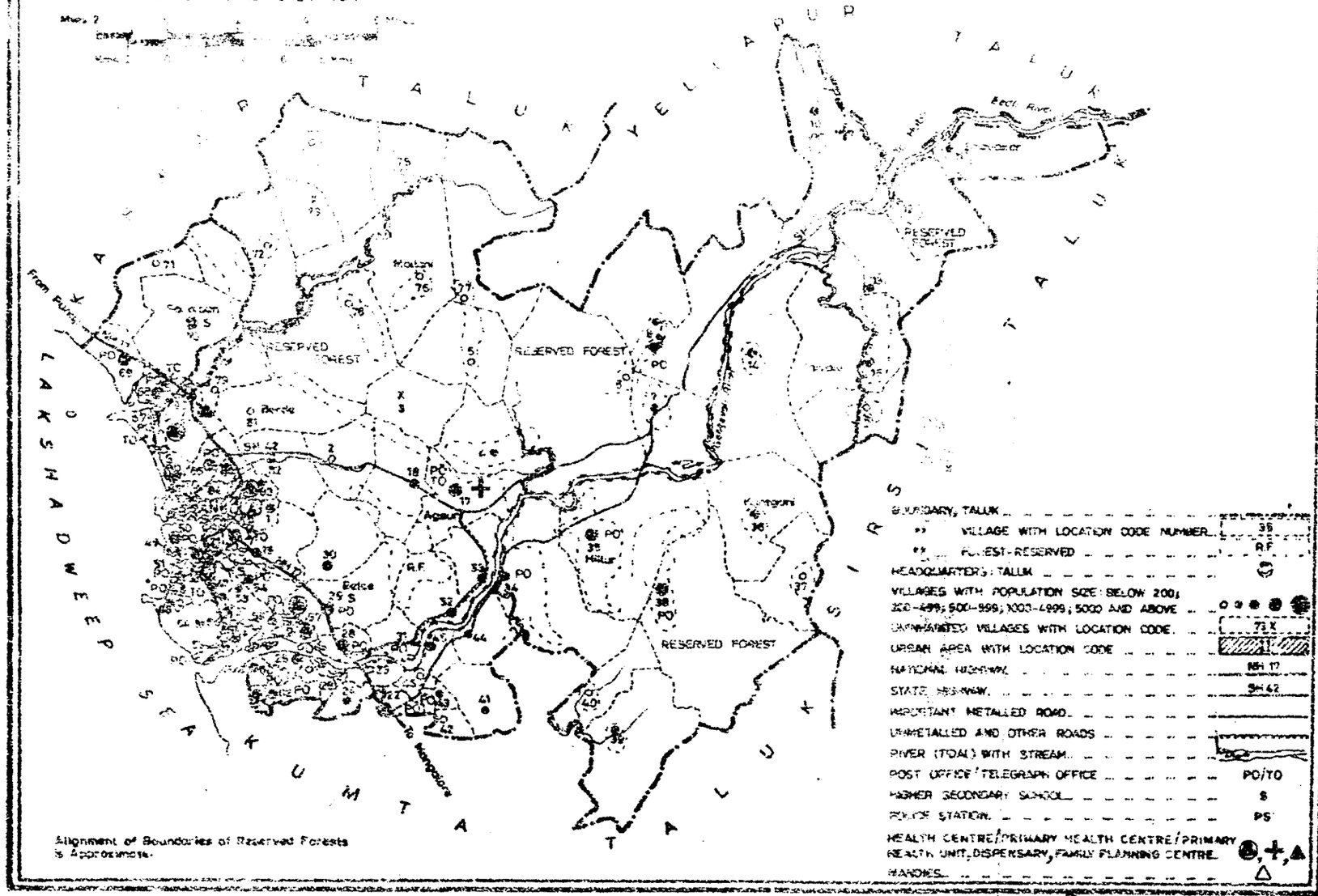
Ankola a coastal taluka, has a low density of population of about 88 persons per sqaure kilometer. Kumta taluka is situated towards the south, Sirsi towards the east, Arabian sea towards the west and the northern border is flanked by Karwar taluka.

KARNATAKA

# KARWAR TALUK

## UTTAR KANNAD DISTRICT

Map 2




Alignment of Boundaries of Reserved Forests is Approximate.

Based upon Survey of India map with the permission of the Surveyor General of India.

The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line

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Agriculture is an important source of income to a large number of rural people. It provides gainful employment to farmers, particularly during the months from June to October and December to March. Agriculture is the predominant occupation of this taluka.

Besides agriculture, fishery is the next important subsidiary source of income to a large number of rural masses. It provides gainful employment to the agricultural workers, especially during the lean months of agricultural operations.

In Ankola Taluka 10,128 of the families have less than one hectare of land, 2477 families own about 2 hectares of land, 364 families own between 4 to 10 hectares and only 24 families have land holdings above 10 hectares.

There are 88 villages in this taluka. The main crops grown in this region are paddy, ground nut, different vegeatbles, sugarcane, etc. Karwar district is very rich in forest wealth, about 81 percent of the geographical area being covered by forests. The forest of the taluka can be categorised into evergreen and semi-evergreen which are rich in soft wood and packing timber yielding trees. The forest wealth is being exploited over the decades and now stands greatly depleted. The major items of the forest produce are soft wood, package timber, timber useful for building boats, constructive timber, sandal wood and fire wood.

Though fisheries, forest and mineral wealth are undoubtedly of great economic significance, in Ankola taluka it is the cultivable land that constitutes the backbone of the economy of the taluka. Paddy and groundnut are the principal crops. There are no major irrigation works in tank bed area.

The topographical and the climatic features of the taluka are quite suitable for the production of agricultural crops especially rice and also hoticultural crops such as areca nut, coconut, mango, cashewnut, etc. The soil of the taluka may be divided into two clear cut zones based on the topography. The coastal alluvial soil and the upghat lateritic and granitic soils.

Table 1 depicts the male and female agricultural labourers, populationwise of each village in Ankola taluk.

## TABLE 1

### VILLAGE & POPULATIONWISE CLASSIFICATION OF AGRICULTURAL LABOUR

| VILLAGE NAME | POPULATION | | | AGRICULTURAL LABOURER | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | TOTAL | FEMALE | MALE | FEMALE | MALE |
| 1) Hosgadde | 820 | 402 | 418 | 51 | 18 |
| 2) Navagadde | 31 | 17 | 14 | - | - |
| 3) Kanchimane | | UN-INHABITATED | | UN-INHABITATED | |
| 4) Heggarmakki | 217 | 111 | 106 | 1 | - |
| 5) Marugadde | 97 | 43 | 54 | - | 2 |
| 6) Kavalelli | 125 | 51 | 74 | - | 1 |
| 7) Hebbal | 250 | 103 | 147 | - | 5 |
| 8) Kattinhakkal | 363 | 182 | 181 | 1 | 4 |
| 9) Sunksal | 762 | 365 | 397 | 1 | 24 |
| 10) Kodlagadde | 777 | 361 | 416 | 46 | 40 |
| 11) Shevakar | 298 | 150 | 148 | - | 4 |
| 12) Heggar | 302 | 132 | 170 | - | - |
| 13) Kalleshwar | 372 | 121 | 151 | 12 | 35 |
| 14) Dongri | 523 | 237 | 286 | 1 | 1 |
| 15) Halvalli | 765 | 386 | 379 | 30 | 31 |
| 16) Kammani | 92 | 45 | 47 | 8 | 5 |
| 17) Agsur | 1623 | 799 | 824 | 37 | 35 |
| 18) Adlur | 526 | 271 | 255 | 17 | 15 |
| 19) Bole | 652 | 337 | 315 | 27 | 29 |
| 20) Vandige | 1782 | 875 | 907 | 17 | 48 |
| 21) Laxmeshwar | 856 | 441 | 415 | 1 | 1 |
| 22) Balale | 702 | 358 | 344 | 20 | 34 |

TABLE 1 contd .....

| VILLAGE NAME | POPULATION TOTAL | POPULATION FEMALE | POPULATION MALE | AGRICULTURAL LABOURER FEMALE | AGRICULTURAL LABOURER MALE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 23) Ulware | 806 | 403 | 403 | 25 | 29 |
| 24) Devigadde | 248 | 102 | 146 | - | - |
| 25) Joog | 553 | 283 | 270 | 1 | - |
| 26) Kange | 175 | 85 | 90 | 17 | 5 |
| 27) Sagadageri | 371 | 173 | 198 | 4 | 13 |
| 28) Shirur | 1311 | 666 | 645 | 23 | 17 |
| 29) Belse | 2174 | 1050 | 1124 | 15 | 6 |
| 30) Talgadde | 640 | 304 | 336 | 6 | 7 |
| 31) Kodsani | 434 | 203 | 231 | 24 | 36 |
| 32) Vasarkudrige | 928 | 452 | 476 | 25 | 43 |
| 33) Shirguji | 746 | 373 | 373 | 23 | 39 39 |
| 34) Gundabala | 708 | 345 | 363 | - | 4 |
| 35) Hillur | 1835 | 894 | 941 | 49 | 50 |
| 36) Kuntgani | 650 | 329 | 321 | 18 | 56 |
| 37) Manigadde | 73 | 33 | 40 | - | 12 |
| 38) Achave | 1333 | 661 | 672 | 25 | 35 |
| 39) Brahmar | 410 | 210 | 200 | 1 | 5 |
| 40) Kabgal | 105 | 51 | 54 | 2 | 2 |
| 41) Kekanishivapur | 297 | 136 | 161 | - | - |
| 42) Takatgeri | 38 | 17 | 21 | - | - |
| 43) Karebail | 200 | 97 | 103 | 2 | 2 |
| 44) Moralli | 394 | 190 | 204 | 45 | 73 |

TABLE 1 contd .....

| VILLAGE NAME | POPULATION | | | AGRICULTURAL LABOURER | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | TOTAL | FEMALE | MALE | FEMALE | MALE |
| 45) Mogta | 688 | 334 | 354 | 22 | 54 |
| 46) Andle | 193 | 96 | 97 | - | - |
| 47) Bhasgod | 316 | 167 | 149 | 2 | 1 |
| 48) Belambar | 3529 | 1737 | 1792 | 161 | 120 |
| 49) Wadibag | 415 | 198 | 217 | 16 | 6 |
| 50) Boruwada | 4694 | 2393 | 2301 | 81 | 78 |
| 51) Tenkankeri | 1386 | 673 | 713 | 34 | 39 |
| 52) Poojgeri | 481 | 240 | 241 | 3 | 2 |
| 53) Surve | 361 | 181 | 180 | 21 | 7 |
| 54) Shetageri | 627 | 308 | 319 | 19 | 12 |
| 55) Kogre | 215 | 109 | 106 | - | 32 |
| 56) Kanagil | 417 | 225 | 246 | 22 | 3 |
| 57) Hichkad | 1086 | 559 | 527 | 64 | 56 |
| 58) Hadav | 687 | 339 | 348 | - | - |
| 59) Bilehoingi | 213 | 117 | 96 | 2 | - |
| 60) Agragone | 768 | 377 | 391 | 7 | 15 |
| 61) Hegre | 548 | 276 | 272 | 2 | 22 |
| 62) Adigone | 613 | 303 | 310 | 6 | 21 |
| 63) Manjagani | 1084 | 528 | 556 | 8 | 11 |
| 64) Honnebail | 812 | 409 | 403 | 20 | 17 |
| 65) Shinganmakki | 232 | 119 | 113 | 8 | 4 |
| 66) Wadibogri | 144 | 63 | 81 | - | - |
| 67) Belekeri | 3990 | 1786 | 2204 | 25 | 19 |

TABLE 1 contd .....

| VILLAGE NAME | POPULATION | | | AGRICULTURAL LABOURER | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | TOTAL | FEMALE | MALE | FEMALE | MALE |
| 68) Aversa | 4061 | 2048 | 2013 | 30 | 44 |
| 69) Harwada | 2549 | 1288 | 1261 | 98 | 88 |
| 70) Sakalben | 1090 | 536 | 554 | 17 | 27 |
| 71) Varilben | 79 | 42 | 37 | - | - |
| 72) Gule | 80 | 41 | 39 | - | - |
| 73) Lakkeguli | UN-HABITATED | | | UN-HABITATED | |
| 74) Kondige | 46 | 19 | 27 | - | - |
| 75) Shikliturli | 12 | 9 | 3 | - | - |
| 76) Mallani | 22 | 13 | 9 | - | - |
| 77) Sheveguli | 38 | 18 | 20 | - | - |
| 78) Heggarni Kotebavi | 18 | 8 | 10 | - | - |
| 79) Nellur Kanchinbail | 80 | 23 | 57 | 1 | 1 |
| 80) Hattikeri | 585 | 267 | 318 | 7 | 8 |
| 81) Berde | 30 | 15 | 15 | - | - |
| 82) Bogribail | 165 | 74 | 91 | - | - |
| 83) Baleguli | 324 | 157 | 167 | - | - |
| 84) Shirkuli | 1306 | 635 | 671 | 11 | 31 |
| 85) Algeri | 1500 | 768 | 732 | 29 | 64 |
| 86) Bhavikeri | 7102 | 3493 | 3609 | 171 | 267 |

SOURCE :- District Census Handbook, 1981, Census of India, Series 9 Karnataka

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF FEMALE AGRICULTURE LABOUR IN ANKOLA TALUKA

There are number of socio-economic problems that act as barrier in the adoption of farm technology by rural women. Some of the constraints are scattered land holdings, limited resources, non-availibility of labour to carry out work, small size of holdings, insufficient irrigation, non-availibilty of loans at the proper time and costly inputs. Female labour also faces social problems arising out of caste, religion, customs and tradition that prevent them from taking to new technology. Besides this women often lack technical knowledge and have little access to skills in the use of material. Lack of official support and information results in their development of rigid attitudes. The work of women agricultural labourer is seasonal and they have to find avenues for employing themselves during the off season in other avtivities, for income generation. In rural areas social relations and contacts are highly personal and relatively durable. Among the basic needs of the population, housing ranks next only to food and clothing in importance. Social structure in Ankola taluka is composed of different inter-related institutions. The important components of social structure are (1) marriage (2) family (3) caste (4) kinship (5) religious customs (6) social hierarchy, and (7) power structure.

Marriage is an important social institution. The role of female labour is more significant in rural communities. Villages having only a single caste group, generally maintain some understanding and unity in social relations and they are all goverened

by their own caste-norms. A majority of female workers in rural areas are engaged in agriculture and constitute a vast human resource. The farm operations of women include application of manure, sowing, planting, irrigating fields, fertiliser application, plant protection, weeding, thinning, harvesting, hulling, winnowing, cleaning, storing grains, feeding the cattle, taking care of live stock, particularly dairy cattle, looking after poultry, kitchen gardening, marketing of vegetables, etc., besides management of household routine affairs and family matters. The nature of functions performed by women in rural families varies from region to region and from one social group to another.

## PROBLEMS OF FEMALE AGRICULTURE LABOUR IN ANKOLA TALUKA

It is clear that there are number of problems faced by female agricultural workers as a whole. Here, the various problems of the female agricultural labourers in Ankola taluka are briefly summarised as follows :

### (1) SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT

The female agricultural labour does not get employment throughout the year. They are generally employed during the sowing, winnowing, weeding and harvesting seasons. Thus, the female agricultural labour has to face great difficulty during off season when they remain totally unemployed without any means of livelihood.

(2) LOW WAGES AND LOW STANDARD OF LIVING

The wages that female agricultural labourers get are too low. Often they are employed only on Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 a day and that too only for some months. As their wages are too low their standard of living is also very low. According to an enquiry these labourers spend 77.3 percent of their income on food, 6.1 percent on clothes and shoes, 7.9 percent on fuel and light and remaining on other miscellaneous items. Their income and standard of living is much low as compared to the agricultural labourers in other countries.

(3) LOW SOCIAL STATUS

Mostly, the female agricultural labourers in Ankola belong to the scheduled castes that have been neglected for centuries. They have always been exploited by the people of higher castes. These poor labourers are not strong enough to fight for better working condition.

(4) HOURS OF WORK

The hours of work of agricultural workers are not fixed like the industrial workers. Owing to the nature of the work they vary according to differnt places and seasons. Often, it is seen that the agricultural labourers have to work day and night, without proper rest with the result that their health is adversely affected.

(5) INDEBTEDNESS

Because of their low wages and other inherent problems the

female agricultural workers in Ankola taluka are always heavily indebted.

(6) COMPULSORY UNPAID WORK

The female agricultural labourers are subject to compulsory work from time to time by the village Mahajans and also by their employers for no payment.

(7) LACK OF ORGANISATION

The female agricultural labourers are illiterate, scattered, not united, poor and ignorant and hence they are unorganised and usually are unable to form unions to protect their interests.

(8) HARD AND ARDUOUS WORK

The female workers are subjected to hard work on the fields under the burning sun, rains, storms and other conditions without any proper rest and adequate wages.

(9) HOUSING PROBLEM

Mostly the female agricultural labourers do not have their own homes. They live in huts, made of mud walls and thatched roofs. These huts are poorly ventilated and too small to accomodate a family. These slum like dwellings are most uncomfortable during the rainy seasons when due to improper roof there are leaks and other problems.

(10) OTHER PROBLEMS

In addition to the above mentioned problems the female agricultural workers have to face a number of other problems. They are illiterate and as such subjected to great exploitation by village Mahajans, Zamindars and others. They are also victims of harmful social customs and traditions due to which they have to spend extravagantly on the occasions of marriage, birth, death and other ceremonies.

Thus, we see that the problems of female agricultural labourers in Ankola taluka are very serious and call for an early solution. Their problems undoubtedly constitute a challange and the obligation rests upon the community as a whole to find satisfactory solution for them.

## PRESENT CONDITION OF FEMALE AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ANKOLA TALUK

Agriculture is said to have roots in the innovations that took place about 10,000 years ago. Present day agriculture in Ankola Taluk, as in other districts representing ancient civilizations has evoled itself through the ages. Agriculture is the main base of Ankola Taluk economy. In Ankola taluk above 40 percent female agricultural labourers are there. Every member of the farming family has a definite role to play. Farming operations are carried out by the entire family in Ankola taluk. Female agriculture labour in Ankola taluk shoulder the major part of the burden not only in agricultural

production but also in marketing of the produce. Female labourers participation in agricultural production includes a variety of tasks.

Farming in Ankola taluk is rapidly changing over from the traditional to the scientific. Female agricultural labourers have a tremendous opportunity to make a contribution to the national task of increasing agricultural production and in improving the quality of life in rural areas. The role required to be played by the farm women in adopting scientific agriculture is a crucial one in many respects. Farm women play a significant role in accepting new crops. The female agricultural labourers knowledge about the scientific improvements available in all areas of agricultural production in general, and in those areas with which she is specially concerned in particular, will help considerably in the adoption of the improvements by the family. Female labourers have their own ways of influencing the family in decision.

The participation of female labourer in carrying out various agricultural operations is large and, therefore, their contribution to the labour force is quite significant . Female agricultural labourers participate in activities that supplement their direct income. Most of the female workers and even children participate in field operations because the earnings of the men are not sufficient to sustain the family. It would be a significant sign of development that females and children participate in activities that supplement their income and thus help them to make both ends meet. The number of female agricultural labour having eduction connected with agriculture and

rural development is infinitesimally small. It is very rare to find rural female workers having such technical education. It is the need of the hour that for the development of the villages and the country as a whole, that the potential lying idle should be properly channelised and steps need to be initiated to create an atmosphere of equality and thereby bring about a full involvement of female agricultural labour.

However, with regard to small to marginal farmers the females do play a part in decision making regarding the use of the land and other matters. Further, it is a common sight to find women farm labourers migrating to take up work at construction sites during the off season.

A woman's job in the villages is never done. The back-breaking cjores begin in the wee hours and are not completed even as the poor woman goes to sleep late in the night. For the jobs are not complete just with harvesting, threshing and winnowing. It is essential that the produce is dried in the sun, grain stored properly, dehusking, pounding and grinding into flour, and all these jobs are essentially performed by the women. Thus, the daily grind for the unsung housewife-cum-mother-cum-worker goes on and on, unrecognised by national accounting or labour statistics. Through the centuries women in Ankola taluka as women all over the country have been responsible for a wide range of agricultural operations like sowing, weeding, harvesting, and as part of farming, helping with animal husbandary too.

The division of labour between men and women is different from region to region because of social customs and physical conditions. Normally preparatory tillage operations like ploughing, planting, irrigation bunding, intercultivation with spades, threshing, stacking, etc., are jobs that need muscular power and hence generally not performed by the female labour. However, if the female labour who take up streneous and tedious jobs such as transplanting where they have to stand in knee deep water throughout the day, hand weeding, picking fruits and vegetables, adding manure, etc. More women are hired at the time of the harvest as they work well and are paid less.

Community-wise we find the participation of women in farming operations to be the highest among the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Women's participation in farming declines as their position goes up in the social hierarchy.

Though the female agricultural labourers play an important role in agriculture both as cultivators and labourers, women workers are paid less than the men. This wage discrimination persists through the occupational segmentation of the labour market where women are confined to certain operations such as weeding, transplantation and seeding. There is also open discrimination in certain sectors like harvesting where women are paid less than men although they perform the same task as the men.

The informal sector women workers are paid low wages and their wages are just around the subsistence level. The workers are

then paid much less than what they would have been paid in the agricultural sector.

The working hours in this sector are longer than the statutory hours of work. In many cases these women workers also suffer losses due to rejection of goods by the formal sector.

Women workers also suffer from the lack of finance, a fixed place for business and a stable market for their products. Their economic conditions thus stagger from bad to worse. Female agricultural labourers are among the poorest citizens in rural India. All over Ankola taluka it is found essentially that the work of the women agricultural labour is seasonal and that they have few avenues for employing themselves during the off season in other activities for income generation.