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**SOCIO-CULTURAL DIMENSIONS OF DEVELOPMENT
IN NORTH KARNATAKA**

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Study Completed Under
Dr. D. M. Nanjundappa Chair



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SOCIO-CULTURAL DIMENSIONS OF DEVELOPMENT IN NORTH KARNATAKA¹

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INTRODUCTION

Development is a concept loaded with value judgements. No generally accepted definition exists, nor do we have a convenient means to measure the rate of development. Now the per capita income growth has been discarded as such. Basically, developmental planning is an interdisciplinary field and requires holistic approach. The sustainable development calls for giving equal attention to natural, economic and political aspects as well as specific socio-cultural factors.

In any kind of developmental activity, socio-cultural factors play a significant role. In this regard, the adopters of innovations attempt to interpret them in tune with their socio-cultural settings. They had to fit into their cultural matrix only then, would the innovations obtain a survival chance. Culture has a causal effect on economic development. It is measured by indicators of individual values and beliefs, such as trust and respect for one another and confidence in individual self-determination. The difficulty in estimating a causal effect of culture is that it is endogenous to economic development. As stressed by the Modernization Theory, economic development has predictable effects on culture and social life (Inglehart and Baker 2000). Hence, we have to find some endogenous and exogenous source of variation to identify a causal effect from culture to economic development and vice-versa.

On the other hand, if the meaning of development is taken to be more limited, namely to relate to the process by which poverty is alleviated, inequality is reduced, and the

¹ I have written this paper as part of Dr.D.M.Nanjundappa Chair Research Activity in CMDR, Dharwad. I am grateful to Prof Abdul Aziz, Chair Professor and Prof. P.R Panchamukhi, Honourable Chairman and Professor Emirates of CMDR for their valuable suggestions, discussions, comments and constant encouragement.

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opportunities for the self-fulfilment of all individuals are increased, then anthropology with its emphasis on micro-research has an important role to play.

No doubt, quantitative enquiries are an important facet of development studies but they can never tell the whole story; they need to be supplemented by qualitative data to help explain the intricate independence of the different socioeconomic variables involved in the development process. It is in this sphere of study that anthropological micro-studies can contribute most to the better understanding of development problems.

The post-independent state of Karnataka has failed in inducing balanced development in to all the regions. Consequently, it leading to marked imbalances. The region belonging to northern part of the state has been lagging behind in almost all the facets of development relatively than southern region of Karnataka. In order to reduce the developmental gap among various regions, Karnataka Government has taken various steps like setting up Hyderabad Karnataka Area Development Board, Bayaluseeme Development Board, Border Area Development Programme, Malanad Area Development Board and so on. In addition, Government had also appointed a high power committee for Redressal of regional Imbalances under the chairmanship of Prof. D. M. Nanjundappa during the year 2000.

The D.M.Nanjundappa committee has done an extensive and elaborate study on regional imbalances, but it could not focus much on the socio-cultural dimensions on developmental processes. The present paper tries to look at the socio-cultural aspects of development in anthropological perspective.

The present paper is organised in the following ways. The first part of the paper presents the issues relating to situation in North Karnataka region in terms of Human development indicators and information on backwardness. The second part discusses on dimensions of social underdevelopment by highlighting certain aspects on economic deprivation, effect of family system, belief system, women and child development, education, gender bias, dowry system, early marriages etc. in the region. The last section of the paper concluded with some significant socio-cultural factors for the development and some initiatives taken by the government to improve the socio-cultural and socio-economic diversities of the region.

SITUATION IN NORTH KARNATAKA

Karnataka State is divided in to three regions demarcated broadly according to the levels of development, (Table 1) viz., Bombay Karnataka, Hyderabad Karnataka and southern Karnataka. Bombay Karnataka consists of the seven districts of Belgaum, Bijapur, Bagalkot, Dharwad, Gadag, Uttara Kannada and Haveri. Hyderabad Karnataka consists of six districts, namely Bidar, Gulbarga, Raichur, Yadgiri, Koppal and Bellary. The remaining seventeen districts are part of south Karnataka.

Table 1: Regions of Karnataka and their Associated Districts

Northern Part				Southern Part	
Bombay Karnataka (7)		Hyderabad Karnataka (6)		South Karnataka (17)	
1	Bagalkot	1	Bellary	1	Bangalore Rural
2	Belgaum	2	Bidar	2	Bangalore Urban
3	Bijapur	3	Gulbarga	3	Chamarajanagar
4	Dharwad	4	Koppal	4	Chikballapur
5	Gadag	5	Raichur	5	Chikmagalur
6	Haveri	6	Yadgiri	6	Chitradurga
7	Uttara Kannada			7	Dakshina Kannada
				8	Davangere
				9	Hassan
				10	Kodagu
				11	Kolar
				12	Mandya
				13	Mysore
				14	Ramanagara
				15	Shimoga
				16	Tumkur
					Udupi

The indicators of development which have been developed by a number of researchers show that North Karnataka exhibits a high degree of under development as

compared to South Karnataka (Panchamukhi, 2001). In support of this statement, human development indicators of Karnataka (Human development report, 2005) shows, Raichur is among the most impoverished districts of the state, which are concentrated in the North Karnataka region (Hyderabad Karnataka) and figure at the bottom ranking of the list followed by Gulbarga (26th rank), Koppal (24th rank) and Bijapur of Bombay Karnataka (23rd rank) in terms of all human development indices³.

The Government of Karnataka had setup a high power committee to study the problem of regional imbalances and recommend measures for their Redressal. The report of the committee which was submitted in 2002 has identified 59 out of 80 taluks of North Karnataka as backward⁴. The most revealing observation of the committee is the acute backwardness of the Hyderabad region. According to the findings of the committee, 28 out of the 31 taluks of Hyderabad-Karnataka region⁵ are considered as backward. According to D.M.Nanjundappa committee, there is underdevelopment in both the regions but North Karnataka region is comparatively more underdeveloped. Reference here is largely to economic underdevelopment, but the committee has not attempted to examine social underdevelopment in North Karnataka region. It is proposed in this paper to attempt an examination of the extent of social underdevelopment in this region.

DIMENSIONS OF SOCIAL UNDERDEVELOPMENT

a. Economic Deprivation and Social underdevelopment

The Constitution of India specifically states that “the state shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and in particular, of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation” (Article 46, Part IV, Directive Principles of State Policy). In line with this, the government introduced many programmes such as *Bhoo Odetana Yojane*, *Ganga Kalyana Yojane* etc. According to *Bhoo Odetana Yojane*,

³ long and healthy life: as measured by life expectancy at birth, access to knowledge: as measured by the adult literacy rate and the combined gross enrolment ratio in education and a decent standard of living: as measured by GDP per capita in purchasing power parity (PPP) US dollars.

⁴ 26 are classified as ‘most backward’, 17 as ‘more backward’ and 16 as ‘backward’.

⁵ 21 are ‘most backward’, 5 ‘more backward’ and 2 ‘backward’ taluks.

agricultural land available for sale (other than the land of scheduled caste and tribe people) in a village should be purchased and granted to a person's belonging to landless Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (one acre of wetland or two acres of dry land). The maximum price of the land may be decided by responsible/concerned officer from government as per market rate. Fifty percent of the price will come as subsidy and the rest to be subsequently paid by the person who gets land. Politicians and administrators have done their best to help scheduled caste households of villages to acquire land under this programme.

Here, I actually would like to present a specific case study carried out by this author. In the account of *Mallesh*, (name changed in order to ensure privacy) a scheduled caste man, there was an entry that he owned some land under this scheme. On enquiry he disclosed that one of his peasant caste patrons who is the owner of the land agreed to sell the land to him on informal agreement, provided he paid an extra amount of Rs. 5000 per acre, over and above the price fixed by the government; or else, the patron would continue to cultivate the land till he gets money. *Mallesh* could not afford the money but at the same time he did not want to lose the benefit of the scheme. In addition, the landowner promised to help him with a loan for the forthcoming marriage of his daughter, should he abide by the informal agreement. *Mallesh* accepted the deal and the patron did keep his promise and lent Rs. 10,000 for the latter's daughter's wedding.

Mallesh was aware that since he belonged to scheduled caste he had special provision, but he also knew that private finance was needed to pay his share of amount to the government to transfer the documents to his name. A village scheduled caste and a daily earner could not have found money to make this payment. Thus *Mallesh* was convinced that he had no chance of acquiring the land by himself. So under these circumstances *Mallesh* had to agree to the terms of the land lord. This case very clearly illustrates how the socio-economic conditions of the weaker sections could come in their way of development even when the state comes forward to help them. If he had economic resources, he would have graduate himself as a land owner which would give him social status in the rural society. Therefore it appears that, social status or social development in this case depends on economic development of the person concerned.

b. Nuclear Family System and Social Underdevelopment

Kaldate (1962) in her paper *Urbanisation and Disintegration of the Rural Joint family* says “In the process of social disorganisation the changes in family organisation tend to take the form of changes from the larger or joint family system to the small family system.....” I have serious reservation about the point that joint families are inimical to economic growth. In villages almost all the magnate joint families practice division of labour. Each male adult member performs specialised tasks; the oldest member usually looks after the cultivation of the lands, while the younger generation takes care of running business enterprises such as shops, small hotels or flour mills. This illustrates that, magnates fully realize the economies of scale to be derived by living in joint families and they appear to trust only their kin as reliable partners in their economic venture.

However, there are signs of new family arrangements emerging within this socioeconomic category of villagers, which provide one example of an adaptation of the conventional joint family to new economic circumstances. We may call this type of family “*mutually beneficial family*”. This type of families differ from joint families insofar as the family no longer lives jointly under one roof; it differs from nuclear family because it involves a number of near kin who live separately with their families but who have informally agreed to share their incomes as well as their expenditure. Such mutually beneficial families exist in cases where one or more male members of a family have taken up urban employment. The farming member of the family undertakes to cultivate the land belonging to the urban worker and usually let him have at least part of the yielding in turn the wage earning relative reciprocates by meeting the necessary cash requirements of his rural kin. These shared arrangements are usually highly flexible, without any fixed terms laid down. This type of family organisation is regarded as mutually beneficial by all concerned. It enables villagers who work in urban areas to keep their stake in the rural economy, which seems of supreme importance to them. At the same time, it allows the farming members of the family to concentrate on cultivation of their lands without worrying about earning money. This makes them prepared to keep their cash demands within manageable limits. Moreover, many men working outside their village try to provide as many modern amenities for their rural kin as they can afford (Epstein, 1977). On the other hand, landless villagers and those with insignificant size of landholdings have for the most part continued to live as nuclear families. The poorest landless labourers, who have to be continuously on the move in search

of work and livelihood, extend their family relations over a wide network of kin. In this way they manage to spread the risk and have a better chance of survival by providing for themselves at least a minimum of social security, retain a foothold in the village system and at the same time acquire some degree of economic stability which adds to their social status and social development.

c. Migration and their Effect

Now the trend has changed, the second generation adults are born and brought up in urban camouflage; they do not possess any attachment with their kin and their land. Urban matrixes are also favourable with lesser hierarchy, reduced inequality and choice of diversified occupations. So, the incidence of migration from village to nearby city is alarming, because villagers are compelled to estrange themselves from their traditional occupation to seek better fortunes. But migrated villagers are basically not as skilled to avail the highly skilled urban jobs; so they are forced to accept employment at minimal wages. This leads to a very peculiar situation when the migrants to urban areas can neither continue their job in urban area nor can they go back to the village. At the same time aged persons, pregnant women and young children suffer much in villages. Hence they switch over to nuclear family system from joint family system which to a great extent adversely affects the economic stability that they enjoyed earlier. The economic instability in turn has adversely impacted upon the social status of such families and has led to underdevelopment.

Providing all the infrastructural and basic facilities to migrated people have now become a real problem and extra burden to the government. The serious step we must initiate is to quickly eliminate the gap of wealth distribution between urban and rural areas and achieve the goal of integration of the both. So, providing urban amenities to rural areas is of prime importance. Prices of essential commodities go on increasing but the purchasing power of the rural people remains the same. To match this, government should introduce scientifically fixed rate to agricultural crops and take measures to provide employment opportunities to villagers in their habitat.

Modernization theory attempts to identify the social variables which contribute to social progress and development of societies, and seeks to explain the process of social evolution. Due to some historical and other reasons, southern Karnataka region adopted the

theory of modernization more adorably and developed in terms of industries, better infrastructure, market oriented goods, education, health sector, governance, gender equality, women empowerment, distribution of government plans and facilities, equal employment opportunities to all caste and religion etc. but we cannot say the same proximity in North Karnataka region regarding development.

d. Belief system

Anyone will be prepared to make a certain degree of change in approach within normal structure of activities, but will not be interested or able to change much further. However, most of the rural population does not easily accept the changes that take place. They are all still under the umbrella of superstitions. Concept of purity and pollution, social hierarchy, superiority, faith between sub cults within the group, continued practice of abolished systems etc, are anti-developmental factors for any region.

As Patil has stated in a recent article, the social evil like Devadasi system may be banned in law books. But it is still practised in Belgaum district and many parts of North Karnataka, though not openly. Girls are dedicated to the system confidentially on the full moon day in February, christened as 'Bharat Hunnime'⁶. Virgin daughters are dedicated to goddess Yellamma by certain communities in North Karnataka. The communities have a prejudice that if they do not offer their girls, the goddess will certainly take revenge. Once the girl is offered to the goddess, she can neither marry nor come back to family life. Then she can be coveted and she cannot refuse him, even if he suffers from an incurable disease (Maitra, 1997). Government of Karnataka has taken several welfare measures to uplift the social and economic condition of the Devadasi's by eradicating the Devadasi system and all its associated rituals. During 1993-94, Government of Karnataka identified 22,873 Ex-Devadasis from 10 districts of North Karnataka and introduced many programs like, wide publicity against the practice of Devadasi system, encourage to forming self help groups, conduct skill development programmes, awareness programmes and health checkup camps etc. The repugnance fact that government focused to end the Devadasi system and all its associated rituals by introducing various programmes and schemes, but it is still practiced even when it has been banned by law.

⁶ Patil, M.N. 'They Practice and Preach'. Article in Deccan Herald News Paper on September 26, 2010.
<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/97631/they-practise-preach.html>

Even caste system is very strong in North Karnataka. Caste as an institution found a fresh lease of life in modern institutions such as panchayats, schools, factories and government offices. Such events have thwarted any serious attempt to reach out to the genuinely poor. In many villages and even small towns, caste continues to play a retrogressive role. Discrimination based on prioritization of caste, creed and ethnocentrism⁷ definitely hinders the developmental processes. Social institutions should take even much responsibility on harmonization of Inter-caste, inter-group, inter-religion relationships and extend the awareness of fraternity.

e. Women's Education and Health

Human capital is a well known determinant of growth and development. Jeffrey Sachs (2005) has argued that the cultural or religious norms may block the role of women... leaving half the population without economic or political rights and without education, thereby undermining half of the population in its contribution to overall development. If you don't believe that women should work, you have effectively halved the earning potential of your country. On similar lines, CTA report (2000) said high illiteracy and low enrolment rates, especially in secondary schools, affect women's ability to acquire the skills needed for income-generating activities and will have repercussions for generations to come⁸.

Education of women plays a very important role in the overall development. Education is a main determinant of cultural traits. It not only helps in the development of half of the human resources, but also improves the quality of life at home and outside. Educated women not only tend to promote education of their girl children, but can also provide better guidance to their children. Moreover educated women can also help in the reduction of infant mortality, morbidity and growth of the population (Caldwell, 1981).

As per 2001 census (Table 2), the female literacy rate in the country is only 54.20% but the percentage in Karnataka state is higher (56.90%). However, the female literacy rate in North Karnataka is much lower (48.30%) than not only the national average but also South Karnataka (63.02%). The Karnataka Human Development Report for 2005 shows that, Raichur district has the lowest female literacy rate, at 35.93 per cent followed by Gulbarga

⁷ Ethnocentrism is the feeling that is characterized by or based on the attitude that one's own group is superior.

⁸ CTA. The economic role of women in agriculture and rural development: income generating activities. The Netherlands: technical centre for agricultural and rural cooperation (CTA), 2000.

(37.90%) Koppal (39.61%) and Bagalkot (43.56%) as against state overall (male and female literacy rate) average of 66.64 per cent. The gap between male and female literacy rates is also significantly high in North Karnataka districts.

Table 2: Region wise Female Literacy rate

Regions	Female Literacy Rate (%)	Male Literacy Rate (%)	Total (%)
Karnataka	56.90	76.10	66.64
North Karnataka	48.30	72.68	
South Karnataka	63.02	77.70	
India	54.20	75.80	64.80

Sources: Registrar General of India, Primary Census Abstract 2001.
Report of High Power Committee for Redressal of Regional Imbalances, 2002.

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development /The World Bank (1994) stated that women's disadvantaged social position which is often related to the economic value placed on familial roles, helps perpetuate poor health, inadequate diet, early and frequent pregnancy and continued cycle of poverty⁹. CTA (2000) reported that, women because of their desire to take care of other members of the family, eat less nutritious foods. This has significantly affected their nutritional status and perpetuated lower standards of health. This affects their overall contribution to the labour force and subsequent economic development. Ononamadu (2000) noted that many authors believe that the total amount of labour inputs by sexes is often quite disproportionate with women doing more work than men. Accordingly United Nations Economic Community for Africa (1972) also concluded that men spend about 1800 hours annually on agricultural activities, while women spend about 2600 hours. It is evident that women have always been deeply involved in tasks that take much of their energy. This suggests that they have been actively in labour, however; they have not been accorded a corresponding reward to match their efforts. Women with poor health are more likely to give birth to low weight infants. They are less likely to be able to provide food and adequate care for their children. Finally, a women's health affects the household economic well being, and as a women with poor health will be less productive in the labour force.

⁹ IBRD. "Women's Health and Nutrition-Making a Difference". World Bank Discussion Paper. USA, 1994.

f. Gender bias

Gender inequality is a peculiar form of social and distributive injustice. Girls encounter gender bias at almost every stage in their lives such as men are taller than women, only boys drink milk, certain work is not fit for girls, girls are weak in physical as well as biological characteristics etc. As Gulati and Jaswal (1995) stated the unequal distribution of food in the family, with a definite gender discrimination against the female has been observed even in rich families but the lines of discrimination in poorer societies seem to be etched deeper. However, the awareness about gender bias has slowly spread over time. But it will take a long time for this awareness to seep into the grassroots and translate into social change.

g. Early Marriages

Early marriage has implications for the well-being of families, and for society as a whole. It gives girls an adult status and they are not prepared for it and it prevents them from advancing in school. Where girls are uneducated and ill-prepared for their roles as mothers and contributors to society, there are costs to be borne at every level, from the individual household to the nation as a whole. Perhaps, many social and economic determinants influence on age of marriage. For instance poverty, illiteracy, social insecurity, gender discrimination etc.

Nine of the thirteen northern districts the percentage of women who marry before they turn eighteen is higher than the state average of 22.06. Proportion of married females in the age group of 15-19 in North Karnataka (above 37%) is almost twice that of the proportion in South Karnataka (less than 20%). North Karnataka also leads in the percentage of child marriages¹⁰ with Raichur district at 59.4 per cent followed by Koppal (51.4), Bijapur (50.1), Gulbarga (48.9), Bagalkot (48.3), Belgaum (43), Bidar (44.9), Gadag (44.8) and Bellary (35.2) districts¹¹. HPCFRRI report (2002) shows that, about 64% of the marriages take place between 10 to 14 years of age in Bijapur, Belgaum, Gulbarga and Raichur districts of North Karnataka region.

¹⁰ Generally defined as below the age of fifteen years.

¹¹ Rediff.com news. Karnataka: '2 of 5 girls are married before 18', June 30, 2008. <http://www.rediff.com/news/2008/jun/30girl.htm>, accessed on September 06, 2010.

h. Dowry system

The Dowry Prohibition Act was brought into force with an intention of protecting the women in the country. Sadly, it seems to be one of the most misused provisions of law as of today. Several women had remained unmarried because of the inability of their parents to meet the demands for huge dowry. Prospect of development is not possible without abolition of dowry system and reduction in domestic violence. Dowry death in North Karnataka is also high compared to other region. About 1.767 in Uttara Kannada District and 2.839 in Gulbarga district reported per lakh population (HPCFRRI report, 2002).

i. Children's health and education

According to data (2010) from Department of Women and Child, Government of Karnataka shows that as many as 78,366 children are malnourished in Raichur. Of them, 5,99 suffer from the most severe forms (Grade III and IV) of malnutrition¹². Koppal district has the dubious distinction of having the majority of the children who suffer from different grades of malnutrition. Preschool children in Koppal district (0.7 per cent) are severely malnourished (which is more than double the state average), followed by Bagalkot (0.6), Raichur and Bellary, both with 0.5 percent tie at the third place.

Bageshree and Gandhi, columnists in the *Frontline* Magazine, made a strong case about the health and education of North Karnataka children in an article titled "Hard to swallow". They pointed out that the Infant mortality rate¹³ in the North Karnataka districts (Table 3) is higher than the state average of 55: Bidar (66), Bijapur (67), Dharwad (69), Gadag (66), Gulbarga (67), Haveri (66) and Koppal (65). Again the district with the highest number of out-of-school children, according to the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Survey (SSA) done in January 2010, is Raichur, followed by Bijapur, Bidar, Yadgir, Gulbarga and Koppal (Bageshree and Gandhi, August 27, 2010, pp.93-96).

¹² Department of Women and Child, Government of Karnataka, <http://dwcdkar.gov.in/>, accessed on October 07, 2010

¹³ The infant mortality rate (IMR) is the number of deaths of infants under one year old per 1,000 live births. This rate is often used as an indicator of the level of health.

Table 3: Infant Mortality rate in the regions of Karnataka

Regions	Infant Mortality Rate
Karnataka	55
South Karnataka	50
Bombay Karnataka	59
Hyderabad Karnataka	60
All-India	64

Source: Human Development Report-2005

j. Industrial Sector and Infrastructure

It is a sector that supplements economic activities and generates income with high degree of employment opportunities. According to Nagendra Honnali (2005), most of the industrial estates and sheds are concentrated in the districts of Bangalore divisions. Gulbarga division accounts for only 18.47 per cent and 7.14 per cent industrial estates and sheds respectively with a minimum of less than one per cent in Koppal district. The Industrial strategy of Karnataka, according to Honnali, apart from its uneven spatial growth has been its top priority to 'sunrise industries' such as information technology, bio-technology, food processing industries, etc., which are concentrated in and around few developed districts such as Bangalore and Mysore. Whereas poor regions that have no or little infrastructure have continued to remain backward. In addition, he opined that the districts of Hyderabad-Karnataka region have continued to remain at a disadvantaged position. Industrial development in North Karnataka has suffered due to the lack of infrastructure, whether economic, demographic, financial or social (HPCFRRI report, 2002). The prevalence of infrastructural facilities like provision of road, railway connectivity, power stations, market facilities etc. are relatively poor across the region particularly on rural areas.

k. Educational sector

King of Mysore, Krishna Raja Wadiyar, advised by Sir M Visveshwarayya, Diwan-cum-Chief engineer of Mysore State instituted several initiatives to improve the quality of higher education in the state, with a particular emphasis on technology and the sciences, which in turn produced generations of engineers and scientists who contributed to the

technological development (Kadekodi et.al. 2007). Evidently, the first Engineering College was started by the Mysore Government in 1917 at Bangalore. Additionally, migration of people in search of employment in government and private sector units in Bangalore region strengthened the development of South Karnataka region. The state average of primary schools for every lack population declined marginally to 84 by 1999-2000 (it was 91 schools in 1958-59) caused largely by the corresponding decline in the average number of schools in North Karnataka, as the average number of schools in South Karnataka improved marginally from 99 to 102 schools in corresponding period (HPCFRRI report, 2002). Imbalances in basic educational facilities have resulted in poor literacy rates (56.32 per cent) in North Karnataka region. Gap in technology based education has denied the opportunities for the people to contribute for the betterment of their family as well as growth of the region. A modern institution such as Education, particularly quality and/or higher education was a domain of the urban and the privileged classes (Hebbar and Acharya, 2003). Children of rural and depressed class are almost deprived of opportunity of higher education and employment because, poor socio-economic condition and lack of interest in education on the part of parents. There are grave inequities in terms of access to quality education and employment opportunities which urgently needs to be rectified.

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

Social science researchers are perennially concerned with social change, prediction of future trends and policy implications. There are obviously other perfectly valid and fascinating aspects of society which warrant further investigation. The backwardness of North Karnataka region is due to some endogenous and exogenous factors. The development regarding social life of the people, belief system, family system, education, health, sanitation, gender bias, women empowerment, children health and education, industry, market and infrastructural development should be improved. Government and NGO's should take initiative to improve the socio-economic taking into consideration socio-cultural diversities of the region. With suitable action plan, this region can certainly develop to the comparable level of the other regions of Karnataka. The development of less developed societies poses a challenge not only to politicians, administrators and planners but also to social scientists. Researchers should, thus, try to make a meaningful contribution to the better understanding of the developmental process.

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