



Original Article

Development of Belagavi in Context of History - Karnataka State

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Abstract:

Industrial revolution led to the rise of industries, creating a demand for workers in urban centers. over the next century, millions of people in the US and European countries migrated from farm to urban areas and these forces and factors contributed to the evolution, growth and development of cities.

A city is a place governed by some kind of administrative body. It can be small, medium or large size compared to a village, a town not only has a greater size but also has a higher density of population, more diversity and is predominantly a centre for non-agricultural activities and land uses

In this research paper, we have made an attempt to study and analyze the historical growth and development of Belagavi city. The required data for present study have been obtained by both primary and secondary sources. The primary sources of data is collected through field observation and survey. The collected data have been classified, processed and presented in the form of charts, maps and graphs by applying cartographic skills.

Keywords: *Historical Background, Morphology, Industrial Revolution, Urban Land Use*

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Introduction:

The study of urban centers and their history, morphological growth and land use is of paramount importance to the urban geographer for several reasons. The studies concerned with the history and morphology of towns primarily aim at the understanding of historical background and arrangement of function zones within the town.

In reality, the Indian city structure is more complex, “dual structure” cities with historical past like Hyderabad, Varansi, Delhi have more complicated structure with discontinuous telescoping of political cultural and economic systems belonging to different historic periods. There is structural unconformity which the best expression as a city of ‘pre-industrial society’ living in a ‘post industrial city’ with a slow rate of transformation (Ginsberg – 1969).

Carter. H (1976) describes Indian city as dual structured like all colonial cities in developing countries with its “Bazars peasant

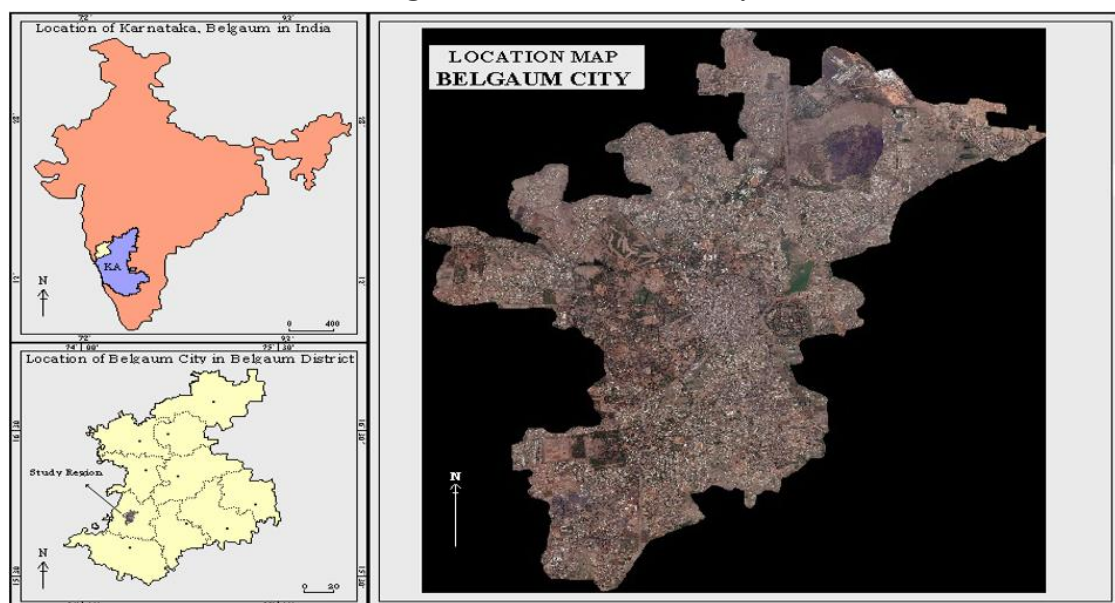
economy” and “firm type capitalist economy” other morphological studies on Indian cities also bring out this dual structure with traditional core and the industrializing and tertiarizing belts or strips along transport axes.

The main thrust for the changing nature of Indian cities and their morphology come from the structure and pattern of city sprawl and the changing intra city population density pattern (V.L.S.Prakash Rao – 1983).

Area Under Study:

Belgaum is referred to as “venugram” (bamboo village) in the early inscription of 12th and 13th centuries. It is located in south western part of Belgaum district and extended between 15 - 15’ north latitude to 74 -31’ east longitude at an height of 710 mtrs above the mean sea level. the total geographical area of the city is about 94.08 sq.kms , It is fifth biggest city among the cities of Karnataka state in terms of area and population and also district and divisional head quarters of the state

Fig No. 1: Area Under Study





Objectives:

The aim of the present investigation is to identify and analyze historical background and morphological development of Belagavi city.

The study has following objectives.

1. To understand and analyses the historical background of Belagavi.
2. To assess growth and development of study area.

Methodology:

- Belgaum Municipal corporation is divided into 58 wards in which there are 30 slums are notified by the KS CB and Municipal Corporation. Hence Data will be collected from both primary as well as secondary sources.
- In this research paper, we have made an attempt to investigate and analyze the historical growth and development of Belagavi city. The required data for present study have been obtained by both primary and secondary sources. The primary sources of data is collected through field observation and survey and secondary sources of date has been obtained from Belagavi city Muncpal corporation, Office of Dept of Archeology, Government of Karnataka the collected data have been classified, processed and presented in the form of charts, maps and graphs by applying cartographic skills

Historical Setting of Study Area:

‘Belagavi’ is one of the oldest city among the cities of Karnataka state. In the history of Karnataka and South India, Belgaum has its unique and commanding position,

because Belgaum was a part of the ancient Kuntal province.

Belagavi city is referred to as ‘Venagram’ (Bamboo village) in the inscriptions of 12th and 13th centuries. Belgaum might have been called ‘Bidira Male’ in Kannada language, which means a place having a group of bamboo groves. Belagavi city was ruled by many rulers viz – Shatavallhanas, Chlukyas, Rashtrakutas, Kadambas, Delhi emperor, Vijayanagar kings, Bijapur sultans, Mughals, Marathas, Peshwas and Britishers. Belgaum Fort was built by Rashtrakuta’s Jain king in the year 1519. “Shahapur” originally known as Shahapet was built by Sher Khan as the market for Belgaum Fort.

In 1818, Belagavi town was captured by British forces from Peshwas. During the British regime, the town increased greatly in size. In 1841, leading citizen of Belagavi under the guidance of collector formed a committee, raised voluntary subscription in the town and constructed new roads repaired old streets and lanes. As a reward the government sanctioned Rs 6,000 to improve the town at that time. It was chosen as a military station of Poona of Western command and was usually garrisoned by the British and native infantry. Later in 1956, during the States Reorganization, Belgaum city was integrated in Karnataka state and became District Head Quarters and Divisional Headquarters of Belagavi District and Belagavi Division.

The development of Belagavi city assumed new dimension by the construction of new roads and repairs of the old streets and lanes in the year 1841 by a citizen committee. The Belagavi municipality came into existence on the 1st Dec. 1851. Belgaum was considered as class III town in 1901, then emerged as class



II city 1931 and class I town in 1961. And it has continued as a class I city till today. Now at present Belgaum is fifth biggest city among the cities of Karnataka State having population of 4.8 lakh according to 2001 census.

Belagavi is a land of great philosophers and great personalities. Belagavi has a number of great men and women to its credit. Many of them have sacrificed their life for the cause of India's freedom. Belagavi is the place from where national leader **Balagangadhar Tilak** had launched his "Home Rule League" in 1916. The city has the honor of hosting **39th All India congress Session in 1924** that was the only session in Karnataka, which was presided over by Mahatma Gandhi. Belagavi also has to its credit of hosting first assembly sessions of Karnataka Vidhan Sabha and Vidhan Parishad during the year 2006. It is first in the history of Karnataka, that such a sessions have been conducted out side Bangalore the capital of Karnataka is Government of Karnataka organized International Kannad Sammelan in the month of April 2007. Now Belagavi city was declared as second capital city of Karnataka state by the Government of Karnataka in 2010.

Morphological Growth and Development of Belagavi City:

The Belagavi city is located in an undulating topography. Belagavi is a place where Malnad region and Maidan region of Karnataka state meets. It is therefore; the morphological development of city is carried out on different stages or phases of development.

The Municipal government was first introduced in the town of Madras by the East India Company in 1687, and similar institution were introduced in Bombay and Calcutta in

1726. The provision of the government of India Act XXXVI of 1850 were made applicable to the Belgaum city from the year 1851. Further from 1st April 1883 it was raised to city municipality. At that time the area of the town was only 1.17 sq kms. During the period of 110 years the city has developed very rapidly in morphological and ecological respects. Since that time the town has separate administration from cantonment area.

Phase Wise the Growth of Belgaum City:

The Development and expansion of Belgaum city can be conveniently divided into Six Phases for the study purposes, they are as follows.

Table No 1: Phase Wise Growth of Belagavi City from 1855-2021.

Stages/phases	Period	Actual Area in Sq Kms
I.	Before 1885	1.7
II.	1885-1915	3.28
III.	1915-1955	10.06
IV.	1955-1970	28.62
V.	1970-2001	94.08
VI.	2001 -2021	120.08

Ist and IInd Phase:

A few years ago stone inscription was unearthed from the relics of ancient Fort at old Belagavi about 3 kms South East of the present Belgaum Fort. The inscription on this stone pillar are in Bahamani Alphabet and in prakrit language, dated First Century B.C. Probably there existed a mud wall fort in Old Belgaum in the Regime of either Mouryas or Shatavanhasa. The embankment of the mud fort of "Old Belgaum" is still and is said to have been built by Jain King. The fort was surrounded by a moat. On the south of the Fort was a huge well,



consisting of huge stones extracted from the wells. The stones of which have been taken out to build the present fort of Belgaum.

The inscriptions which were found in and around the Belgaum City denote that the city was developed from 12th Century itself. But Belgavi does not appear to have been a large town either under the Muslims, rule or under the Marathas. Before the South-Eastern part of the city was just an isolated part. The Belgaum proper, according to Map of Belgavi in Gazetteer (British Govt) Covers an area of nearly 3.26 Sq.kms located in between Cantonment in the west and Fort (Belongs to Cantonment) in the East (Fig. 4.1) Though the area of the city was small, it was a military centre and was famous for trade and commerce. It is interesting to note that the earliest record of 1820, Belgaum had 7652 people were lodged in 1309 houses, of which 1/3 were Marathas. 1/3 Muslims, 1/3 Ligayats, 1/8 Jains and 1/9th Brahmins. The choice of Belgaum as the head quarters of the collectorate and as the chief military station in Karnataka (Old Mysore State) brought a large accession to the population mainly Marwadi traders, Madras Mahars and Pondichery and upper class Hindus in government services. By the year 1852 the population of Belgaum was increased to 3000. In 1870 the opening of Amboli pass and the direct Communication with the port of Vengurla in Ratnagiri District (Maharashtra State) brought a further increase to the trade and population of the town. The number of Houses in year 1872 was 4388, which further increased to 7713 in the years 1918. Thus the development of city from 1820 to 1850 was rather slow, but from 1872 onwards it became rapid.

Further extension took place in the year 1912 when the Tilakwadi area was included The

Pune Bangalore rail line was already established in 1878 A.D. The linkages of railway to the city accelerated the development of handloom Industry, Jewelry shopping and cotton textile activities. As a result the city started to attract people from its hinterland.

IIIrd Phase:

The development of IIIrd phase started after 1915, when the establishment of new schools, colleges particularly G.A.High School (1916), Lingraj College (1933), Government Educational College (1939), R.P.D College (1948), Benonsmith College of Commerce (1950) etc. As a result of these, there was a rapid developmental activity in the city. The municipality limit was further extended upto Tilakwadi in the year 1912. and Shahapur was included in the year 1952. (Fig 4.1)

IVth Phase:

The development of IVth phase started after 1955. From 1960 onwards the city is constantly expanding both in terms of population and area, to provide better urban amenities and facilities to the citizens of Belgaum city.

No city acquires its full Urban development unless basic facilities like Potable water supply, Underground drainage system, medical aids through Hospitals, Education through Educational Institutions like Arts, Commerce, Science Engineering, Medical, Fine Arts, facilities etc. In this regard the storage of water supply through the Rakasskoppa Reservoir in the year 1962, Undeground drainage system in the year 1965, establishment of many more educational institutions and several other facilities in the city indicates that fast growth Belgaum city.



The suburban areas of Angoal, Majgoan, Mahadevpur Vadgon, Old Belgaum were included in the city in the year 1970.

This area also includes the well planned areas like Hindwadi Tilakwadi, Udyambagh Industrial Estate, Khasbag Area etc. A peculiar development of city upto 1970 was only towards southern side, because of neighboring villages on which the city life was entirely depended on it. The extension of city limit towards its north took place in the year 1970 in which Mal Maruthi Extension, Market yard, Shivabasavnagar and Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College area were included. Another greatest advantage of Belgaum city to develop to such an extent in the North Karnataka is the position of Belgaum as a divisional Headquarters of Karnataka state and this certainly contributed to the fast growth of city.

Vth Phase:

Thus By the completion of year 1970 the area of the city increased to four times i.e 28.62sq km compare to 14.32 sq km in the year 1966. By the year 1971, the population of city also increased from 1,46,790 persons in 1961 to 2,13,872 persons in the year 1971. By the year 1981, the population of Belgaum was increased to 3,00,372 (including cantonment) persons with 40,031 houses and extended towards North, West and Eastern direction. Further extension took place in the year 1991 when the extension areas like Maratha Colony, Bhagya Nagar, Chennamma Nagar (South west), Rukmini Nagar, Vishveshwarayya Nagar, K.L.E. Eng College Shahu Nagar etc were included.

Thus by the end of 2001 the area of the city increased four times i.e 94.08 Sq.kms as compared to 28.62 Sq.kms in the earlier decade (1970). The net increase was about 65.45 Sq.kms i.e. from 1970 – 2001. Further city

extended towards Yamanapur, Muttenthatti, Ramatirth, Sideshwar Temple and Kanburgi in the North, Kudachi, Alarwad in the west Naragundkar Colony, Guruprasad Colony in the west and Vinayak Nagar, TV center and Hanumnan Nagar in the North western part of the city. The population also increased from 2,13,872 to 4,23,432 (including cantonment) in 2001.

The present study indicates the decade wise growth of area in Belagavi city. The study reveals that the growth of area was not same throughout the study period. In 1961 the total area of Belgaum city was only 14.32 Sq kms it has increased to 28.62 Sq. Kms in year 1971. During the period of 1961-1971 the decadal growth rate was about 99.86 percent. The rapid growth of area due to the establishment of new Educational Institutions, industrial facilities and large scale immigration into Belgaum city from the surrounding Hinterland.

In the year 1981, the total area of the town was 52.82 Sq.kms and its decadal growth rate was 84.55 percent as compared to earlier decade of 1971. During this period major changes took place in the city due to the establishment of new government offices, commercial complexes, industrial estate and the growth of Urban amenities and infrastructure facilities in the city.

During 1991, the total area of the city was 83.93 Sq. kms and its decadal growth rate was about 58.89 percent as compare to 1981. During this period, the area of the city was mainly developed due to the establishment of Belgaum Development Authority (BUDA) in 1989. It is an apex body to Co-ordinate the development programmes within the local planning Area of Belgaum city.



In 2001, the total area of the city was 94.08 sq kms. The decadal growth rate was above 12.09 percent as compared to 1991. The area of the city slightly increased between these two periods mainly due to city development within its periphery limits. By 2021, the total area of the city was 120,08 sq kms. The suburban areas like Kakati, Ganeshpur Mutaga, Shindoli Jaintanmal kangrali, Gondwad, Kalakamb these have been included in proposed municipal limit of Belagavi city like the area of the city tremendously increased between these two periods mainly due to the growth of population and more demand for residential and commercial plots.

Conclusion:

In India urban population is increasing due to migration of people to urban centers from the rural areas. The main occupation of rural India is agriculture, which is unable to sustain increasing population in rural areas and continuous blows of droughts and diseases to the agricultural crops cause the migration of people to the urban centers. and this migration causes the demographic changes in the city. The demographic growth stimulate the change in structure and economic condition in urban centers and urban centers have become centers of all activities. The introduction of modern means of transport and communication, industries, science and technology have not only facilitated their growth but has brought with it a number of new and extremely complex problems for society. The study of historical background and morphology of urban settlement as primarily concerned with the ground plan. The ground plan consists of an external outline and internal arrangement of streets, forms and materials of building and

exhibit the functional structure of the town. Understanding of historical background and its morphology is very essential to all urban planners, administrators, engineers and common civilians also to prepare plan for the development of cities and develop city as a smart city and clean city.

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