



## Migration And Agricultural Development Of Yerdona Village In Tungabadra Command Area -A Micro Level Analysis

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### Introduction:

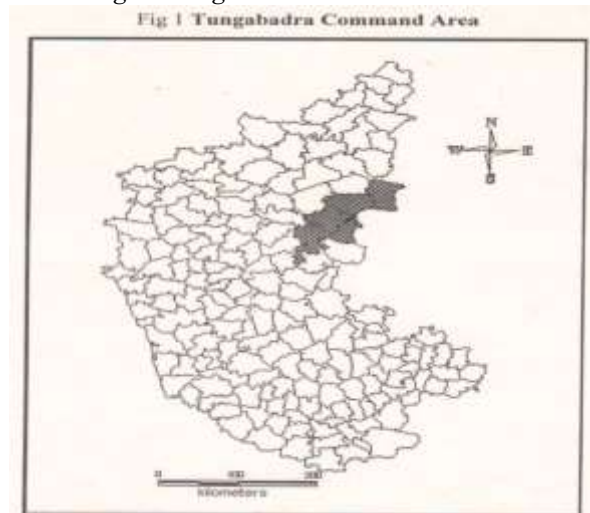
It is well established fact that the migration is a major catalyst of socio-economic changes and a powerful instrument of cultural diffusion over the space. Migration causes tremendous changes in socio economic and demographic structures of both origin and destination areas at various scales right from international to sub regional levels. It is attempted in this paper to analyse the impact of migration on the agricultural economy of a command area of an irrigational project. The area considered for this purpose is Tungabadra command area and the sample village is Yerdona in Gangavati taluk of Koppal district in Karnataka.

### Tungabadra Command Area:-A macro level overview

Tungabadra project is one of the largest irrigational project in south India, which was started in 1945 as a joint venture of Madras and Hyderabad Governments. The construction of a dam across Tungabadra river near Hospet in Bellary district and the canal systems were completed by 1953 or so, and the water for irrigation was made available sometime during the same year. After re-organization of the state's in 1956, the project became the concern of Andrapradesh and Karnataka Governments. The project has the command area of 503962 hectares spread over Raichur, Koppal and Bellary districts of Karnataka and Karnool,

Anantpur and Cuddaph district of Andrapradesh. Of the total command area of 503367 hectares, 348752 hectares is in Karnataka state and 160110 hectares is in Andrapradesh. The entire command area is drained by three irrigational canals viz., left bank canal in the left side of the river covering Koppal and Raichur in Karnataka, Low level and high-level canals in the right side of the river covering Bellary district of Karnataka and 3 districts of Andrapradesh. Thus, only left bank canal provides water for irrigation to almost 75% of the total command area of the project in Karnataka. The taluks that are benefited by this canal are Gangavti, Sindanur, Manvi and Raichur taluks in Raichur and Koppal districts

Fig 1 Tungabadra Command Area



The present command area was under the grip of severe and continuous droughts before the commissioning of the project. Even though agriculture was the main occupation during that time also, it was depending mainly on scanty and unreliable Monsoons. The area then is second most arid region in the country next only to Rajasthan. Agriculture, at that, time was only subsistence type and the main crops were Jower and Cotton. The yields were also very meager and the people were leading a hard to mouth existence. The advent of irrigation through the execution of Tungabadra project has brought about a far reaching changes in the whole cultural landscape of this region. These changes were however neither smooth nor without difficulties. A major problem was that the proper utilization of the water for irrigation from such a massive project was unknown to the local communities, since these were all totally unfamiliar with irrigation agriculture. Besides this, labour supply and bullocks power for farm operations were limited, land holding size were fairly large (15-30 Acers) transport and communication network was not developed, literate and educational standard were very low, capital was negligible and enterprising spirit among farmers was almost lacking. It was because of all these factors irrigational development was very slow in the earlier stages. Hence the project did not serve the propose for which it was built. In fact, some members of the planning commission who visited this sight noted that the water was going bank to the river from the reservoir through the system of canals. It was under these circumstances a stream of migration was set in motion from irrigated belts of Andrapradesh to this area. These migrants were mainly from Krishna and Godavari deltas of Andrapradesh. These migrants were mainly small and marginal farmers in their native places. They sold their land and with same amount bought up large agricultural land in the Tungabadra command area. Some people even without purchasing the land started taking on lease, convert it into irrigated land and made use of the water for irrigation very efficiently. These migrants being industrialists and skillful, made a significant contribution to the development of agriculture in the region. They introduced many irrigation oriented crops like Paddy, Cotton sugarcane etc, on a large scale thereby converted once subsistence

agriculture in to a highly commercial one. Cropping pattern in the area became very complex one. Productivity of land increased many times and land values reached the sky high which led to all around development of agriculture in the region. The steady and fast development in agriculture has created a greater demand for manpower, which was met by the in-migrations of labour force both seasonally and permanently from drier parts of the surroundings of Tungabadra command area. The region thus received different kinds of migrants; the group of migrant's cultivators could be called developmental migrants, while the second groups of labour migrants may be called subsistence migrants. Both the groups however have vastly contributed for the prosperity of the region. These immigrants have, built up their own settlements called "Camps" 1-3 Km away from the original settlements. In some cases there are as many as 5 or 6 camps attached a villages. Totally, there are about 200 camps of varying population size in the four taluks of Raichur and Koppal district viz., Gangavti, Sindanur, Manvi, and Raichur taluks.

#### **Yerdona — A village in the Command Area. — A Micro level analysis**

Yardona is the biggest village in terms of population among all the sample villages selected for the study. The village comes under Tungabhadra command area which forms a part of the northern plains of Karnataka. The village is agriculturally well developed with paddy as the major crop. Most of the houses in the village are in linear cluster and uniformly spread on either side of the street. Historically, the village belongs to Hyderabad Karnataka region which is generally backward. It has many facilities and amenities and functions as a service center to the neighbouring villages.

**Physical setting:** Yerdona is located at 18°34' north latitude and 76°41' east longitude and lies at 4 km away from Gangavati - Raichur state highway. The village is bounded by the villages Budugumpa in the north, Elignoor in the south, Kakkargol in the east and Maralanahalli in the west. The village has an elevation varying from 395 m to 425 m above sea level. Generally, the climate of the village is very hot during the months of March, April and May and gets rainfall from south-west monsoon and partly from north-east monsoon. The annual rainfall of the village is 60 cm. The village yerdona is a large sized

multi caste and interior village, which lies in Gangavti Taluk of Koppal district. It is about 27 Km away towards northeast from Gangavti town, the taluk head quarter. It is about 4 km away from the Gangavti-Raichur state highway. The village has a total geographical area about 2565 hectares with a population of 6932 residing in 1277 households in 2001-02. This is one among the villages in Tungabadra area, which has undergone drastic changes in terms of agricultural prosperity, which is associated with migration. The village received water from Tungabadra left bank, some time in

#### Demographic growth and settlement pattern in Yerdona

During the last 60 years, the population of the village has increased more than 5 times as shown below.

year	Population	Decadal growth in Yeradona	Decadal growth in Karnataka
1951	1223	--	19.36
1961	1540	25.92	21.57
1971	3173	106.04	24.22
1981	4783	50.74	26.43
1991	5776	20.76	21.12
2001	6932	20.01	17.25
2011	6980	19.80	17.15
2022*	7069	20.14	15.60

Source: Census Data

\*Village Level Primary Survey

It is abundantly clear from the table that the population growth of the village was abnormal during two decades 1961 -81. It is more than doubled during ' 1961-71 that was immediately after the release of the water for irrigation and the growth was also high, more than 50% between 1961 -1971. During the remaining decades, the growth was very closer to the state's growth rate. It is this

trend of growth, which makes one to infer that the growth was greatly induced by migration, which in turn was due to extension of irrigational facilities in the village.

The village at present has 1277 household residing in the original village and 5 camps attached to it has been given in the table below.

Village /Camps	No off households in 2021
Yerdona	613
Muruda Basaveshwara	159
Kinde	181
Maruthi	82
H.Basavanna	166
Biralingshwara	76
<b>Total</b>	<b>1277</b>

(Source- Yerdona Gramapanchayath office 2021 )

The 5 camps are located around the village within the radius of about 4 K. M from the main villages. These camps, which have been established during last 40 years or so, have become permanent to such an extent that all these have nursery and primary schools and other facilities like shops etc. Among these

camps, Kind camp is oldest and is being inhabited mainly by Andhra migrants who are mainly cultivators. This camp is most prosperous among all the camps. In other camps, small and marginal farmers are found in addition to agricultural labors. The pattern and structure of the village

settlements also has thus undergone radical change, because of migration. Turning our attentive to migration it is clear that the village has been receiving migrants since late 1950's or early 1960s. However, at the time field survey conducted in 2002, heads of many of the households have reported as non-migrants as they are born and brought up in the present village. It thus became a

little difficulty in identifying the exact number of migrant household. Despite this problem, total number of migrant household was calculated as per their information and it was found that the number of migrant household was 449 out of the total 1277. The table below shows the spatial configuration of the origin of these households

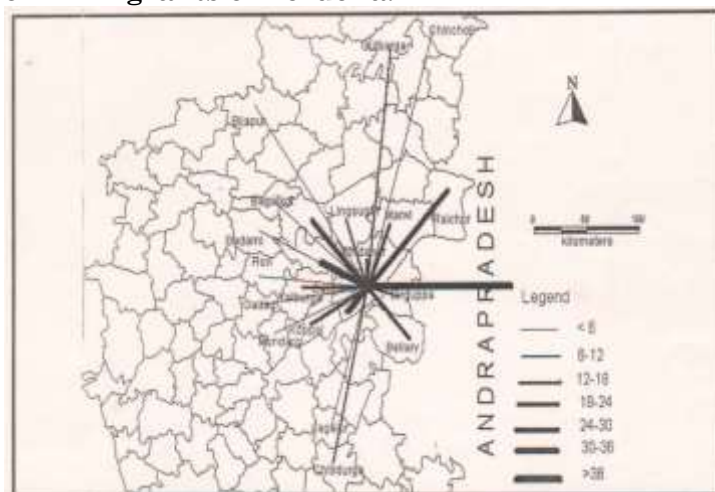
Name Of The Origin Taluk	No Of House Holds
Gangavathi	90
Kusthagi	87
Raichoor	34
Sindhanoor	24
Hunagunda	24
Bellari	14
Manavi	14
Yelburga	13
Siraguppa	13
Chitradurga	12
Lingsur	12
Gulberga	09
Chincholi	07
Bijapur	02
Rona	01
Gadag	01
Jagalur	01
Badami	01
Mundaragi	01
Bagalkote	01
Karnataka	363
Andhra Pradesh	86
TOTAL	449

Table-3 In Migrant's households in Yerdona and their place of origin

It is very clear from the table that majority of migrants are from Karnataka but majority of them again are labourers whereas most of the Andra migrants are owner cultivators. It was these Andhra migrants who bought the land in the beginning and

leveled it and made the land fit for irrigation then started growing crops such paddy, cotton etc. In fact it seems that it was a common scene to see the localites watching process of converting dry land in to irrigated one and the cultivation of paddy.

**Fig.2 Origin Areas of In-Migrants of Yerdona.**



Afterwards gradually local people also learnt the art of leveling the land and growing water oriented crops. In course of time the knowledge of the local people was also perfected in this direction, but unfortunately some of them had by that time their lost their lands. However, those who retained their land either partly or fully, are at present getting the same yield as the migrants cultivator. Agriculture at present is more mechanized consequently the sale of land to outsiders is altogether stopped and local people are as prosperous as migrants farmers.

### **Conclusions**

It is very clear from the forgoing analysis that the entire cultural landscape of the area has undergone significant changes as a result of an irrigation project which lured migrants to the area. These migrants have significantly contributed for the prosperity of the region. Thus it is a very clear example of migration exerting its impact on not only origin and destination areas but also migrants themselves.

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