

An Analysis Of Geographical Profile Of Mysore District

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Abstract:

Mysore forms the Southern most district of Karnataka state and is situated in the southern part of Deccan peninsula. It is believed that, the name 'Mysore' is derived from 'Mahishasura', the buffalo-headed demon who lived in this area and was killed by Goddess Chamundi. Mysore district is one of the important districts of Karnataka State for several reasons. Prior to 1973, Karnataka State was known as Mysore state only. The district has 7 talukas, 1,336 villages as per 2011 census. The district has a population of 30, 01,127 (4.9% of the total population of the state) and stands at 3rd place in the State after Bangalore and Belgaum. The density of population of the district is 476 per sq. km. The total area of Mysore district is 6307 sq. km. Mysore city is the headquarters of the district and also a revenue division. It is well known for its famous 'Brindavan Gardens' that are laid out at the Krishna rajaSagar, a reservoir across the Cauvery river. The Districts (city) is also known throughout the world for the pomp and gaiety with which the traditional "Dasara" festival is held annually during the Navaratri (September – October) The tourists throng from all over the country and abroad in great numbers to witness "Jamboo Savari" the chief attraction of occasion. Even now, the city boasts of 30 palaces and around 300 heritage places. Mysore district is not only rich in antiquarian remains but also enjoys the distinction of yielding the largest number of inscriptions among the districts of the state. Mysore District is situated in the Southern part of Karnataka State. The district lies between 11°60 and 20 °17 north latitude and 75 ° 18 and 77 ° 77 east longitude. Hassan Mandya, and Bangalore Districts bound it on the North; on the South by Cannonore District of Kerala State and Chamarajanagar District of Karnataka State. West by Kodagu district of Karnataka. Mysore district has rich culture, tradition and also known for its bio diversity. This paper attempts to analyse the different dimensions of geographical profile of the district.

Key words: Mysore district, soil diversity, climatic variation, Irrigational facilities, Arable land profile of the district.

Introduction:

The district lies on the undulating table land of the southern Deccan plateau, within the watershed of the Kaveri River, which flows through the northwestern and eastern parts of the district. It is bounded by Mandya district to the northeast, Chamrajanagar district to the southeast, Kerala state to the south, Kodagu district to the west and Hassan district to the north. The Krishna Raja Sagara reservoir, which was formed by building a dam across the Kaveri, lies on the northern edge of the district. Nagarhole National Park lies partly in Mysore district and partly in adjacent Kodagu District. The types of soil found in this district are

red soils (red gravelly loam soil, red loam soil, red gravelly clay soil, red clay soil), lateritic soil, deep black soil, saline alluvio-colluvial soil and brown forest soil. The average temperature 38° C (Max.) 11° (Min.). Average Rainfall being 782 mm. Some of the minerals found in this district are kyanite, sillimanite, quartz, magnesite, chromite, soapstone, felsite, corundum, graphite, limestone, dolomite, siliconite and dunite.

District at a glance:

S.No	Particular	Year	Unit	Statistics
1	Geographical features			
(A)	Geographical Data			
	i) Latitude			11° 30' to 12° 50' North Latitude
	ii) Longitude			75° 45' to 77° 45' East Longitude
	iii) Geographical Area		Hectares	676382
(B)	Administrative Units			
	i) Sub divisions	2010-11		-
	ii) Tehsils	2010-11		7
	iii) Sub-Tehsil	2010-11		14
	iv) Patwar Circle	2010-11		455
	v) Panchayat Simitis	2010-11		-
	vi) Nagar nigam	2010-11		-
	vii) Nagar Palika	2010-11		11
	viii) Gram Panchayats	2010-11		235
	xi) Revenue villages	2010-11		1340
	x) Assembly Area	2010-11		7
2.	Population			
(A)	Sex-wise			
	i) Male	2011	Nos	15,11,206
	ii) Female	2011	Nos	14,83,538
(B)	Rural Population	2011		1756412
3.	Agriculture			
A.	Land utilization			
	i) Total Area	2010-11	Hectare	676382
	ii) Forest cover	2010-11	"	62851
	iii) Non Agriculture Land	2010-11	"	74709
	v) cultivable Barren land	2010-11	"	45812

Source: Directorate of statistics and programme implementation, GOK, Bangalore.

The climatic condition:

The climate of Mysore district is similar to that of neighboring districts of Mandya and Bangalore. The period from March to May witnesses continuous increase in temperature. April is usually the hottest month. The day temperature in the hot season of May, may go about 36°C. The district is exposed to both the monsoons but receives the major part of its rainfall from the south west monsoon. This monsoon usually sets in about the end of May or early in June and it continues with some intervals till the end of September. The North East monsoon commences in October and ends usually by the end of December. Then the cold weather period follows and lasts till the end of February. The hot weather period begins with March and increases its intensity towards the end of May. However, there is occasional relief from pre – monsoon thunder storms. There is not a month without some amount of rainfall and that the normal for all months is considerable except for the cold months of December to March in the district. The highest normal rainfall occurs variably in the month of October in the North–East monsoon, for all taluks with the second highest in both May and September.

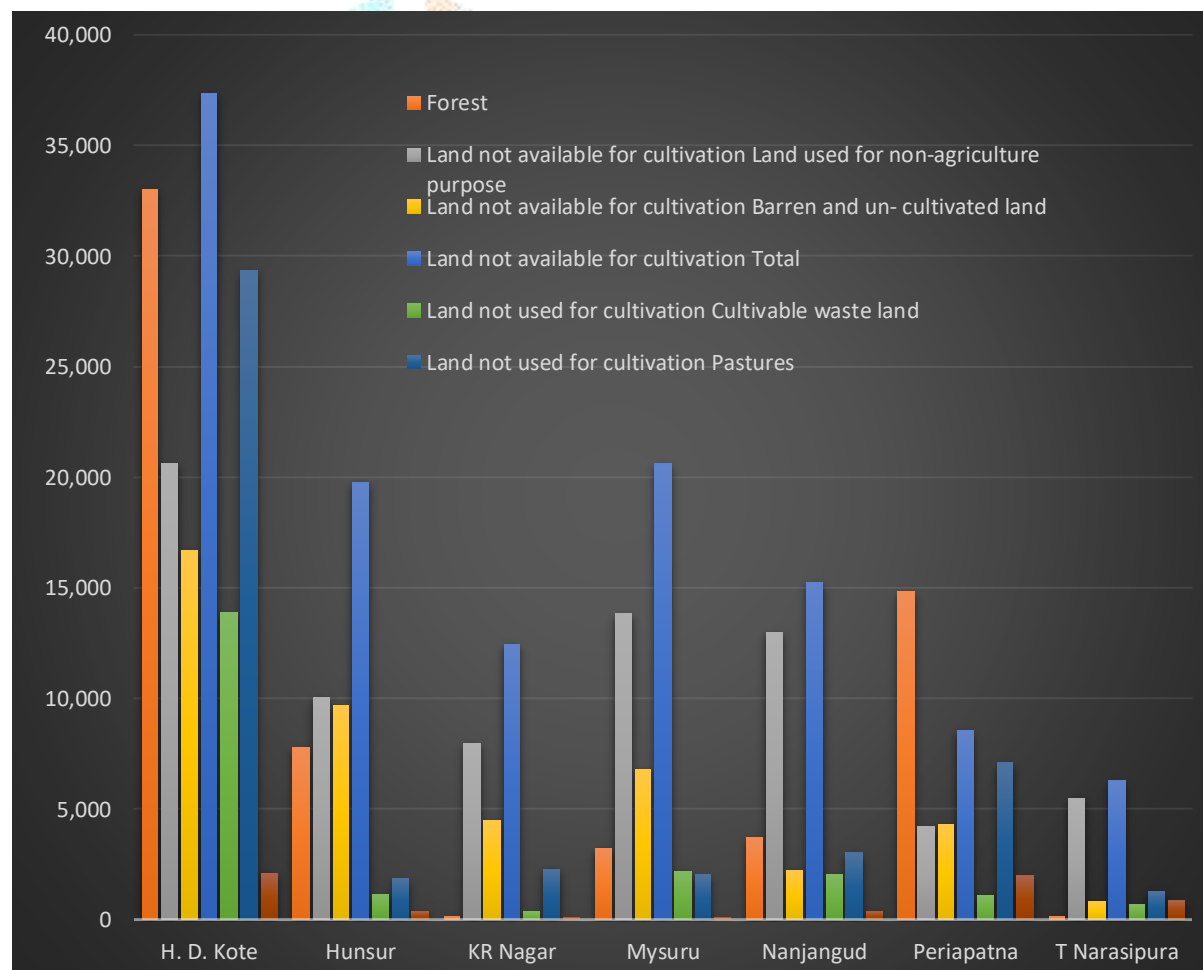
There is no resource more significant than soil. The soil type of district is grouped in to three types viz., the red sandy soils, red loamy soils and deep black soils. Almost entire district is covered by red sandy soil except a small parts of T. Narapur taluk. The soils are having high permeability and neutral with a pH of 7. The thickness of the soil varies from less than a meter to 6 m. North-eastern part of T. Narasipur taluk comprises of red loamy soil. It is characterized by clayey content mixed with sand. It is less permeable compared to sandy soil. It is having good moisture holding capacity and is fertile. The thickness varies from less than a meter to 16 m. Deep Black soil occur in south-western part of T. Narasipur taluk in a small area. These soils are dark brown, dark greyish brown to very dark grey or black in colour.

The texture is usually clayey throughout the profile. These soils are fertile and generally produce good yields. Adequate soil and water management practices and drainage facilities are essential to obtain sustainable yields; otherwise salinity and water logging conditions may develop. These soils need to be drained once in 3-5 years with good quality water. The distribution of soil strongly affects the pattern of Mysore districts land use intensity and agricultural land – use occupancy owing to limited progress made in biological and mechanical farm production techniques, specially the restricted use of chemical fertilizers and hybridized seeds. However, higher level of agricultural technology has been achieved with intensification and mechanization. The modification of the inherent soil characteristics has been accompanied by a domination of soil fertility.

Following table depicts the details of Land usage of the district as per ASCR 2014-15.

Sl. No.	Name of the Taluk	Geo-graphical area	Forest	Land not available for cultivation			Land not used for cultivation			
				Land used for non-agriculture purpose	Barren and un-cultivated land	Total	Cultivable waste land	Pastures	Trees and Grooves	Total
1	H. D. Kote	1,94,138	33,031	20,661	16,709	37,370	13,846	29,302	2,103	45,251
2	Hunsur	98,194	7,786	10,064	9,697	19,761	1,150	1,840	360	3,350
3	KR Nagar	61,976	166	7,960	4,486	12,446	350	2,279	90	2,719
4	Mysuru	81,740	3,216	13,840	6,770	20,610	2,202	2,019	114	4,335
5	Nanjangud	98,541	3,688	13,011	2,246	15,257	2,076	3,022	386	5,484
6	Periapatna	83,121	14,810	4,195	4,330	8,525	1,106	7,088	1,958	10,152
7	T Narasipura	58,972	154	5,478	780	6,258	677	1,258	860	2,795
Total		6,76,382	62,851	75,209	45,018	1,20,227	21,407	46,808	5,871	74,086

Source: ASCR 2014-15



Agricultural Development in Mysore District

Mysore District is predominantly agricultural. It is quite evident from the perusal of the census reports, that the livelihood pattern in the district has more or less been constant for the last 60 years. The agricultural practice however underwent considerable change since 1972.

Sl. No	Name of the Taluk	Fallow Land			Area Sown		
		Current	Others	Total	Net	Sown more than once	Total
1	H. D. Kote	40,574	8,624	49,198	57,822	9,937	67,759
2	Hunsur	11,031	4,666	15,697	5,160	30,309	81,909
3	KR Nagar	24,085	5,077	29,162	17,483	19,870	37,353
4	Mysuru	19,040	12,708	31,748	21,831	3,684	25,515
5	Nanjangud	37,250	7,540	44,790	29,322	16,888	46,210
6	Periapatna	10,540	6,377	16,917	32,717	20,855	60,772
7	T Narasipura	17,096	7,319	24,415	25,050	8,776	33,826
Total		1,59,616	52,311	2,11,927	2,35,825	1,17,519	3,53,344

Source: ASCR 2014-15.

As it is evident from the above table that out of 7 talukas of the district, Hunsur taluk has more agricultural land, which is sown more than once. It is due to availability of irrigation facilities. After Hunsur, Periapatna taluk stand at the second place in terms of area sown more than once, followed by KR Nagar and Nanjangud. About 24 percent of the area, is used for agricultural purposes in the district has irrigation facilities. Two taluks viz. Hunsur and Periapatna, account for nearly 70 percent of the net area sown. Main sources of irrigation are wells and canals. Cauvery is the main river of the district with its tributaries Kabini Lakshmana thirtha and Suvarnavathi. Economic development, since the introduction of irrigation facilities created by the KRS dam across the river Cauvery in the district has brought about changes in the occupational distribution.

The Area under cultivation of important food and commercial crops

Important crops	Area under cultivation(in Hectors)	Production in Tones
Rice	72,321	2,76,963
Raagi	1,12,235	1,09,272
Jowar	92,559	1,78,897
Maize	10,477	31,431
Minor millets	5,481	8,221
Grams	2,306	1,195
Other pulses	68,391	34,195
Sugarcane	26,341	16,31,100
Groundnut	19,703	1,97,030
Cotton	1,534	767
Tobacco	15,800	11,116

Source: District Horticulture Department, Mysore.

The net sown area comprises 72% of the total geographical area, of which about 20% is sown more than once. Paddy is the major crop in the district and is grown in favourable areas totalling about 1107 km², followed by pulses and Ragi which are cultivated in 913 and 722 km² respectively. Other major crops grown in the district are Cotton, Sugarcane, Jowar Tobacco and Oilseeds. About 17% of the total geographical area is under irrigation in the district, comprising of the command area of K. R. Sagar and Kabini Projects. The right bank high level canal of K.R. Sagar known as the Varuna canal passes through Mysore, T. Narsipur, Nanjangud, & H.D. Kote taluks. Out of the total area of 1180 km² under irrigation about, 11% is irrigated from ground water by dug wells and bore wells. While canals account for 81% of the total area under irrigation, tanks account for approximately 7% of the total area irrigated.

Horticulture:

Through various types of fruits are growths in the district, the entire quantity of fruits is consumed within the district itself, except for bananas, which are sent to Bangalore and other neighboring districts. As the climate and Soil type of the district suits more for the Horticulture crops, majority of the horticulture crops are grown in the district. Horticulture crops are grown in an area of 28,370 ha. This is 7% of the Total Cultivable area. The Major crops grown are Coconut, Mango, Sapota, Banana, Vegetables, Flowers, Spices such as Ginger and Turmeric. Nanjungud Rasabale, Mysoru mallige, Mysoru chigurele and Erenagere Variety of Brinjal which is indigenous to the District has a Special Place in the State for its Regional Specific Qualities. In Mysore district, Horticulture crops are grown in an area of 28,369.84 hectares of which the Fruit crops is 4,974 hectares, Vegetable Crops is 6,026.84 hectares, Spice Crops is 1,901 hectares, Garden/Plantation crops is 14,282 hectares, Commercial Flowers is 1,154 hectares, Aromatic Plants is 32.00 hectares.

Sericulture:

Mysore District accounts nearly 50 percent of the total production of silk in the state. Sericulture Industry is one of the major cottage industries in this district. Out of total 2.35 lakhs acres under mulberry plantation in the state. The district accounts for nearly 1.04 lakh acres. The Industry is concentrated mostly in the taluks of Nanjangud, T. Narasipur, and H.D.Kote. The estimated annual production of silk in the district is worth about RS 12 crores. Nearly 1 lakh persons are engaged in mulberry cultivation, seed rearing, silk reeling, twisting and cloth weaving in the district.

Research Methodology:

Objectives of the study:

1. To have a glimpse of geographical profile of Mysore district.
2. To know the agricultural profile of the district.
3. To explore the geographical advantages of the district.

Type of Research: Descriptive Research

Source of Data: It is a desk report. Therefore, the data has been collected through secondary sources.

Locale of the study: Mysore District

Geomorphologically, the district is classified as denudational uplands with about 85 to 90% of the district falling in this category. The next important geomorphological unit is older flood plains mainly in the H.D. Kote taluk and parts of Mysore taluk. Ridges and valleys form the third important unit and is mainly restricted to the Nanjangud and H.D Kote taluk and north western part of Mysore taluk. Flat valleys are not very common except for isolated appearances. The general elevation in the district ranges from 700-800 m amsl except for the denudational hills and ridges. However, the H.D Kote taluk in the southern parts of the district has higher elevation ranging from 2200-3150 m amsl. The Mullur betta with an elevation of 3150 m amsl falls in the area. The Hekkan betta (3732 m amsl) of the Naganpur Reserved Forest, the Shigebetta (3724 m amsl) of the Ainurmarigudi Reserved Forest and the Jainbaribetta (3231m amsl) of the Bedrampadi reserved forest mark the water divide making the southern boundary of H.D. Kote taluk and also of the district.

Conclusion:

For people of Karnataka, Mysore is not just a place. They surely have some emotional bonding with the district. The Mysore district, apart from housing large number of palaces, heritage sites, good amount of forest and apart from being a recreational place, also contributes immensely for the rich culture of the state and as well as the country. Infact, it is considered to be the most favourite destination for spending leisure and retired life by many. Therefore, understanding its topography was the main objective of this paper.

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