

**SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
CHANGE MONOGRAPHS**

55

**Regional Inequality
of Urban Growth:
A Study in Karnataka**

C M Lakshmana



**INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND
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Foreword

For demographic transition, urbanization is one of the principal processes followed by decline in mortality, population growth, fertility and aging population. Sustainable economic growth is resulting in employment opportunities in the manufacturing sector offering better wages than in rural agriculture. This is attracting rural migrants and the ensuing cycle of events results in urbanization and infrastructure development. The post-liberalization period has observed a close association between urbanization and economic development. This is also reflecting in regional disparities between and within states.

The emergence of big cities, the hubs of economic growth, triggers regional disparities of inter-state and intra-state nature. Despite the impressive progress achieved in general, major states like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and West Bengal exhibit huge intra-state disparities in the process of urbanization as also in demographic, social and economic aspects. With this backdrop, analyzing the elements of urbanization that caused intra-state disparities is crucial.

This monograph, authored by Professor C M Lakshmana, addresses the above concerns and issues including the role of regional inequality in urban growth in Karnataka. The historical growth of urban population and dynamics of urban growth and growth rate in trends of population are the contributory factors to inequality in urban growth. This study examines the spatial dimensions of population distribution across the region and the districts in Karnataka evident during 1991-2011. The study focuses on the trends and levels of population growth across statutory towns, census towns and urban agglomerations which exclude Bengaluru. The study also highlights regional variation of urban growth in northern Karnataka. This will help draw the policy measures towards sustainable development in general and eradicate regional inequality in urban growth in Karnataka, in particular.

This monograph has addressed issues in the area of regional inequality of urban growth in Karnataka. This is an excellent piece of research of great value to the research community especially for demographers and for workers in urbanization issues in the present situation. I am happy to recommend this monograph for the benefit of the wider audience.

*January 2018
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*Prof M G Chandrakanth
Director, ISEC*