INTRODUCTION:

There were 565 princely states in India at the time of independence. Every state had its own unique administrative setup even these all states were ruled by British. These states were economically, socially, politically, educationally, geographically and culturally different from one another. Means, they were not equally developed in the comparison with one another, there were regional imbalances. Afterwards, states have been reorganised based on languages. Many scholars at that time also were in the opinion of smaller states (most importantly Dr B R Ambedkar). Merging unequal regions to make the state based on the language has created the regional imbalances within the state. This regional imbalance has not only continued but also increased over the period of time. Various Finance Commissions and the Planning Commission laid emphasis on the objective of achieving balanced regional development. In the recent past the issue of regional imbalances in India is mostly a subject for the intra-state analysis rather than the inter-state. Ignoring of these regional imbalances by many states has created the problem of protest for separation of the states.

Karnataka state is not an exception for the intra-state imbalances. Karnataka state (old name Mysore state) was reorganised with inclusion of different regions, namely, Hyderabad Karnataka, which is ruled by Nizams, Bombay Karnataka, which is ruled by Bombay province, old Mysore state, which ruled by old Mysore Kings. And Madras provenance, there were two district in this provinces viz., Mangalore and Bellary. Mysore Kings have implemented various social welfare programmes and policies for the development. On the other hand, Hyderabad Nizam did not follow the example. Hence Hyderabad Karnataka region did not develop. The same was case with Bombay Karnataka region. But it was comparatively better than Hyderabad Karnataka in terms of development. During unification of the state, four administrative divisions have been made. They are Gulbarga division (popularly known as Hyderabad Karnataka), Belgaum Division (popularly known as Bombay Karnataka), Bangalore Division and Mysore Divisions. First two divisions are in the northern part of the state and next two divisions are in the southern part of the state. For this region, regional imbalances of Karnataka have always been studied by dividing the state into North Karnataka and South Karnataka.

---

1 Earlier Version of this paper has been presented in Karnataka Economic Association’s XI Annual Conference
2 Assistant Professor, CMDR, Dharwad
3 Intra state disparity is a matter of serious concern at present because Telangana has already been separated from Andhra Pradesh. Further, there is a lingering fear of separation of Vidarbha and Marathawada from Maharashtra, and Coorg and North Karnataka from Karnataka, Utkal from Odisha and so on. Hence, the word regional imbalance is frequently used in the recent days by economists, social scientists, planners and politicians than ever before.
4 Mangalore has been included in the Mysore division and Bellary has been included in the Gulbarga division.