

A Study Of Co-Operative Society With Special Reference To Co-Operative Transport In Chikkamagaluru District

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Abstract

Human is a social being in society he lives with mutual cooperation and harmony between individual and society. It is constitutionally allowed to register under the Co-operative Societies Act 1904 to strengthen it consciously and democratically. Even in the state of Karnataka we find many co-operative societies registered and running agriculture, fisheries, dairy, industry and transport organizations for the progress of individual, community and society. In this study, the principles, rules and scope of a cooperative society registered under the Cooperative Societies Act in the state of Karnataka are introduced and also the origin, growth, purpose, executive board and management of Co-operative Transport Organization of Chikkamagaluru district are discussed based on secondary sources. And major finding through this study that rural people inclined towards cooperative societies, cooperative transport helping people's economic condition. Cooperative transport has been positive growth in serving the people based on the cooperative philosophy of All for Us, We for All.

Keywords: Cooperative Society, Cooperative Transport, Chikkamagaluru

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I. Introduction

The greatest challenge to any civilized society is the economic deprivation it hides, coupled with social deprivation. It is inevitable that a collective war is being waged to expel human deprivation from our midst. No other organized arrangement can be more effective for this attack than building human capital among the poor through sustainable development initiatives. Consonance with human nature further enhances the value of such initiatives. This principle is particularly relevant to co-operative management in the country and Karnataka, the core of which includes the basic human sense of self-worth. The cooperation strategy goes deep into building financial capabilities and self-confidence, especially among the rural poor. Cooperation is a universal process that can be seen in all parts of the world. The cooperative is born with the purpose of business and trade. A cooperative society is a group of people, a group of people governed by common ownership on the principle of democracy, to function on the basis of the cooperation of all members. We find several cooperative societies based mainly on agriculture, food products, finance, transport and healthcare. These cooperative societies are organizations formed for the purpose of self-reliance and development of the poor and underprivileged.

II. Objectives

- To recognize the participation of the people of the State in Co-operative Societies.
- To know the various sectors of the Co-operative Societies.
- To recognize the progress of cooperative transport in Chikkamagaluru district.

III. Methodology

This article is entirely based on secondary data collected from the online sources, NSSO reports, government websites, and reports, books in Kuvempu University library.

IV. Cooperative Societies in Karnataka

The co-operative movement in India was born in 1904 with the passing of the Co-operative Societies Act, 1904 and after a long journey it entered the new millennium with lots of hopes and expectations. Two movements in the last century have had a cascading effect on the welfare of the vast population of this country.

The independence movement freed India from foreign yoke. It soon became clear that political freedom meant nothing a country did not enjoy the fruits of sustained economic growth. The independence movement was a people's movement. And so is the cooperative movement. Enshrined in both the movements were the aspirations and aspirations of teeming millions of people in India - small and marginal farmers, landless labourers, members of the weaker sections of the community viz. artisans, fishermen handloom weavers etc., who were otherwise mired in poverty and deprived of the means and fruits of economic prosperity for centuries. The post-independence period witnessed a saga of human struggle not only to improve the lot of poor people but also to ensure equitable distribution of wealth and cooperatives played a key role in this endeavor. People from different classes gathered under the auspices of cooperatives. Whether it was green (agriculture), white (dairy), yellow (poultry) and blue (fisheries), their success depended on a vast cooperative network spread across the corners of the country. The ancient institution of moneylenders crumbled under the weight of credit unions and banking institutions in rural and urban conglomerations. The spread of movement in the non-credit sector also followed in a big way. Right from the 1950s, the country mapped the direction of its economic development and chose a mixed economy as a means to achieve its goals. While the public and private sectors have been assigned specific roles. The cooperative movement, which even today was not designated as an independent sector, had to fight its own battle and carve out a niche in the economy. State participation in the financial establishment of cooperatives has become an integral part of the government's deliberate policy to support cooperatives. The development of agriculture became the main pillar of the government. The cooperatives were to support massive programs to increase agricultural production and create suitable post-harvest facilities. The wide network of the credit movement was assisted by non-credit cooperatives in various areas of socio-economic activities. There has been a mushroom growth of cooperatives in both credit and non-credit areas. Both credit and non-credit cooperatives had different levels from primary to national levels. There has been a massive diversification of cooperatives in all spheres of the economy, be it the primary, secondary or tertiary sectors. Today, the cooperative movement in India is the largest in the world. The movement has permeated all walks of life viz., agriculture, horticulture, credit and banking, housing, agro-industry, rural electrification, irrigation, water harvesting, labour, weaker sections, dairying, consumers, public distribution system, tribal, international trade, exports, agribusiness, human resource development, information technology.

Principles of Co-operation

- **Voluntary and open membership:** Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons who are able to use their services and are willing to accept the responsibility of membership, without discrimination based on sex, social status, race, political ideology or religious belief.
- **Democratic Member Control:** Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. The elected representatives of these cooperatives are responsible and accountable to their members.
- **Economic participation of members:** Members contribute fairly and democratically control the capital of their cooperative. At least part of the surplus from economic activity would be the common property of the cooperatives. The remaining surplus could be used for the benefit of the members in proportion to their shares in the cooperative.
- **Autonomy and independence:** Cooperatives are autonomous self-help organizations managed by their members. If cooperatives enter into an agreement with other organizations, including the government, or obtain capital from outside sources, they do so under conditions that ensure democratic control by members and preserve the autonomy of the cooperative.
- **Education, training and information:** Cooperatives provide education and training to their members, elected representatives and employees, so that they can effectively contribute to the development of these institutions. They also inform especially young people and leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.
- **Cooperation between cooperatives:** Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through available local, regional, national and international structures.

Departments or Agencies in Karnataka

Table.01

Sl. No.	Departments or Agencies
1.	Registrar of Co-operative Societies
2.	The Agricultural Marketing Department
3.	Department of Co-operative Audit

Functions of Cooperation Department

- Propose appropriate amendments to all laws and rules administered by the Ministry.
- Manage and manage cooperatives according to the cooperative law and rules.
- Ensure that various development programs related to cooperatives are effectively implemented.
- Reform the claim settlement process under various development schemes.
- Modernize the infrastructure of the office and provide HRD training to all department staff (2022).

V. Co-operative Sectors

There are many types of cooperative sectors, among them are the following:

Agricultural credit sectors

- Short and Medium Term Credit Cooperative Structure (STCCS)
- Structure of Long Term Credit Cooperative (LTCCS)
- Disbursement of agricultural loan
- Debt collection

Non-agricultural credit sector

- Municipal cooperative banks
- Women's Urban Cooperative Banks
- Federation of State Cooperative Urban Banks Karnataka Ltd. Bangalore.

Marketing Sector

There are 179 Taluk Agricultural Production Cooperative Societies in Karnataka. Apart from these there are five specialized marketing societies dealing with commercial crops like areca nut etc. In order to effectively achieve the various objectives of such societies and to restructure the marketing system, District Cooperative Marketing Unions at the district level in the districts of Belgaum, Bijapur, Bellary, Raichur were established, Mandya, Haveri, Mysore, Kalaburgi, Shivamogga, Hassan, Bidar and Bagalkot.

- 1) The Karnataka State Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd,
- 2) Agricultural Produce Co-operative Marketing Societies.

Processing Sector

The Karnataka cooperative oil seeds growers' federation, Bangalore

Central Areca and Cocoa Marketing and Processing Co.,Ltd. Mangalore (campco). There are other marketing and processing cooperatives in the areca growing areas of the state and they are:-

- The Totagaras Cooperative Sale Society Ltd., Sirsi.
- The Malnad Areca marketing Cooperative Society Ltd., Shivamogga.
- The Areca Processing and Sales Cooperative Society Ltd., Sagar.
- Tota utpannagala Marata Sahakari Sangha Niyamitha, Channagiri.
- Malnad areca marketing cooperative society Ltd., Shivamogga (MAMCOS)
- The areca processing and sales cooperative society Ltd. APCOS)
- The Karnataka state cooperative horticulture marketing federation Ltd. Bangalore

Consumer Sector

In Karnataka Consumer Co-operatives are working in 3 stages viz.,

- The Karnataka State Co-operative Consumers Federation Ltd., Bangalore at State level.
- The District Central Co-operative Wholesale Stores at District level
- The Primary Consumer Co-operative Societies at Primary level.

Diary Sector: Karnataka state co-operative milk federation Ltd

Industry Sector:

- Karnataka State Coir Co-operative Federation Ltd.
- The Karnataka State Federation of sugar factories Ltd.
- Karnataka state woolen handloom weavers co-operative federation Ltd. Bangalore
- The Karnataka Industrial co operative federation Ltd.
- Karnataka state woolen handloom weavers co-operative federation Ltd. Bangalore

- Karnataka state co-operative silk marketing federation Ltd. Bangalore
- Karnataka state co-operative Spinning mill federation Ltd. Bangalore
- Karnataka State Industrial Suppliers and Marketing Co operative federation
- Karnataka state co-operative Federation Ltd., Bangalore
- Karnataka state woolen handloom weavers Non-Khadi Co-operative societies Federation Ltd., Challakere

Other Cooperative Sectors

Other types of Cooperative Societies and Federations:

There are various cooperatives in the state such as women cooperatives, labor contract cooperatives, electrical engineering cooperatives, sports promotion and development cooperatives, Chandaragi, water user cooperatives, fisheries cooperatives, solar cooperatives, education, hospital, transport, large cooperative and large Adivasi- Multi Purpose Cooperative Societies (LAMPS), Tree Growers and Toddy Tappers Cooperatives etc.

VI. Co-operative Transport in Chikkamagaluru District

Cooperative Transport was started on 8 March 1991 with the cooperation of Chikkagowda and his colleagues. The main cause of this was that the employees working in Shankara Transport Company, Chikkamagaluru were dismissed from their jobs as they demanded an increase in their salaries. In the beginning this TCS started with only 2 buses. The bus led to his livelihood for the next 10 years with over 60 buses and employment for over 300 people. By having its own garage today, it has also grown into a medium-sized company. TCS buses charge discounted fares for students and senior citizens. And it has extended its transport links to the neighboring districts of Shivamogga and Udupi. TCS (Transport Cooperative) Koppa Transport Corporation completed 20 years in 2010 and as we gathered the information, the owners, drivers, operators and cleaners are the real owners of this transport company. Gubbi Labs (2010) is a team that conducted a study on 26 transport organizations of the state, this company TCS Koppa Transport Corporation announced that it ranks first in management and public service. Co-operative movement has spread massively in all areas of development sectors like credit, marketing, consumer, milk, fisheries, horticulture; sugar mills, house construction etc. were affected (sahakarasindhu, 2022).

Statistics of Cooperative Societies in the State

Table-02

SI No	Description	Numbers
01	Total Co-operative Societies in the State	42543
02	Working Co-operative Societies	37516
03	Beneficiary Associations	24888
04	Capital investment	4519 Lakhs

Statistics of Cooperative Societies in Chikmagalur District

Table-03

SI No	Description	Numbers
01	Total Co-operative Societies	526
02	Total members	383007 Lakhs
03	Total Capital Investment	7669 Lakhs
04	Government capital	272 Lakhs
05	Capital of members of the association	7397

VII. Analysis and Interpretation

It is a very welcome development that cooperative societies are moving forward with competition even in the current globalization and privatization. Various schemes were introduced within the cooperative, viz.

1. Interest subsidy for agricultural loan, crop loan.
2. Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Planning.
3. Financial Assistance to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Class Societies
4. Loan waiver
5. Karnataka State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Loan
6. Yashaswani Yojana (This scheme is currently merged with Arogya Karnataka Yojana).

VIII. Major outcome of Cooperative Societies and Suggestions

- People in rural parts of the state are more inclined towards cooperative societies.
- More than 50% of all cooperative societies in the state are in profit.
- Cooperative transport is expanding its reach.

- Cooperative transport helps people's economic development.
- However, in today's competitive era, the cooperation of the government is essential in the education of cooperatives.
- Today, the participation of local people needs to be increased.

IX. Conclusion

Overall, we see that this cooperative transport has its specialty in the field of cooperation. It is not only for profit but also for public service and plays an important role in making people financially self-sufficient. This cooperative transport was appreciated by the people rather than the government for providing highly efficient and effective standard services in the hilly areas.

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