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Cultural Historiography Of Hassan District

(Selected Books and Articles)

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History Licture

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Hassan popularly called the 'Ooty of the Poor', has occupied a unique place in culture and history of the state for having exuberant natural physiographic wealth. It is bounded on the north-west and North by Chikkamagalur district, on the east and south-east by the district of Tumkur and Mandya, on the south and south-west by the districts of Mysore and Kodagu, and on the west by Dakshina Kannada district. Lying between 12° 31' and 13° 33' North latitudes and 75° 39' and 76°33' East longitude, Hassan district has a total area of 6845 sq.km. The ditrict has Arasikere, Channarayapatna, Hassan, Holenarasipura, Arakalgud, Sakaleshpura, Beluru and Aluru taluks¹.

As per mythology, Hassan was once called Simhasana Puri. It is surrounded by Beeranahally Kere, Channapattana Kere, Hunasi Kere, Satyamangala Kere and Makana Kere. It is believed that the throne of Janamejaya, the grandson of Arjuna, was kept in Hassan and by the virtue of this, it was called Simhasana Puri. It is also said that the name of this place derived from the plant Hasinaballi². Culture does not have specific connotation. It is observed that culture is a process which polishes the beastly nature of man and makes him human. He has also said that culture involves religion, values, arts, literature, social customs, political life, costume, food habits, economical status, agricultural tradition and others. However, civilization is represented by physical attributes and depends on external life. Similarly, culture depends on the rituals, religion, literature, arts and total temperament of man³. On the whole, culture denotes comprehensive human life. Region specific history simply means description of administrative rule of the dynasties, monarchs, or kings and queens of a particular region. However, local history is being given significant attention by the mainstream historians. Off late, research studies on rural environ are being taken up on a large scale. Historians have identified that cultural history contribute significant information to mainstream history. The

foot prints of history are being explored in cultural history these days. The cultural life of yester years that was prevalent in rural or less known places has proved that they have all the significant ingredients to be part of main stream historiography. Studies conducted on arts, social life, human values are being called cultural studies⁴. Many research scholars and experts have studied the temples, memorial sculptures, coins and oral tradition of this district. The present study is an attempt to review the historiography of these selected studies.

Hayavadana Rao in Mysore Gazetteer Volume⁵ and Abhishankar in Hassan District gazetteer have made a comprehensive study of geography, political, economic and social aspects of Hassan district. As regards the inscriptions, Epigraphia Carnatica Vol-2 has details about the inscriptions found in Holenarasipura, Hassan an Aluru taluks. The 9th Volume of this book has detailed account of inscriptions found in Sakaleshpura and Beluru taluks. The 10th volume speaks about the inscriptions of Arasikere and Channarayapattana⁷.the four volumes of this book give a comprehensive picture of inscriptions of Hassan district. R. Gopal has published a total of 82 articles in the book Hassan Jilleya Itihasa Mattu Puratatva⁸.

Documents: Gavisiddaiah, in the article titled Hassana 'Jilleya Aitihāsika Dakhalegalu' records the genealogy of Mysore Wodeyars, Mysore Administrative reports, the resolutions passed by Mysore princely State and other details.

Inscriptions and Temples: Channakka Pavate in the article 'Hassana Jilleya Samskrutika Itihasa' speaks about the cultural diversity, literature, architecture in the light of inscriptions.

Krishne Gowda, in the article 'Hassana Jilleya Prekshaniya Sthalagala Aitihāsikate' says that Hasanamba Temple in Hassan, Kenchamma Hosakote, Kuduregundi, Shravana Belagola and other places of interest. The author explains the political history of these places by referring to the notified inscriptions.

Subhash Chandra Babu in his article ood and Mud heritage of Hassan gives details about the temples, forts and dwellings of villages across Sakaleshpura taluk. The author deals with how houses are built with mud and woods.

Vrushab Mahesh in the article stones of Hassan District: A Socio-Cultural Study, explains the hero stones planted during the priod of Rashtrakuta, Ganga, Hoysala and Vijayanagara Kingdoms,

Srinivas M V in the article Shravanabelagolakke Banda Chandragupta analyses and reviews on the origin of Chandragupta Maurya. He makes an attempt to review the various studies done by scholars in this regard.

Shyamala Ratna Kumari in the article Hassana Jilleya Itihasa Mattu Puratatva makes an attempt to study the administration of Mauryas, Shatavahanas, Kadambas, Gangas, Rashtrakutas, Cholas, Chengalvas and Nadalvas. His article deals with information revealed in the inscriptions.

Shashidhar R in Hassana Jilleyalli Hoysala Vishnuvardhanana Shasanagalu describes the Jain Basadis, Buddhist temples, Shaiva temples, Vaishnava temples, construction of villages and towns. Agraharas built during the religion of Vishnuvardhna.

Yogiashwarappa D N in the article Hoysala Kalada 1ne Shatamanada Malayali Nele, ponders over the origin of Malayalis. Besides this, the author deals with the pawn brokeing between Kunja Setty and Damodar Setty. The article also focuses on the religious conversion from Vishnu faith to Vaishnava faith, religious administration of women during the 13th century.

Manjunath M G in his article analyses the logo of Hoysala dynasty based on the oral tradition.

Krishna Murthy M N in the article Hoysala Kale concentrates on Vesara architecture, the design, decoration, carvings on the pillars and makes a comparison with the Hoysala architecture.

Nagendra in the article Harnahally Aitihya Hagu Hoysala Devalaya analyses the temple construction of Hoysala kings.

Appanna N Hanje in the article Shravana Belagolada Jaina Vastukale makes an attempt to analyse the Jain architecture seen in Shravana Belagola environ with special reference to Basadis and religious sculpture.

Chandrashekhar in the article Bahubali Shilpa, explains the origin of Bahubali's culpture and the various features of this sculpture.

Srinivas V in the article Arasikereya Ishwara Devalaya makes a classification such as Dravida, Nagara and Bhumija sculpture seen in Arasikere region. The author says that the Ishwara temple in Arasikere represents the Bhumija architecture.

Manoj J in the article Hassana Jilleya Hoysala Devalayagalalli Dravida Prasadagalu analyses Mahalkshmi temple, Akkana Basadi, Bucheshwara, Chatteshwara temples.

Dase Gowda in the article Hoysala Adalitha Kaladalli Devalayagalu makes a detail analysis of temples and education, health, financial transactions and entertainment.

Forts: Joshi S K in the article Hassana Jilleya Kote Kottalagalu gives details about Dwarasamudra fort, Beluru fort, Hassan fort, Arasikere fort, Doddagaddavalli and Shravana Belagola forts.

Monument Sculpture: Shadaksharaiah R M in the article Hassana Jilleya Smaraka Shilpagalu makes a detail study of monument sculptures available in the district.

Sculpture: Satyanarayana B R in the Vaividhyamaya Saraswati Shilpagalu makes a study of diverse sculptures of Goddess Saraswati available in the district.

Malali Vasanth Kumar in the book Hoysala Sampada⁹ has published some articles on culture.

Marulaiah S S in the article Halmidi Shasana makes a critical analysis of the meaning and definition of the edict, its scope, and language in the light of historical and cultural aspects.

B V Shirur in the article Shravana Belagolada Samskrutika Adhyayana defines the meaning of belgola, the political history, poets and idol sculpture.

Shivanna K S in the article Hoysala kalada Samskruti analyses the political history, religious harmony, and temple construction of Hoysala administration.

Shivanna in the article Hoysala Doregalu makes a comprehensive analysis of political history of Hoysala kings.

Rajendra D K in Hassana Jilleya Janapada kalegalu makes a classification of religious singers and professional singers to analyse the tradition of art in the district.

Chandrashekhar H R in the article Hassana Jilleya Bhaugolikate Mattu Prakrutika Sampattu gives the complete profile of the district ranging from rivers to soil quality to population and literacy.

Lalithamba N R in the article Madhyakalina Samajika Sanchalana¹⁰ has studied the inscriptions of Arasikere taluk in the social, economical, religious and literary backdrop.

Goruru Ramaswamy Iyengar in the book Hassana Jilla Darshana¹¹ describes the mythological and historical background of the district.

Udaya Ravi Mavanuru in the book Aluru Taluk Darshana¹² gives a brief history of the taluk.

Goruru Anantharaju in the book Hassana Jilleya Devalayagala Darshan¹³ gives complete details of the temples available in the eight taluks of the district.

The above literature drives home the fact that many studies done on Hassan district have touched upon various aspects and they are diverse in nature.

Foot Notes

1. Malali Vasanth Kumar (ed) Hoysala Sampda p-6
2. Karnataka State Gazetteer, Part-3, 1986 p-635
3. Thipperudraswamy H, 2018, Karnataka Samskruta Samikshe p-2

4. Malali vasanth Kumar (ed) Poorvoktha, p-3

Reference Book

1. Abhishankar Km 1971, Hassana Jilla Gazetteer, Govt Publication, Bengaluru
2. Hayavadana Rao C, 1984, Mysore gazetteer, Vol-5, B R Publications, Delhi.
3. Epigraphia Carnatica (old edition) and Epigraphia Carnatica (new edition) Vol-8to10.
4. Gopal R, 2010, Hassana Jilleya Itihasa Mattu Puratatva, Directorate of Archeology, Mysore
5. Malali Vasanth Kumar, 1996, Hoysala Sampada, All India 65th Kannada Sahitya Sammelana, Hassan.
6. Lalithamba N R, 2010, Madhyakalina Karnatakaa Samajika sanchalana (Arasikere Talukina Shasanagalu), K S Muddappa Memorial trust, KAR Pura Doddi, Bengaluru.
7. Goruru Ramaswamy Iyengar, 1977, Hassan Jilla Darshana, IBH Publications, Gandhi Nagar, Bengaluru.
8. Udayaravi, 2010, Hassan Jilla Vaishishtya, Jilla Kananda Sahitya Sammelana, Hassan
9. Goruru Anantharaju, 2004, Hassana Jilleya Devalayagala Darshana, Hunasinakere Badavane, Hassan.