7.2.2 Dwelling Rooms and Married Couples

Table No.7.2: Households by Dwelling Rooms and Married Couples-2001 & 2011 (No. & %)

	2001					2011				
Total/ Rural/ Urban	Number of married couples in a household	Number of Dwelling Rooms				Number of married couples in a household	Number of Dwelling Rooms			
		No exclusive room	One room	Two to Four rooms	Five to Six rooms and above		No exclusive room	One room	Two to Four rooms	Five to Six rooms and above
Total	All Households	3.16	15.16	68.05	13.63	Total	8.61	19.08	63.39	8.92
	None	-	-	-	0.00	None	14.19	24.73	55.95	5.13
	1	7.72	33.22	54.51	4.56	1	8.16	19.62	64.18	8.04
	2 to 4	3.43	17.46	68.51	10.60	2 to 4	5.42	10.48	66.78	17.32
	5	3.01	14.16	69.74	13.10	5+	2.59	2.91	43.04	51.46
Rural	All Households	3.95	16.50	67.15	12.40	Total	9.81	18.63	62.39	9.17
	None	-	-	-	0.00	None	15.73	23.90	55.09	5.29
	1	9.71	33.21	53.64	3.44	1	9.51	19.36	63.02	8.10
	2 to 4	4.50	19.70	67.17	8.62	2 to 4	5.96	10.47	65.96	17.60
	5+	3.74	15.76	68.85	11.65	5+	2.56	2.99	45.73	48.72
Urban	All Households	1.71	12.72	69.69	15.88	Total	6.49	19.88	65.16	8.47
	None	-	-	-	0.00	None	11.68	26.09	57.37	4.86
	1	4.56	33.22	55.88	6.33	1	5.85	20.06	66.15	7.94
	2 to 4	1.72	13.89	70.64	13.74		4.11	10.51	68.76	16.62
	5+	1.72	13.89	70.64	15.96	5+	4.11	10.51	68.76	60.00

Sours: Census of India, 2001 & 2011

It is interesting to note that there is correspondence between the number of couples living in a house and the number of dwelling rooms available. However, it is found that a fifth of the families suffer from want of adequate space. This is evident in the households with 2 to 4 married couples. There are about 20 per cent families belonging to this group and they live in a house with no exclusive room or with only one exclusive room. This scenario has changed in 2011, with only about 15 per cent having either no room or only one room.

On the other hand, in families with only one couple, 7.72 per cent of the families have no room. There are marginal variations between the rural and urban areas in Shivamogga district. This has increased to 8.16 per cent. The percentage occupying 2 to 4 and more rooms has also increased. Thus, the nuclear families are able to find an accommodation with more number of rooms which are concentrated both rural and urban areas. This is evident from the above Table 7.2.

7.3 Site-less Households

Table No.7.3 : Site-less Households-2011 [No. & %]

Sl. No.	Taluk	No.	Percentage
1	Bhadravathi	9919	12.49
2	Hosanagara	8741	32.30
3	Sagara	5013	10.47
4	Shikaripura	11241	22.03
5	Shivamogga	12405	10.75
6	Soraba	8021	17.45
7	Thirthahalli	4876	13.79
	Total	60216	14.97

Source : Zilla Panchayath, 2011

Note : In 2001 census houses have been categorised as permanent, semi-permanent and temporary.

The total number of siteless households in the district is 60,216. They account for 14.97 per cent of the total households in the district. The percentage of the siteless households is highest in Hosanagra taluk (32.30percent) followed by Shikaripura with about 22.03 per cent. The least percentage of the households of this category are reported from Sagara (10.47percent) and the Shivamogga (10.75 percent) taluks.

7.4 Households with Pucca Houses

Table No.7.4: Households with Pucca Houses 2011 (No. & %)

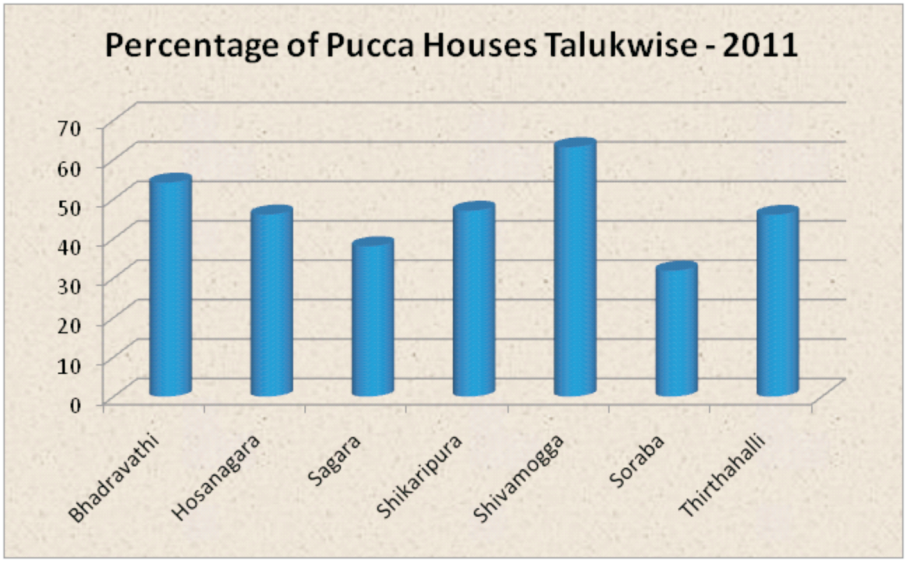
Sl.No.	Taluk	Households with Pucca houses	
		Number	Percentage
1	Bhadravathi	42629	54.22
2	Hosanagara	12262	46.14
3	Sagara	17903	38.10
4	Shikaripura	23539	47.11
5	Shivamogga	72374	63.23
6	Soraba	14456	31.91
7	Thirthahalli	16041	46.07
	Total	199204	50.18

Source: Census of India, 2011

Of the total number of houses in the district, only 50.18 per cent are reported to be pucca houses in 2011. The percentage of the permanent houses in 2001 was 45.27 per cent and the percentage of pucca houses was 37.84 per cent in 1991. Although the percentage of pucca houses has been continuously increasing, the increase during the last decade is comparatively less than the increase during 1991-2001.

Across taluks, Soraba taluk has the least percentage of pucca houses [31.91%] and the highest is in Shivamogga taluk [63.23%]. Inspite of sagar being progressive in housing schemes, only a third of the households have pucca houses. The lower proportion of pucca houses in different taluks could be attributed to the geography and the climatic condition in the taluks.

Fig.7.2: Percentage of Pucca Houses Talukwise 2011



7.4.1 Households without proper houses

The census records provide information on the quality of housing infrastructure. The housing units are classified into good, livable and dilapidated type. It also provides disaggregated data for rural and urban areas, and for Scheduled Caste and Tribes separately. The data for Shivamogga district is given in table 7.5.

Table No.7.5 : Households by Quality of Housing - 2001 & 2011 (No. & %)

	Residence							
	2001				2011			
	Total	Good	Livable	Dilapidated	Total	Good	Livable	Dilapidated
Total	322,423	130,828	166,251	25,344	394,474	210,307	161,100	23,067
%	100.00	40.58	51.56	7.86	100.00	53.31	40.84	5.85
Rural	207,898	68,637	119,375	19,886	252,112	118,288	115,386	18,438
%	100.00	33.01	57.42	9.57	100.00	46.92	45.77	7.31
Urban	114,525	62,191	46,876	5,458	142,362	92,019	45,714	4,629
%	100.00	54.30	40.93	4.77	100.00	64.64	32.11	3.25

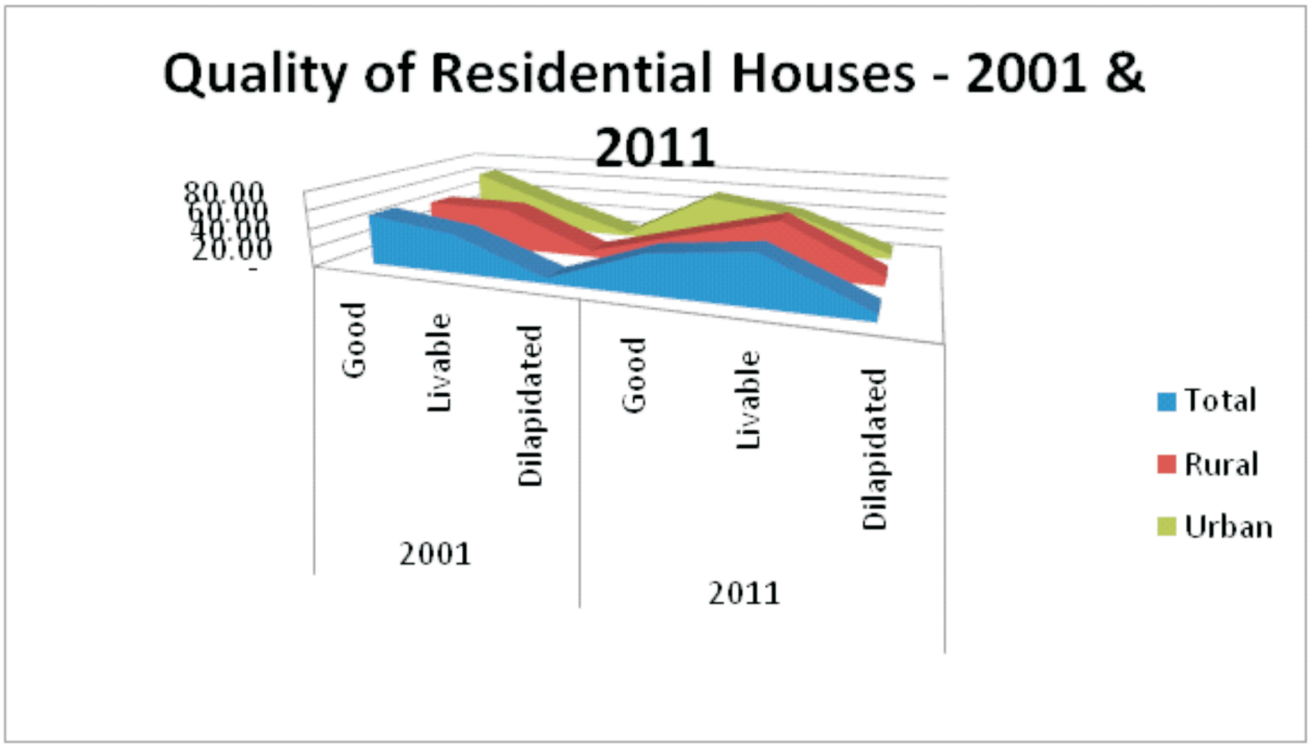
Source: Census of India, 2001 & 2011

Of the total houses which are exclusively used for residence, 40.58 per cent of them are classified as good, 51.56 per cent as livable and 7.86 per cent as dilapidated in 2001. These percentages are 53.31, 40.84 and 5.85 per cent respectively in 2011. It is interesting to note that the percentage of 'good houses' has increasing marginally. Whereas the percentage of 'livable' houses has decreased. There is a marginal decrease in the number of dilapidated housing units. This is definitely an indication of improvement in the quality of houses in the district. The trends are similar in rural and urban areas. The result of this are:

- Only a third of houses in rural areas are 'good'. The percentage of 'good houses' in the urban areas is more than 50 per cent. This has marginally increased by 2011. Thus, the rural households are relatively disadvantaged when compared to urban households. The variations are getting narrowed.

- The percentage of families living in 'livable' accommodation is about 45 per cent in the rural and about 32 per cent in the urban areas in 2011. Thus, a marginally higher percentage of households are living in accommodation which are crowded, poorly ventilated and perhaps a kuchcha type of accommodation. This is also perhaps reflective of the poor progress in providing housing accommodation to the increasing number of rural and urban families.

Fig.7.3: Quality of Residential Houses - 2001 & 2011



7.4.2 Scheduled Caste

Table No.7.6 : Quality of Housing among scheduled castes - 2001 & 2011 (No. & %)

	Scheduled Caste							
	2001				2011			
	Total	Good	Livable	Dilapidated	Total	Good	Livable	Dilapidated
Total	55,655	16,271	32,458	6,926	67,442	27,676	33,719	6,047
%	100.00	29.24	58.32	12.44	100.00	41.04	50.00	8.97
Rural	42,005	10,496	25,849	5,660	49,616	18,020	26,556	5,040
%	100.00	24.99	61.54	13.47	100.00	36.32	53.52	10.16
Urban	13,650	5,775	6,609	1,266	17,826	9,656	7,163	1,007
%	100.00	42.31	48.42	9.27	100.00	54.17	40.18	5.65

Source: Census of India, 2001 & 2011

The housing condition of scheduled caste families has undergone change from 2001 to 2011. The trend indicates that the number of 'good' houses have increased while the number of 'Livable' houses have decreased during this period. The most striking feature observed is that the number of 'dilapidated' houses have decreased. Similar pattern prevails among scheduled tribe families living in 'rural' and 'urban' areas. All these points indicate that there is a improvement in the quality of housing units occupied by scheduled caste families.

7.4.3 Scheduled Tribe

Table No.7.7 : Quality of Housing among scheduled tribes - 2001 & 2011 (No. & %)

	Scheduled Tribe							
	2001				2011			
	Total	Good	Livable	Dilapidated	Total	Good	Livable	Dilapidated
Total	14,352	4,820	7,851	1,681	17,698	8,466	7,908	1,324
%	100.00	33.58	54.70	11.71	100.00	47.84	44.68	7.48
Rural	10,277	2,929	5,974	1,374	13,194	5,820	6,246	1,128
%	100.00	28.50	58.13	13.37	100.00	44.11	47.34	8.55
Urban	4,075	1,891	1,877	307	4,504	2,646	1,662	196
%	100.00	46.40	46.06	7.53	100.00	58.75	36.90	4.35

Source: Census of India, 2001 & 2011

A comparative analysis of the housing of scheduled castes and scheduled tribe families indicates that the proportion of 'good' houses has marginally increased in 2011. The pattern is similar in rural and urban areas. Thus, it could be concluded that the scheduled tribe families in Shivamogga district also live in a better housing condition.

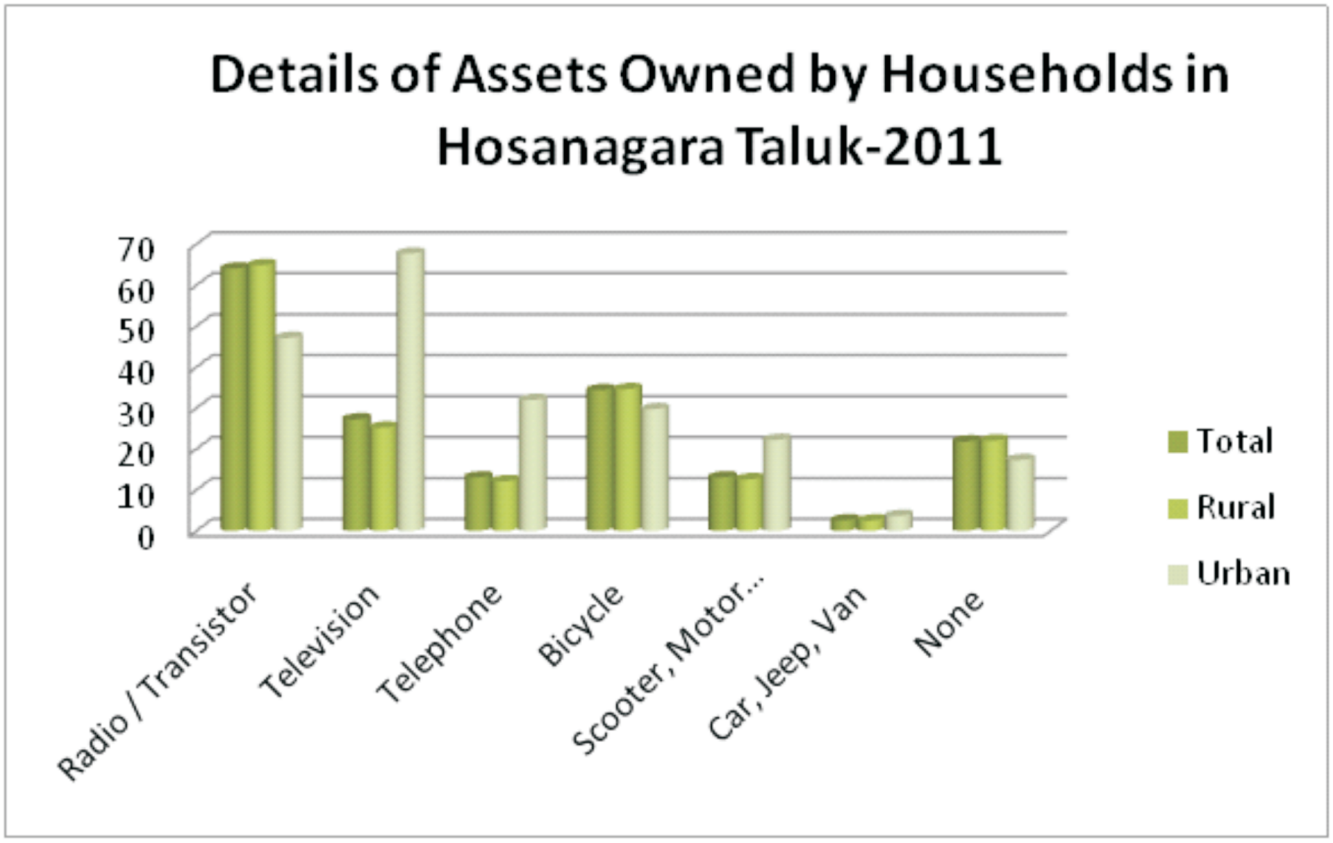
7.5 Households and Asset Status

Table No.7.8 : Households by Nature of Assets Owned - 2001 (No. & %)

Total/ Rural/ Urban	2001								
	Total number of households	Total number of households availing banking services	Availability of assets						
			Radio, Transistor	Television	Telephone	Bicycle	Scooter, Motor Cycle, Moped	Car, Jeep, Van	None of the specified assets
Total	330,832	151,658	175,459	142,194	49,792	133,370	56,510	8,794	83,744
%			53.04	42.98	15.05	40.31	17.08	2.66	25.31
Rural	213,611	91,626	114,041	61,017	17,413	78,864	21,977	3,671	64,003
%			53.39	28.56	8.15	36.92	10.29	1.72	29.96
Urban	117,221	60,032	61,418	81,177	32,379	54,506	34,533	5,123	19,741
%			52.40	69.25	27.62	46.50	29.46	4.37	16.84

Source: Census of India, 2001

Fig.7.4: Details of Assets Owned by Households in Hosanagara Taluk-2011



In Hosanagara, there are 21.81 per cent of households who do not own any assets. The percentage of households without assets in rural and urban areas are 22.04 and 17.27 per cent respectively. Thus, a relatively higher percentage of families in rural areas than in urban areas are without the listed assets. The ownership of various assets across rural and urban areas reveals that, families owning assets is marginally / significantly higher for families in urban areas than rural areas. Thus, the percentage of families owning television is 67.69 per cent for urban areas and 25.21 per cent for rural areas. Similarly, a telephone is owned by 31.94 per cent of the households in urban areas. The percentage of rural families owning a telephone is only 12.10 per cent. It could also be noted that even when the households or families desire to have a telephone, they may not be able to have due to certain technical difficulties. The percentage of families owning a two wheeler or a car is also marginally higher in urban areas. Thus, it is indicative of the relatively better economic standing among families living in urban areas than those living in rural areas.

The highlights on the ownership of the assets in 2011 are as follows (Table 7.9):

- The percentage of households without assets is 11.08 per cent. It is 14.6 per cent in the rural areas and 5.63 per cent in the urban areas. Thus, most of the urban families are found to be owning assets.

- The percentage of families owning television set is as high as 82.63 per cent in the urban areas, while it is only around 54.47 per cent in rural areas. The percentage of the families owning television set at the district level is 64.63 per cent. Since there are more than 50 percent families owning TV sets in rural and urban areas, it will help families in accessing knowledge and information. This will not only create better awareness but also conscentise them to current social issues.

- The owning of computers has not penetrated in large numbers in the district. There are only 8.96 per cent of families owning computer. The percentage of the urban families owning computer is (14.79 per cent) higher than the district average (8.76 per cent).

- The mobile phones are owned by more than 50 per cent of the rural families [53.13%] and two third of the families in urban areas [67.56%].

- A good percentage of families in rural and urban areas are reported to be owning a bicycle. This is as high as around 41 per cent across the rural (41.6) and the urban areas (41.35).

- Nearly 10 per cent of families living in the urban areas are reported to be owning a car.

The ownership pattern in the Hosanagara taluk is as follows (2011) :

- The percentage of households without the listed assets is 9.56 per cent for the taluk. It is 9.83 per cent for rural families and 4.46 per cent for urban families. The urban families in the taluk are better placed than the rural families in the district as a whole. At the taluk level, the percentage of families without assets has drastically come down from 2001.

- The popular assets such as TV and mobile is owned by more than 75 per cent of the families in urban areas. The percentage for the rural families is slightly more than 50 per cent.

- About 9 per cent of urban families in the taluk are also reported to be owning a computer with or without internet. The percentage for rural families in the taluk as a whole is around 6 per cent.

Nearly 5 per cent of families living in town are reported to be owning a car.



Fig.7.5: 2010-11 Basava Vasthi Housing Scheme in Bullapra Village, Shivamogga Taluk

Table No.7.9: Households by Nature of Assets Owned - 2011 (No. & %)

Total/ Rural/ Urban	Total number of households	Total number of households availing banking services	2011											
			Availability of assets											
			Radio/ Transistor	Television	Computer/Laptop		Telephone/Mobile Phone			Bicycle	Scooter/ Motorcycle/Moped	Car/ Jeep/Van	Households with TV, Computer/Laptop, Telephone/mobile phone and Scooter/ Car	None of the assets specified in col. 10 to 19
					With Internet	Without Internet	Landline only	Mobile only	Both					
Total	402,139	277,769	65,755	259,899	8,791	26,416	30,873	234,606	33,676	165,796	111,532	20,781	16,632	44,572
%			16.35	64.63	2.19	6.57	7.68	58.34	8.37	41.23	27.73	5.17	4.14	11.08
Rural	257,060	183,523	42,783	140,021	1,967	11,781	22,942	136,584	19,930	105,804	55,885	8,414	3,201	36,398
%			16.64	54.47	0.77	4.58	8.92	53.13	7.75	41.16	21.74	3.27	1.25	14.16
Urban	145,079	94,246	22,972	119,878	6,824	14,635	7,931	98,022	13,746	59,992	55,647	12,367	13,431	8,174
%			15.83	82.63	4.70	10.09	5.47	67.56	9.47	41.35	38.36	8.52	9.26	5.63

Source: Census of India, 2011

The above analysis suggests that more and more families are in the process of acquiring assets which will enable them to lead a better life. This is perhaps coupled with increasing returns from employment. The urban families are found to be gaining better than the rural families. In view of the fact that a large percentage of families are living in rural areas, there is need for more efforts to bring about change in villages and smaller settlements.

7.6 Schemes for Housing Facilities

In Karnataka, the shelter programmes targeted for the benefit of poor are:

- The Ashraya scheme of the State government implemented, through the Deputy Commissioners in the district, distributes sites free of cost to the economically poorer families.

- The Basava Vasathi programme is the most important housing scheme for the poor in Karnataka. The unit cost is Rs.1,50,000, out of of which Rs.1.20,000 is contributed by the State. The remaining is a loan or will be the beneficiary contribution.

- Dr.Ambedkar Housing Scheme provides houses to members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The cost of housing is met by the government.

The Indira Avas Yojana, is a Centrally sponsored scheme and is implemented as per the guidelines.

7.7 Drinking Water

Fig.7.6: Distribution of Households by Source of Water Supply - 2001

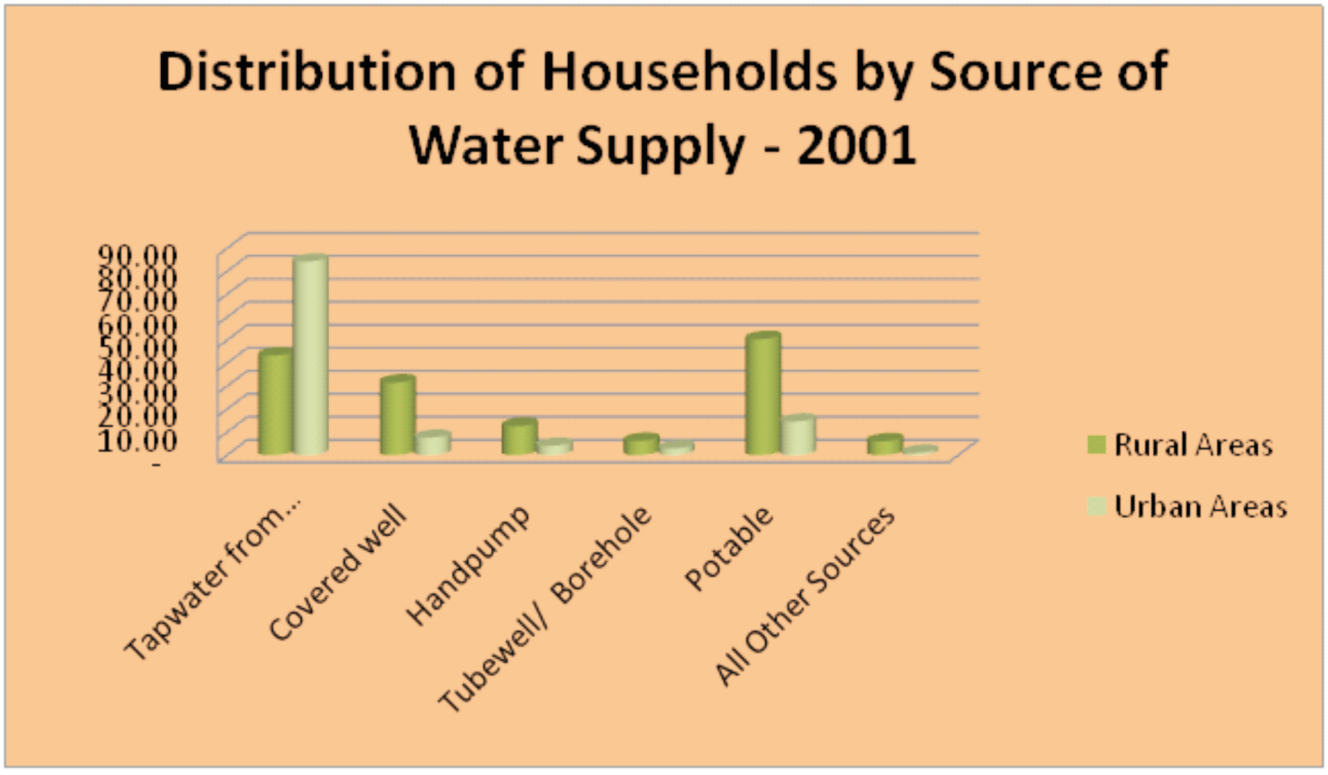


Table No.7.10: Households by Source of Drinking Water Supply - 2001 (No. & %)

Total/ Rural/ Urban	Location of source of drinking water		Total Number of Households	Main Source of Drinking Water					
				Tap water from treated source	Covered well	Handpump	Tubewell/ Borehole	Potable	Other Sources
Total	Total	No.	330,832	191,475	76,513	31,892	16,750	125,155	14202
		%		57.88	23.13	9.64	5.06	37.83	4.29
	Within the premises	No.	112,681	76,916	29,603	2,651	3,098	35,352	413
		%		68.26	26.27	2.35	2.75	31.37	0.37
	Near the premises	No.	152,828	91,352	27,887	18,815	9,144	55,846	5630
		%		59.77	18.25	12.31	5.98	36.54	3.68
	Away	No.	65,323	23,207	19,023	10,426	4,508	33,957	8159
		%		35.53	29.12	15.96	6.90	51.98	12.49
Rural	Total	No.	213,611	92,651	67,577	27,103	13,315	107,995	12965
		%		43.37	31.64	12.69	6.23	50.56	6.07
	Within the premises	No.	49,909	22,133	23,595	2,057	1,740	27,392	384
		%		44.35	47.28	4.12	3.49	54.88	0.77
	Near the premises	No.	112,991	56,875	26,175	16,581	8,245	51,001	5115
		%		50.34	23.17	14.67	7.30	45.14	4.53
	Away	No.	50,711	13,643	17,807	8,465	3,330	29,602	7466
		%		26.90	35.11	16.69	6.57	58.37	14.72
Urban	Total	No.	117,221	98,824	8,936	4,789	3,435	17,160	1237
		%		84.31	7.62	4.09	2.93	14.64	1.06
	Within the premises	No.	62,772	54,783	6,008	594	1,358	7,960	29
		%		87.27	9.57	0.95	2.16	12.68	0.05
	Near the premises	No.	39,837	34,477	1,712	2,234	899	4,845	515
		%		86.55	4.30	5.61	2.26	12.16	1.29
	Away	No.	14,612	9,564	1,216	1,961	1,178	4,355	693
		%		**65.45**	**8.32**	**13.42**	**8.06**	**29.80**	**4.74**

Source: Census of India, 2001

Of the total households in the district, 57.88 per cent of the households are getting tap water from treated sources. There are 22.13 per cent households getting water from the covered wells and 9.64 per cent from hand pumps. Thus, a good percentage of households are collecting water from other sources which demand considerable, time and effort.

An analysis of the location of source of drinking water has a different scenario. There are 65,323 households which are collecting water from a source which is away from the residence,, 35.53 per cent are collecting water from a tap. Among those households collecting water away from residence, 29.12 per cent are collective from a covered well. 15.96 per cent are

collecting from handpumps, and 12.49 per cent are forced to collect from other sources. While some amount of drudgery is involved in collecting water, they have access to the required quantity of water. Of the households reporting to have a source nearby, about 80 per cent are collecting water either from a tap or a covered well.

7.7.1 Source of Water Supply

Table No.7.11 : Source of Water Supply-2001 (No. & %)

Total/ Rural/ Urban		Total Number of Households	Main Source of Drinking Water					
			Tapwater from treated source	Covered well	Handpump	Tubewell/ Borehole	Potable	Others
Total	No.	330,832	191,475	76,513	31,892	16,750	125,155	14,202
	%		57.88	23.13	9.64	5.06	37.83	4.29
Rural	No.	213,611	92,651	67,577	27,103	13,315	107,995	12,965
	%		43.37	31.64	12.69	6.23	50.56	6.07
Urban	No.	117,221	98,824	8,936	4,789	3,435	17,160	1,237
	%		84.31	7.62	4.09	2.93	14.64	1.06

Source: Census of India, 2001

Table No.7.12 : Source of Water Supply-2011 (No. & %)

Total/ Rural/ Urban		Total Number of Households	Main Source of Drinking Water					
			Tapwater from treated source	Covered well	Handpump	Tubewell/ Borehole	Potable	Others
Total	No.	402,139	174,223	4,015	6,842	36,589	47,446	180,470
	%		43.32	1.00	1.70	9.10	11.80	44.88
Rural	No.	257,060	54,713	1,811	6,189	32,767	40,767	161,580
	%		21.28	0.70	2.41	12.75	15.86	62.86
Urban	No.	145,079	119,510	2,204	653	3,822	6,679	18,890
	%		82.38	1.52	0.45	2.63	4.60	13.02

Source: Census of India, 2011

The source of water supply in the district is reported to have changed between 2001 and 2011. The household collecting water from a treated source has decreased in the rural area. While it is more or less the same in the urban areas. The households collecting water from others has increased during 2011(see Table).

Table No.7.13 : Fluoride or Otherwise Contamination Affected Villages - 2011 (%)

Sl. No.	Taluk	% of Villages with Fluoride contamination in drinking water	% of villages with other type of contamination of drinking water [Iron and Nitrate]	Total % of Villages with Contaminated Water
1	Bhadravathi	0	0	0
2	Hosanagara	0	0	0
3	Sagara	0	0.0009	0.0009
4	Shikaripura	0	0	0
5	Shivamogga	0	0	0
6	Soraba	0.03	0.03	0.06
7	Thirthahalli	0.001	0	0.001
	District	0.002	0.002	0.005

Source: Department of Drinking Water Supply, GOI, 2011.

A very small percentage of villages in the district are found to be having problems like presence of fluoride or other contamination [Iron and Nitrate] in drinking water. The problem is reported to be prevalent in the taluks of Sagar, Soraba and Thirthahalli.

7.8 Electricity

The Government of India is committed to providing adequate electricity for all segments of society. However, rapid economic growth has increased electricity demand. Government policies have emphasized rural electrification through the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojna and these efforts appear to be reflected in the rapidly rising costs of electrification.



Fig.7.7:2010-11 Basava Vasthi Housing Scheme in Bullapra Village, Shivamogga Taluk

Table No.7.14 : Distribution of Households by Source of Lighting 2001 & 2011 (No. & %)

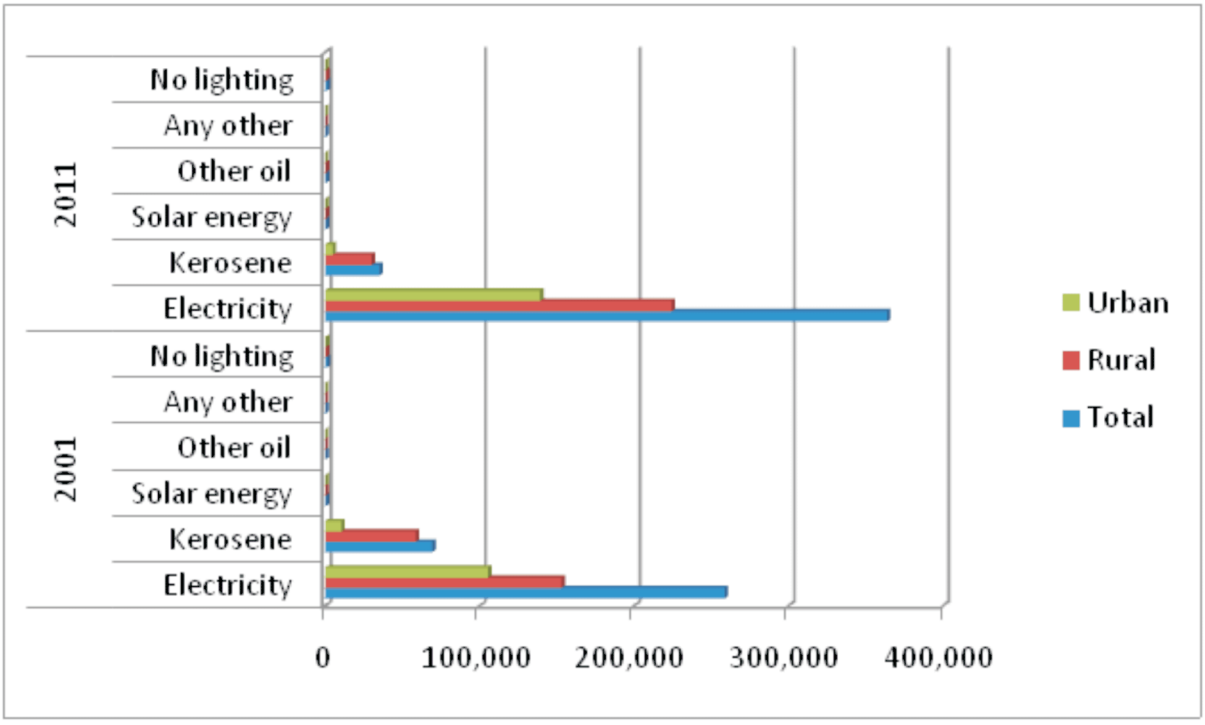
Total/ Rural/ Urban		2001							2011						
		Source of lighting							Source of lighting						
		Total number of households	Electricity	Kerosene	Solar energy	Other oil	Any other	No lighting	Total number of households	Electricity	Kerosene	Solar energy	Other oil	Any other	No lighting
Total	No.	330,832	258,890	69,462	723	212	218	1,327	402,139	363,835	35,281	753	736	217	1,317
	%	100.00	78.25	21.00	0.22	0.06	0.07	0.40	100.00	90.47	8.77	0.19	0.18	0.05	0.33
Rural	No.	213,611	153,265	58,776	511	170	159	730	257,060	224,484	30,246	541	558	153	1,078
	%	100.00	71.75	27.52	0.24	0.08	0.07	0.34	100.00	87.33	11.77	0.21	0.22	0.06	0.42
Urban	No.	117,221	105,625	10,686	212	42	59	597	145,079	139,351	5,035	212	178	64	239
	%	100.00	90.11	9.12	0.18	0.04	0.05	0.51	100.00	96.05	3.47	0.15	0.12	0.04	0.16

Source: Census of India, 2001 & 2011

As a result of rapid and significant strides made by the district in the electrification of households, the district is close to declaring urban areas as 'totally electrified'. The percentage of households with the provision of electricity for lighting has increased from 90.11 per cent (2001) to 96.05 per cent of the urban households (2011). However, the coverage at the district level stood at 90.47 per cent in 2011 when compared to 78.25 per cent in 2001.

The progress made in the electrification of rural households has been quite substantial. The percentage of households electrified in 2001 and 2011 has increased by 16 percent. The percentage of rural households with electricity stood at 87.33 per cent in 2011. A little more than 10 per cent of households are found to be using other sources of energy for lighting purpose. This situation must be casting its shadow on the development of these communities.

Fig.7.8: Distribution of Households by Source of Lighting



An analysis across rural and urban areas in 7 taluks of the district reveals that there is significant progress in the electrification of households. The growth is significant in rural areas than in urban areas. The increase is about 16 percent for rural areas. On the other hand, it is lower in case of urban areas. The increased coverage must be resulting in enhanced revenues for the electricity department and thus, enabling them to provide better services i.e. quality services to the households. However, the fact remains that a smaller percentage of rural households continue to be deprived of basic facilities of electricity.

7.9 Traditional Fuel & Modern Fuel

Cooking fuels have aroused increasing interest in recent years because of the fact that cutting trees has caused extensive deforestation. It is also true that cooking with biomass fuels in open causes significant health hazards. An estimated 1.6 million people die prematurely due to indoor air pollution, in the world.

In India, the use of biomass energy in traditional hearths is quite common. However, the use of modern fuels such as LPG, electricity etc., has also increased. It is reported that the Indian households use different fuels for cooking, lighting, and heating.

The following section in this chapter attempts to analyse the types of fuels used by rural and urban households across different taluks of Shivamogga district. With a view to examine the impact of fuels, the type of the fuels used is correlated with the availability of kitchen.

Table No.7.15: Distribution of Households by Type of Cooking Fuel - 2001 & 2011 (No. & %)

	2001				2011				Decadal Variations			
	Traditional	Modern	Any other	No cooking	Traditional	Modern	Any other	No cooking	Traditional	Modern	Any other	No cooking
Total	242410	87193	392	837	263,460	137,293	225	1,161	8.68	57.46	-42.60	38.71
Rural	184741	28237	320	313	213,268	43,253	82	457	15.44	53.18	-74.38	46.01
Urban	57669	58956	72	524	50,192	94,040	143	704	-12.97	59.51	98.61	34.35

Source: Census of India, 2001 & 2011

7.9.1 Type of Fuels

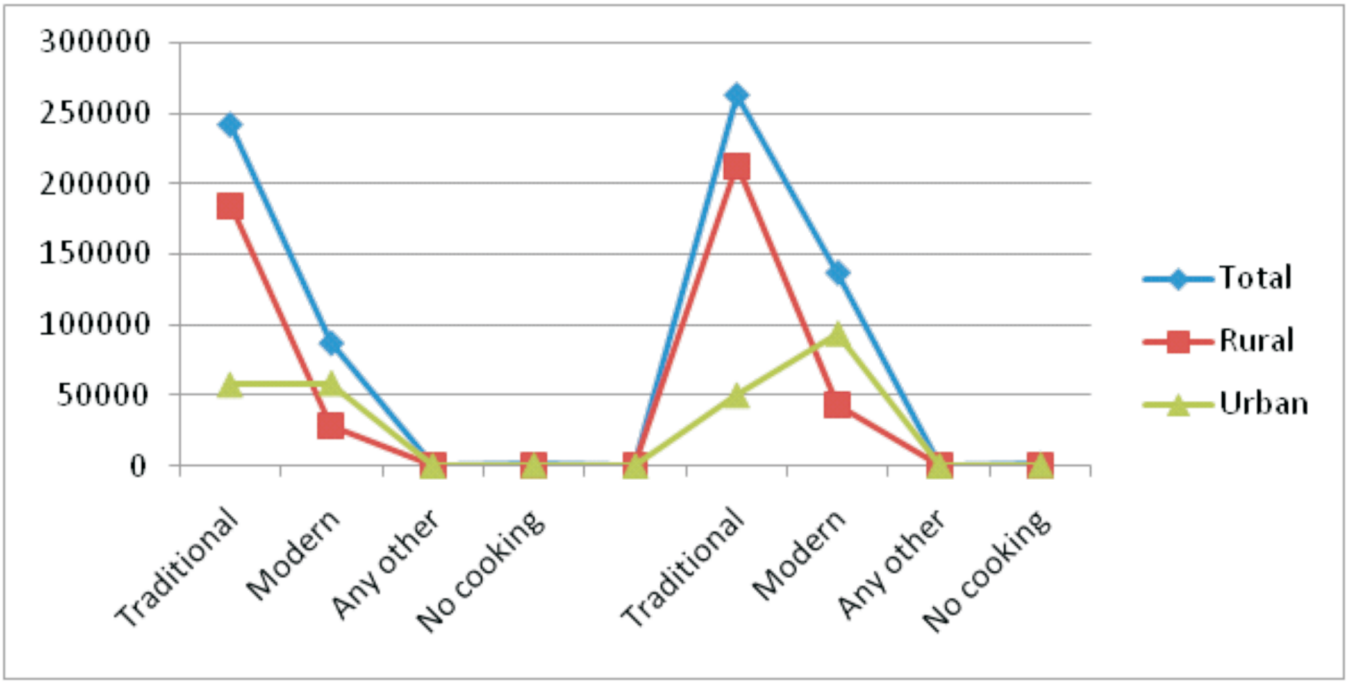
The data on the type fuels reveals that there are marginal variations in the use of traditional and modern fuels. While the number of households using both the type of fuels have increased between 2001 and 2011, the increase in case of modern fuels is more than 50 per cent. This is indicative of the increased preference of the households to opt for modern fuels and their ability to afford the same. It must be noted that one of the preferred medium of cooking both in rural and urban households is the LPG. The percentage of households reporting any other fuel has declined drastically.

Box 7. 1 : Study on Impact of Traditional Fuel

Laxmi et al. (2003),Parikh and Laxmi (2000) and Parikh (2000) present case studies from the Indian states of Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh respectively. They focussed mainly on respiratory symptoms and on the stress in terms of distance travelled by women to collect fuel wood. There is ample evidence that indoor air pollution due to burning of solid biomass fuels causes health hazards for women and children (under 5 years of age) when they happen to be with their mothers during cooking (Siddique et al., 2008; Boadi and Kuitunen, 2006;WHO, 2006; Ezzati and Kammen 2002.

An analysis across rural and urban areas of the district reveals that there is an increase in the number of households using traditional fuels in rural areas [15.44%]. On the other hand, there is decline in the number of households using traditional fuel in urban areas [-12.97%]. Thus, urban areas are found to be shifting to the modern fuels for a number of reasons. There is also an increase of almost 50 per cent in case of the households using modern fuels. A marginally higher number of urban households are reported to be using modern fuels. This may be due to increased availability of these fuels.

Fig.7.9: Distribution of Households by Type of Cooking Fuel



7.9.2 Place of Cooking

Table No.7.16 : Distribution of Households by Place of Cooking - 2001 & 2011 (No. & %)

		2001				2011			
		Total number of households	Cooking Inside the House	Cooking Outside the House	No Cooking	Total number of households	Cooking Inside the House	Cooking Outside the House	No Cooking
Total	No.	330832	328751	1244	837	402139	391602	9376	1161
	%	100.00	99.37	0.37	0.25	100.00	97.37	2.33	0.28
Rural	No.	213611	212330	968	313	257060	247848	8755	457
	%	100.00	99.40	0.45	0.14	100.00	96.41	3.40	0.17
Urban	No.	117221	116421	276	524	145079	143754	621	704
	%	100.00	99.31	0.23	0.44	100.00	99.08	0.42	0.48

Source: Census of India, 2001 & 2011

In all, the percentage of the households reported to be cooking inside the house [with or without a separate kitchen] has slightly decreased in 2011. The number of households reported to be cooking inside the house during 2001 and 2011 was 99.37 per cent and 97.37 per cent respectively. As a result, there is a small increase in the number of households reported to be cooking outside the house. An analysis across rural and urban areas reveals marginal changes only in rural areas of the district. The percentage of households cooking outside has increased to 3.40 per cent (2011) as against 0.45 per cent in 2001.



Fig.7.10 ; 2013-14 Indira Awas Yojane, Bedarahosalli, Shivamogga Taluk

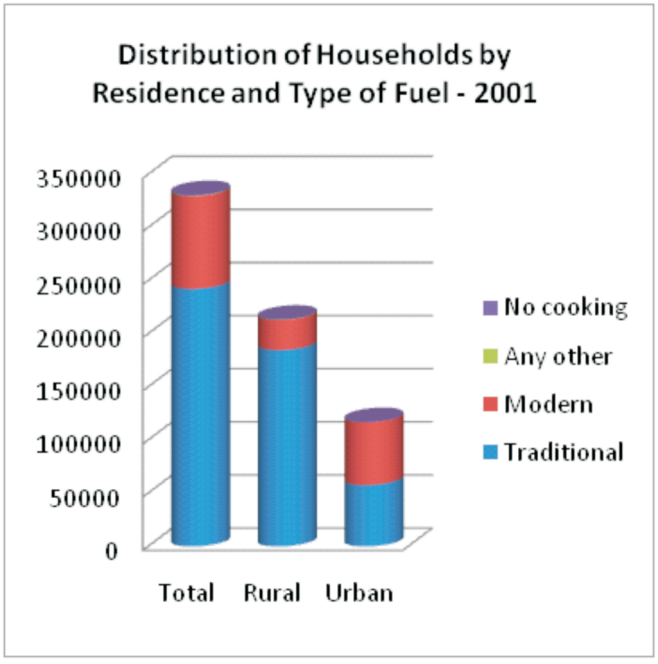
Table No.7.17: Place of Cooking and Type of Fuel - 2001 & 2011 (No. & %)

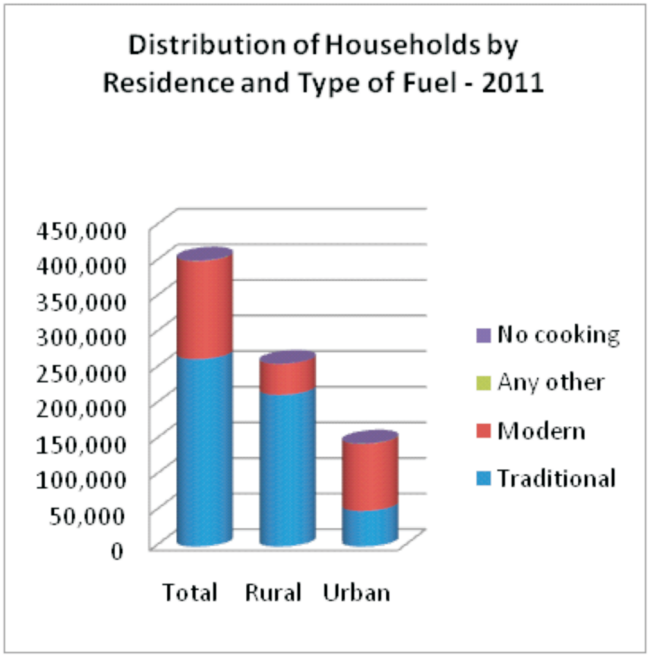
Total/ Rural/ Urban	Availability of separate kitchen		Total number of households	2001				Total number of households	2011			
				Traditional	Modern	Any other	No cooking		Traditional	Modern	Any other	No cooking
Total	**Total**	No.	330832	242410	87193	392	837	402,139	263,460	137,293	225	1,161
		%	100.00	73.27	26.36	0.12	0.25	100.00	65.51	34.14	0.06	0.29
	Cooking inside house	No.	328751	241203	87162	386	0	391,602	255,638	135,746	218	-
		%	100.00	73.37	26.51	0.12	-	100.00	65.28	34.66	0.06	-
	Cooking outside house	No.	1244	1207	31	6	0	9,376	7,822	1,547	7	-
		%	100.00	97.03	2.49	0.48	-	100.00	83.43	16.50	0.07	-
	No Cooking	No.	837	0	0	0	837	1,161	-	-	-	1,161
		%	100.00	-	-	-	100.00	100.00	-	-	-	100.00
Rural	**Total**	No.	213611	184741	28237	320	313	257,060	213,268	43,253	82	457
		%	100.00	86.48	13.22	0.15	0.15	100.00	82.96	16.83	0.03	0.18
	Cooking inside house	No.	212330	183798	28213	319	0	247,848	205,947	41,823	78	-
		%	100.00	86.56	13.29	0.15	-	100.00	83.09	16.87	0.03	-
	Cooking outside house	No.	968	943	24	1	0	8,755	7,321	1,430	4	-
		%	100.00	97.42	2.48	0.10	-	100.00	83.62	16.33	0.05	-
	No Cooking	No.	313	0	0	0	313	457	-	-	-	457
		%	100.00	-	-	-	100.00	100.00	-	-	-	100.00
Urban	**Total**	No.	117221	57669	58956	72	524	145,079	50,192	94,040	143	704
		%	100.00	49.20	50.29	0.06	0.45	100.00	34.60	64.82	0.10	0.49
	Cooking inside house	No.	116421	57405	58949	67	0	143,754	49,691	93,923	140	-
		%	100.00	49.31	50.63	0.06	-	100.00	34.57	65.34	0.10	-
	Cooking outside house	No.	276	264	7	5	0	621	501	117	3	-
		%	100.00	95.65	2.54	1.81	-	100.00	80.68	18.84	0.48	-
	No Cooking	No.	524	0	0	0	524	704	-	-	-	704
		%	100.00	-	-	-	100.00	100.00	-	-	-	100.00

Source: Census of India, 2001 & 2011

The availability of kitchen and the type of cooking fuels used reveals that there is a marginal decline in the percentage of households using the traditional cooking fuels. This is evident among all the households irrespective of the place of cooking. The shift to modern fuels is more an urban phenomenon. It is also evident that the households both in rural and urban areas, reported to be cooking outside the house are increasingly shifting over to the modern fuels.

Fig.7.11: Distribution of Households by Residence and Type of Fuel 2001 & 2011

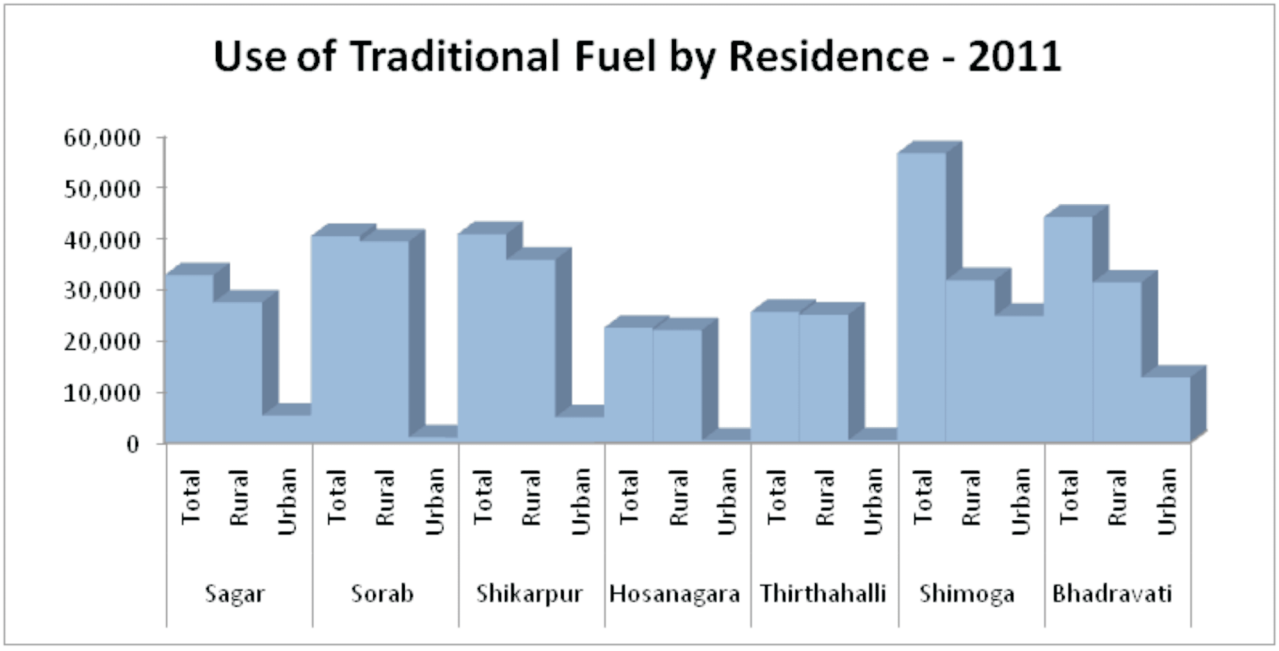




The analysis across the different rural and the urban areas of the taluks reveals that there is a gradual shift of the households both in the rural and the urban areas to the modern cooking mediums. However, the changes are more significant in the urban areas than the rural areas. This may be due to the non-availability of these modern fuels and the affordability. The only exception is that of the households in the Soraba taluk. The percentage of the rural households using the traditional fuels has slightly increased during 2001 and 2011 [Table.7.17].

The analysis on the use of the traditional fuels by the rural and the urban households reveals that the pattern is not the same across the taluks. In the Shivamogga and the Bhadravathi taluks, there are only marginal variations in the households using the traditional fuels. On the contrary, only a smaller percentage of the urban households in the other taluks are using the traditional fuels. This may be due to the increased concentration of the urban population in the slums in the two taluks as compared to other taluks. The increased congestion in the urban slums coupled with the use of the traditional fuels is not without its impact on the health of these poorer communities.

Fig.7.12: Use of Traditional Fuel by Residence - 2011



7.10 Sanitation

There is increased coverage of toilet facility in the district. It has increased from 48.19 per cent households in 2001 to 71.15 per cent in 2011. This is due to the efforts of various agencies in bringing more and more households under the sanitation programme. As on 2011, the coverage of rural and urban households with toilet facility is 61.79 percent and 87.75 per cent respectively. It is important to note that there is a striking variation across rural and urban areas notwithstanding the fact that there is no water scarcity in the district.

THE BURDEN OF SANITATION -RELATED DISEASE IN INDIA

- On an average, 30 million persons in rural areas suffer from sanitation-related disease
- 5 of the 10 top killer diseases of children aged 1-4 in rural areas are related to water and sanitation
- About 0.6-0.7 million children die of diarrhoea annually

Source: Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 1998-99

Fig.7.13 : The Burden of Sanitation-Related Disease in India

7.10.1 Households without Toilet Facility

Nearly 40 per cent of rural households and about 12 per cent of urban households do not have toilet facility. The challenge is to eliminate variations so as to provide toilet facility to all the households in the district.

Table No.7.18 : Distribution of Households and the Type of Toilet Facility - 2001 & 2011 (No. & %)

		2001					2011				
Total/ Rural/ Urban		Total number of households	Water closet	Pit latrine	Other latrine	No latrine	Total number of households	Water closet	Pit latrine	Other latrine	No latrine
Total	No.	330,832	52,305	85,962	21,148	171,417	402,139	104,863	179,043	618	116,010
	%	100.00	15.81	25.98	6.39	51.81	100.00	26.08	44.52	0.15	28.85
Rural	No.	213,611	5,789	51,133	13,594	143,095	257,060	24,765	132,998	551	98,232
	%	100.00	2.71	23.94	6.36	66.99	100.00	9.63	51.74	0.21	38.21
Urban	No.	117,221	46,516	34,829	7,554	28,322	145,079	80,098	46,045	67	17,778
	%	100.00	39.68	29.71	6.44	24.16	100.00	55.21	31.74	0.05	12.25

Source: Census of India, 2001 & 2011

7.10.2 Bathing Facilities

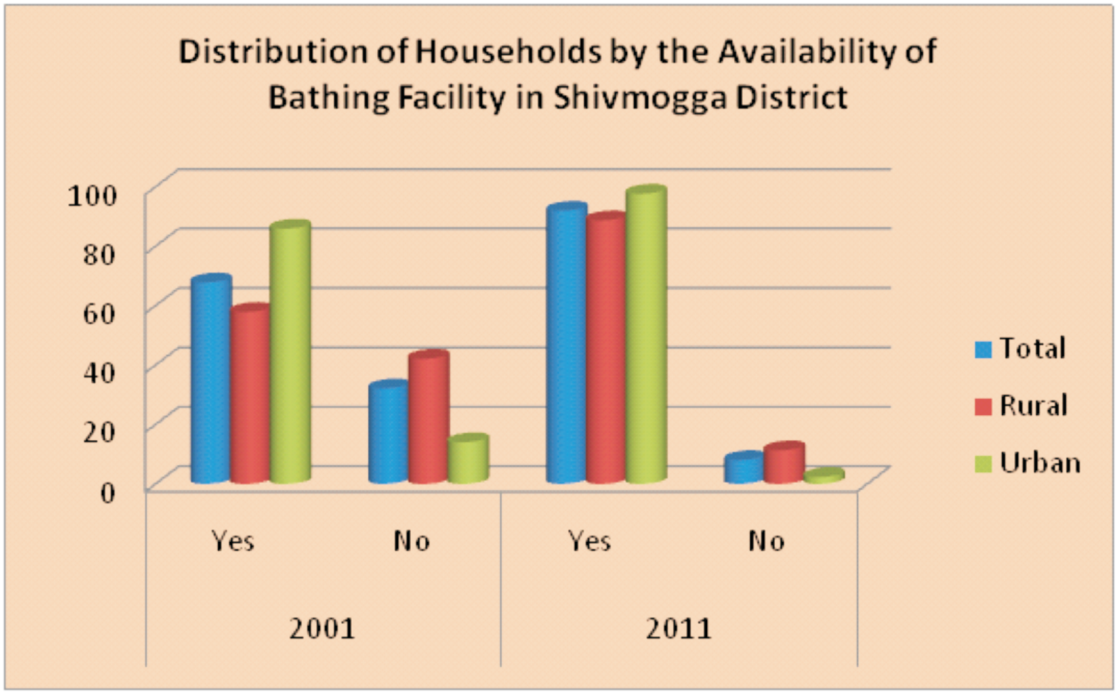
Table No.7.19: Distribution of Households and Bathing Facility - 2001 & 2011 (No. & %)

Total/ Rural/ Urban		2001			2011		
		Total number of households	Number of households having bathing facility within the premises		Total number of households	Number of households having bathing facility within the premises	
			Yes	No		Yes	No
Total	No.	330,832	224,394	106,438	402,139	369,749	32,390
	%	100.00	67.83	32.17	100.00	91.95	8.05
Rural	No.	213,611	123,670	89,941	257,060	228,027	29,033
	%	100.00	57.89	42.11	100.00	88.71	11.29
Urban	No.	117,221	100,724	16,497	145,079	141,722	3,357
	%	100.00	85.93	14.07	100.00	97.69	2.31

Source: Census of India, 2001 & 2011

In the district as a whole, 67.83 per cent of the households had a bathing facility within the premises in 2001 and this has increased to 91.95 per cent in 2011. Thus, there has been a significant improvement in this regard during the last decade. The increased coverage could be attributed to increased awareness among families about the need and importance of these facilities at the household level. It is also important to note that an increased coverage of these facilities is coupled with increased ownership of various assets such as the TV, mobile phones etc.,

Fig.7.14: Distribution of Households by the Availability of Bathing Facility in Shivmogga District



However, relatively a higher percentage of the households living in rural areas than those in the urban areas are found to be deprived of the facility at the household level. There are, 97.69 per cent of households in urban and to 88.71 per cent in rural areas are reported to be having bathing facility at the household level. While this cannot be attributed to lack of space, it is definitely a reflection of the awareness level and the family preferences for such facilities at the household level.

It is found that only a smaller percentage of houses have proper disposal of waste water [11.17% in 2001 and 14.79 per cent in 2011]. Nearly a third of households in 2011 have reported the absence of drainage facility.

There are marginal variations in across taluks. For a better understanding, a comparison has been attempted for two taluks which are different in their socio-economic characteristics:

Table No.7.20 : Taluk-wise comparison bathing facility - 2001 & 2011 (No. & %)

	2001		2011		Decadal Variations	
	Sagara	Soraba	Sagara	Soraba	Sagara	Soraba
Total	65.43	53.17	92.4	87.15	26.97	33.98
Rural	53.19	51.69	89.92	86.72	36.73	35.03
Urban	90.36	88.08	97.55	94.54	7.19	6.46

Source: Census of India, 2001 & 2011

In both the taluks, there has been progress in terms of provision of bathing facility. The coverage is close to 90 per cent. However, the progress has been relatively higher in Soraba taluk than in Sagar taluk. In rural and urban areas, there is marginal variation in the growth patterns. Thus, Soraba taluk seems to have made better strides in housing facilities.

7.11 Small Area Study Behaviour and Practices on Sanitation

7.11.1 Introduction

Illnesses caused by germs and worms in feces, wastes and pollutants are constant source of discomfort for millions of people. Poor sanitation is something that not only affects the health of the people of the country, but also affects the economic and social development of the nation. India is still lagging far behind many countries in the field of sanitation. Most cities and towns in India are characterized by over-crowding, congestion, inadequate water supply and inadequate facilities of disposal of human excreta, wastewater and solid wastes. Fifty five percent of India's population (nearly 600 million people) has no access to toilets.

Sanitation in personal and public life is the joint responsibility of individual, community and state. Sanitation is the first step towards achieving the goal of public health. But public health system is very weak in India and sanitation could hardly attract the attention of government policy makers till the last decade of the past century. Experience suggests that India's late entry into ensuring total sanitation and a limited sectoral approach for it has not yielded desired results.

Sanitation can no longer be seen as a 'segment'

or 'isolated' component of rural/urban development ministries. Sanitation is a 'public good' and needs to be seen as an integral component of the health structure and the 'Basic Health Goods'. The development goals need to imbibe the sanitation standards. India's development trajectory has several deficiencies. There are visible 'sanitation deficits' in policy formulation, implementation and technology appropriation. Insanitation in India is largely the consequence of development deficits. Bureaucratic targetism, medicalism, povertism and dehealthism are some of the factors which promote sanitation deficits in India. 'Sociology of health and sanitation' can help in understanding the larger phenomenon in Indian context. It will also help in understanding the typical Indian behaviour (or practice) of open defecation.

7.11.2 Sanitation

Sanitation generally refers to principles, practices, provisions, or services related to cleanliness and hygiene in personal and public life for the protection and promotion of human health and well being and breaking the cycle of disease or illness. It is also related to the principles and practices relating to the collection, treatment, removal or disposal of human excreta, household waste water and other pollutants. The World Health Organization states that: Sanitation generally refers to the provision of facilities and services for the safe disposal of human urine and feces. Inadequate sanitation is a major cause of disease world-wide and improving sanitation is known to have a significant beneficial impact on health both in households and across communities. The word 'sanitation' also refers to the maintenance of hygienic conditions, through services such as garbage collection and wastewater disposal.

7.11.3 Sanitation and Development

There can be several answers to the question, 'why sanitation is very important in personal as well as public life?' A study conducted by World Bank's 'South Asia Water and Sanitation Unit' estimated that India loses Rs 240 billion annually due to lack of proper sanitation facilities. The multilateral body said that premature deaths, treatment for the sick and loss of productivity and revenue from tourism were the main factors behind the significant economic loss. Poor sanitation is something that not only affects the health of the people of the country, but also affects the development of the nation. In fact, women are most affected by the hazards of lack of proper sanitation. For instance, in India majority of the girls drop out of school because of lack of toilets. Only 22% of them manage to even complete class 10. On economic grounds, according to the Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, more than Rs 12 billion is spent every year on poor sanitation and its resultant illnesses.

7.11.4 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the proposed study are:

1. To understand the perceptions of the households on issues relating to sanitation its behavior and practices.

2. To explain the link between the perceptions and the general achievement of the sanitation goals in the programme.

3. To explain the effect of the perceptions on the general public health.

7.11.5 Area of Study

The study was carried out in few of the villages of the Shikaripura taluk of the Shivamogga district.

7.11.6 Sample Size

In all about 46 households and other stakeholders at the GP level were contacted for the purposes of the study.

7.11.7 Methodology

The required data for the study was captured through the structured and semi-structured questionnaire.

7.11.8 Outcomes of the Study

Socio-Economic Profile of the Households:

The socio-economic characteristics of the households is as follows:

1. More than 55 per cent of the households belong to the other communities. About 30 per cent are belonging to SC and 13.04 per cent to the ST community.

2. Nearly 25 per cent are the illiterates. About 16 per cent possess education beyond the high school level.

3. More than 50 per cent of the households are said to be involved in agriculture. A smaller percentage are working in private enterprises or are engaged in business.

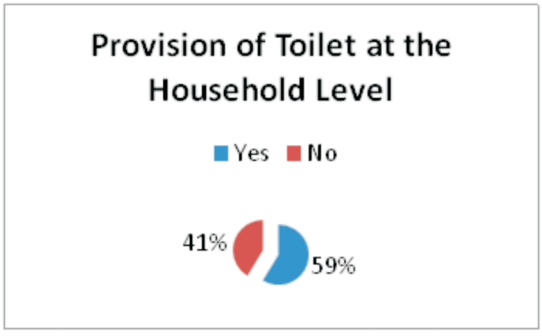
4. Most of the households are said to be belonging to Hindu religion []86.96%]. The other households are belonging to the minority communities.

More than 70 per cent of the households are said to be belonging to the BPL category.

7.11.9 Provision of Toilet at the Household Level

Fig.7.15: Provision of Toilet at the Household Level

Sl. No.	Particulars	No.	Percentage
1	Yes	27	58.70
2	No	19	41.30
	Total	46	100.00



Of the sample households only about 60 per cent of the households have reported to be having the toilet facility at the household level. This includes the beneficiaries of the Total Sanitation Programme as well. Thus, the remaining households are said to be defecating in the open in the absence of the facilities at the community level.

Fig.7.16: Road in Bhadravathi Town



Fig.7.17: Anganawadi Children in Shivamogga Taluk



Fig.7.18: Household toilet at Shikaripura



Further, the sample households were asked to state the extent of its usage. The members in the households with the facility is said to be generally using the facility. The only exception was that of the children. They expressed difficulties in the children using these facilities.

7.11.10 Perceptions on the Benefits of the Toilet Usage:

Sl. No.	Particulars	No.	%
1	Improvements in the Health	21	58.33
2	Savings in Time	6	16.67
3	Environmental Cleanliness	7	19.44
4	Less Expenditure	2	5.56
	Total	**36**	**100.00**

One of the major benefit of using the toilet is said to be the improvements in the health. On further enquiries, they have said that there is lesser incidence of certain common ailments. The next best perceived benefit is the environmental cleanliness. This is reported by about 19.44 per cent. About 16.67 per cent have also reported on the savings in time. Thus, it can be inferred that the community under study feels that the use of the toilet will result in general improvement in the health and the environmental improvement as well.

7.11.11 Reasons for non-usage of the Toilet

Sl. No.	Reasons	No.	%
1	Lack of awareness about its benefits	4	44.44
2	Water scarcity	3	33.33
3	Repairs	2	22.22
	Total	9	100.00

The reasons stated by the households for non-usage of the facility by the members in the household is said to be mainly due to the lack of awareness. On discussions with the non-users it is learnt that they are aged people and they are reported to be continuing with their habits. The other important problem is the water scarcity in the villages.

7.11.12 Reasons for Hand Wash After Defecation

Sl. No.	Reasons	No.	%	No.	%
1	To keep hands clean	27	100.00	0	0.00
2	To prevent the pollution of the food and the water	21	77.78	5	18.52
3	To prevent the spread of the disease	24	88.89	4	14.81

From the table it is quite clear that there is varied perceptions on the reasons for hand wash after defecation. All the households with the toilet facility basically agree that it is to keep the hands clean. More than 75 per cent of the users feel that it is to prevent the pollution of the food and the water. Nearly 90 per cent of them have said that the washing of the hands with the soap helps to prevent the spread of the disease. The varied perceptions is a result of the varied awareness levels and their educational background as well.

7.11.13 Status of the Sanitation in the Village

Fig.7.19: Status of Sanitation in the Village

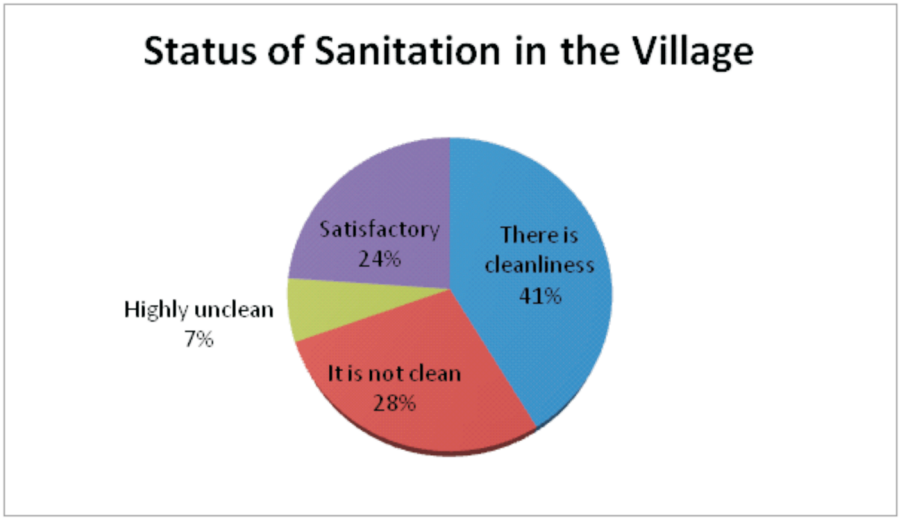


Fig.7.20: The choked drains in the Villages in the Shikaripura Taluk



The villages under study is reported to be poor in terms of the sanitation in the village. Only 41 per cent of the households have reported that there is good sanitation in the village. They have also stated that the households and the panchayath together are maintaining the sanitation in the village. However, 28 per cent have said that there is no good sanitation in the village. About 7 per cent have categorically denied that there is sanitation in the village. They have also said that the panchayaths are not evincing keen interest in the maintenance of the sanitation in the village. Thus, these perceptions reflect on the behavior and the practices of the households in general and the role of the local self-governance in maintaining it.

7.11.14 Perceptions on the Good Sanitation Practices

Sl. No.	Reasons	Yes	%	No	%
1	To Keep the Drains Clean	27	58.70	19	41.30
2	To keep the streets clean	32	69.57	14	30.43
3	To keep the surroundings of the water source clean	18	39.13	28	60.87
4	Clearing of the garbage from the dustbins	15	32.61	31	67.39
5	To keep the washing platforms neat and clean	8	17.39	38	82.61
6	Depositing of the waste into the compost bins	12	26.09	34	73.91

The perceptions of the households on the various aspects related to sanitation is not the same. It is important to note that the households seem to give much importance to the cleaning of the drains and the streets. Hence, more than 50 per cent have said that these things are ought to be done in the villages. More than a third of the households have said that the surroundings of the water sources have to be kept clean. About a fourth of the households have said that the waste has to be deposited into the compost bins.

Thus, the above study reveals that there is variations in the practices related to sanitation at the household and the community level. While many of the households are found to have adopted good sanitation practices such as the construction of the toilet and its usage, the villagers in general are not found to be practicing good sanitation practices at the village level. The disconnection between the two needs to be deeply looked into. However, what is also apparent is that the civic authorities are also not ensuring in maintain the neatness and hygiene in the villages. This was explained in terms of lack of personnel and poor finances etc.,

7.11.15 Community Sanitation Complexes A Overview

The following are some of the observations on the community sanitation complexes constructed under Nirmal Bharath Abhiyan:



Fig.7.21: A view of CSC at Konandur village

- Some of the toilet complexes lack basic facilities such as the bathroom, washing platform, electricity etc.

- The maintenance of community toilets need improvement with periodical improvement by grama panchayath.

7.12 Concluding Remarks

With a view to understand issues concerning human development in the district, it is necessary to state that some of the households are not covered by safe and protected water supply. These households depend on other sources of water. This has made an impact on the health status of families. To add to this, there are few households which do not have sanitation facility at the household level. The percentage of rural households without toilet facility is relatively higher than those in urban areas. Thus, there are families which need to be provided with safe drinking water and decent sanitation facility

The positive side of the district is that there are a few households without lighting facility. The majority of the households use traditional fuel for cooking. The process of extending modern fuel for cooking has been progressive in urban areas significantly as compared to the rural areas. It is also true that majority of the households have begun to own assets such as telephone, Television, Two wheeler and four wheelers. Some of these developments recorded over the last few years have contributed towards the overall development of human index of the district.

GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

8.1. Introduction

The previous chapter discussed the standard of living in Shivamogga and revealed the strides made in the district. While the data reveals an improvement in the sex ratio, literacy rate and per capita income in the district, there is still much to be done in terms of bridging gender gap. Shivamogga is lagging behind in sex ratio. The district ranks 5th position on the HDI showing absence of improvement from 1999. It has declined in its ranking on Health Index from 3rd to 4th position from 1999 to 2001. Simultaneously Income Index has also declined from 7th to 10th from 1999 to 2001 There is no improvement in the Education Index which has remained stagnant at 6th place.

8.1.1 Concept of Gender

The term 'Gender' refers to a range of physical, biological, mental and behavioural characteristics. It indicates socially constructed role, behaviour, activities and attributes which a given society considers appropriate for men and women. The culture context of gender is also significant in terms of customs, practices, tradition and emerging changes in social life, Gender is an analytical tool for understanding social process. It provides the basis to examine differences, relationships and realities between men and women.

The task of empowering women is a part of the process of human development. This is particularly true of our society where inequality between men and women has been the concern for many centuries. The need to examine issues relating to' women concerns' gains significance in the context of patriarchal nature of our society. According to UN guidelines, “women's empowerment has five components: women sense of self-worth; their right to have and to determine choices; their right to have the power to control their own lives; both within and outside home; and their ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally”. In other words, empowerment is associated with changes in the values, structural institutions and behavioural practices.

8.2. Gender Differentials in the District

8.2.1 District level

The sex ratio in Shivamogga district as per 2011 census is 988 women to 1000 men. This has drastically improved over the past two decades, from 964 per 1000 in 1991. This improvement in sex ratio is contrary to the state trend. In Karnataka the sex ratio in 1991 was 983 females per 1000 males which has declined to 964 per 1000 in 2001. Despite a rise in other development indicators such as literacy rate and availability of health care facilities, gender disparity tends to be on the decline. This trend is more apparent than in elsewhere.

Table No. 8.1: Shivamogga at a glance - 1991, 2001 & 2011 (No. & %)

Sex Ratio		
Year	Shivamogga	**Karnataka**
1991	964	**983**
2001	978	**964**
2011	988	**973**
Child Sex Ratio		
Year	Shivamogga	**Karnataka**
2001	956	**973**
2011	960	**948**
Life Expectancy 2001-2002		
	Male	Female
Shivamogga	65.9	68.9
Karnataka	**64.5**	**67**
Literacy Rate	**2011**	
	Male	Female
Shivamogga	86.11	74.89
Karnataka	**82.47**	**66.01**
Mean age at marriage 1998 - 99		
	Male	Female
Shivamogga	26.4	20.5
Karnataka	**26.2**	**19.5**

Source: District At A Glance, 1991, 2001 & 2011

Another demographic aspect associated with women is the average age at marriage. The mean age at marriage as per 1999 data was 20.5 year for girls in Shivamogga which is well above the minimum age at marriage (18 years). This is a positive sign indicating less number of child marriage. The mean age is higher than the districts like Belagavi (17 years) and Vijayapura (16.2 years) and even higher than that of Bengaluru which is 18.9 years. Many factors like higher literacy rate and late marriages have contributed to a positive trend in Shivamogga (see table 8.1) There are other encouraging demographic aspects like increasing acceptance of family planning and a low IMR. Even the female life expectancy is higher than that of males.

Box 8.1 : Findings of the Gender Study

In a field study conducted at the Nirmala Convent School in Sagar town on the 13 th of November 2013 with girls aged between 12 and 15, one respondent wrote *"Women re -marriage is encouraged"* and that women are now *"allowed to study whatever and till whenever they want to."* This suggests that despite a strong Indian social norm towards a woman's early marriage, in Shivamogga, the trend is changing and women are being afforded more independence in these choices.