

Profile Of Minority Units- Comparative Study Between Dakshina Kannada And Udupi Districts

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Abstract:

Entrepreneur, the centrifugal of the industrial activity and propeller of progress, plays a crucial role in determining the level of development in any economy. The difference in the nature and magnitude of investment between the developed and emerging economies and between different stages in the development process of any single country is to be found in the number, dynamism, initiative and scope of operation of the entrepreneurial class. This reveals unmistakably their need, particularly in emerging economies like India.

The development of any region is reflected in the socio-economic development of its inhabitants. Today, entrepreneurship is widely recognized as a contributing factor for the development of industries and in turn for the socio-economic development of any region. Recognising the growing importance of the Micro, Small and Medium enterprises in view of their contribution to employment generation, balanced regional development and economic growth, the Government of India has been making serious efforts towards entrepreneurship development in MSMEs through its various schemes. It should be noted that a small scale entrepreneur is the product of several influences such as family background, education and community. An effort to promote entrepreneurship among the members of the minority communities should include steps to encourage them to take up new ventures. In this direction the present article on “Profile of Minority Units- Comparative Study Between Dakshina Kannada and Udupi Districts ” makes an attempt to highlight the profile of minority entrepreneurs and units in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts.

Key Words: Entrepreneur, Development, Profile, Economic, Minority.

Introduction:

Entrepreneur, the centrifugal of the industrial activity and propeller of progress, plays a crucial role in determining the level of development in any economy. The difference in the nature and magnitude of investment between the developed and emerging economies and between different stages in the development process of any single country is to be found in the number, dynamism, initiative and scope of operation of the entrepreneurial class. This reveals unmistakably their need, particularly in emerging economies like India.

The development of any region is reflected in the socio-economic development of its inhabitants. Today, entrepreneurship is widely recognized as a contributing factor for the development of industries and in turn for the socio-economic development of any region. Recognising the growing importance of the Micro, Small and Medium enterprises in view of their contribution to employment generation, balanced regional development and economic growth, the Government of India has been making serious efforts towards entrepreneurship development in MSMEs through its various schemes. It should be noted that a small scale entrepreneur is the product of several influences such as family background, education and community. An effort to promote entrepreneurship among the members of the minority

communities should include steps to encourage them to take up new ventures. In this direction the present article on “Profile of Minority Units- Comparative Study Between Dakshina Kannada and Udupi Districts ” makes an attempt to highlight the profile of minority entrepreneurs and units in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts.

Industrial units started by the minority community play an important role in inclusive economic development. These units are commonly established by entrepreneurs belonging to religious minorities such as Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis, and Jains. Most minority-owned industrial units fall under the Micro, Small, and Medium enterprises (MSME) category. They are largely concentrated in sectors like textiles, garments, food processing, leather goods, handicrafts, engineering works, pharmaceuticals, and small manufacturing. Many units originate from traditional skills such as weaving, tailoring, metalwork, and herbal medicine production. Over time, several entrepreneurs have modernized these traditional occupations into organized industrial ventures. Minority-run industrial units often provide employment opportunities to local communities, especially youth and women. Access to institutional finance has historically been a major challenge for these enterprises. Despite social and market challenges, several minority-owned industrial units have grown into successful large enterprises. Industrial units started by the minority community strengthen economic diversity, entrepreneurship, and social inclusion.

Research Question:

RQ1: What are the Demographic Factors influencing Minority Entrepreneurship in in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi Districts?

Objective:

- To study the Demographic Factors influencing Minority Entrepreneurs in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi Districts.

Research Methodology:

In carrying out the present study a descriptive research design (Sample Survey) has been used since the study is basically of descriptive nature aimed at finding out the profile of Minority Entrepreneurs with respect to personal characteristics and family background. The Directory of Small Scale Industries of the District Industries Centre of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi Districts consisting of 2454 registered small scale minority units formed the sampling frame for selecting minority entrepreneurs. Therefore , 600 units (24.45% of total registered units) were randomly selected based on the random number table from Micro and Small Enterprises engaged in manufacturing and service operation geographically spread over Dakshina Kannada and Udupi Districts. The questionnaire had been personally administered and mailed to 600 Minority Entrepreneurs of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts who could provide the information on behalf of their units. The follow up resulted in the collection of 267 questionnaires completed. After careful examination of the completed questionnaires the researcher eliminated 19 incomplete questionnaires rendering only 248 usable filled in questionnaires for further analysis. Consequently the effective response rate was 41.33% (248x100/600) of the total sample. These respondent Minority Entrepreneurs comprised of 85 Christian and 70 Muslim entrepreneurs in Dakshina Kannada and 50 Christian and 43 Muslim entrepreneurs in Udupi.

Discussion and Analysis:

Table 1 : Composition of Minority Entrepreneurs

Location	Religion		Total
	Christian	Muslim	
Dakshina Kannada	85 54.8%	70 45.2%	155 100.0%
Udupi	50 53.8%	43 46.2%	93 100.0%
Total	135 54.4%	113 45.6%	248 100.0%

Source: Survey Data

	Value	df	p value
Chi-Square Test	.027	1	.869
			NS

An analysis of the above Table shows that the sample consists of 248 minority entrepreneurs of which 155 entrepreneurs were from Dakshina Kannada District and 93 entrepreneurs were from Udupi District. Of the total sample entrepreneurs of Dakshina Kannada District 54.8% were Christians and 45.2% were Muslims. Of the 93 respondents from Udupi district, 53.8% were Christians and 46.2% were Muslims. Overall, of the total 248 respondents 54.4% were Christian minority entrepreneurs and 45.6% were Muslim minority entrepreneurs from both the districts. Statistical results reveal that there is no significant difference between the composition of Christian and Muslim minority entrepreneurs in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi District (p=0.869).

Table 2 : Age Wise Distribution of the Minority Entrepreneurs

Location	Religion	Present Age				Total
		Below 25	25-35	36-45	Above 45	
Dakshina Kannada	Christian	1 1.2%	33 38.8%	36 42.4%	15 17.6%	85 100.0%
	Muslim	0 .0%	26 37.1%	36 51.4%	8 11.4%	70 100.0%
	Total	1 .6%	59 38.1%	72 46.5%	23 14.8%	155 100.0%
Udupi	Christian	0 .0%	13 26.0%	28 56.0%	9 18.0%	50 100.0%
	Muslim	0 .0%	14 32.6%	21 48.8%	8 18.6%	43 100.0%
	Total	0 .0%	27 29.0%	49 52.7%	17 18.3%	93 100.0%
Total		1 .4%	86 34.7%	121 48.8%	40 16.1%	248 100.0%

Source: Survey Data

Location	Value	df	p
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Dakshina Kannada	Chi-Square Test	2.533	3	.469	NS
Udupi	Chi-Square Test	.572	2	.751	NS
Total	Chi-Square Test	1.484	3	.686	NS

The above Table 2 presents the age wise distribution of the minority entrepreneurs. In Dakshina Kannada district 42.4% of the Christian entrepreneurs are within the age group of 36-45 years, 38.8% are between the age group of 25 and 35 years and 17.6% are above 45 years. A very few of the Christian entrepreneurs are below 25 years (1.2%). As far as Muslim entrepreneurs are concerned 51.4% are between the age group of 36 and 45 years, 37.1% are between 25 and 35 years, 11.4% are above 45 years and no one is below the age of 25 years. From the survey data it is found that majority of the minority entrepreneurs in Dakshina Kannada district were between the age group of 25 and 45 years. Chi-square test results show that there is no significant relationship between Muslim and Christian entrepreneurs with regard to the age in Dakshina Kannada District ($p=0.469$). In the Udupi district 56% of the Christian entrepreneurs were between 36 and 45 years of age, 26% between 25 and 35 years, 18% are above the age group of 45 years and no one is below 25 years. The data for Muslim entrepreneurs also present a similar result. Out of the total Muslim entrepreneurs in Udupi district 48.8% were between the age group of 36 and 45 years, 32.6% between 25 and 35 years, 18.6% were above 45 years and none is below 25 years. As in the case of Dakshina Kannada district in Udupi district also a vast majority of the minority entrepreneurs were between the age group of 25 and 45 years. Chi-square test result show that there is no significant difference between Christian and Muslim entrepreneurs in Udupi district with regard to the age ($p=0.751$). Chi-square test results also show that there is no significant difference between minority entrepreneurs with reference to age between the districts ($p=0.686$).

Table 3 : Age of the minority entrepreneurs at the time of their entry into the business

Location	Religion	Age at the time of entry into the business				Total
		Below 25	25-35	36-45	Above 45	
Dakshina Kannada	Christian	29 34.1%	41 48.2%	12 14.1%	3 3.5%	85 100.0%
	Muslim	26 37.1%	35 50.0%	9 12.9%	0 .0%	70 100.0%
	Total	55 35.5%	76 49.0%	21 13.5%	3 1.9%	155 100.0%
Udupi	Christian	10 20.0%	39 78.0%	1 2.0%	0 .0%	50 100.0%
	Muslim	7 16.3%	32 74.4%	4 9.3%	0 .0%	43 100.0%
	Total	17 18.3%	71 76.3%	5 5.4%	0 .0%	93 100.0%
Total		72 29.0%	147 59.3%	26 10.5%	3 1.2%	248 100.0%

Source: Survey Data

Location		Value	df	p	
Dakshina Kannada	Chi-Square Test	2.639	3	.451	NS
Udupi	Fisher's Exact Test			.373	NS
Total	Chi-Square Test	2.719	3	.437	NS

The above Table presents the information regarding the age of the minority entrepreneurs at the time of their entry into the business. In Dakshina Kannada district 48.2% of the Christian entrepreneurs entered into the business in between the age group of 25 and 35 years, 34.1% entered below the age of 25 years, 14.1% between the age group of 36 and 45 years and only 3.5% entered the business after 45 years. Among the Muslim entrepreneurs in the same district 50% of the entrepreneurs entered into business between 25 and 35 years, 37.1% entered below the age of 25 years, 12.9% between the age group of 36 and 45 years and no one entered into business who are above 45 years. It is interesting to observe that a majority of the minority entrepreneurs entered into business at a relatively young age. Chi-square test result shows that there is no significant difference between Christian and Muslim entrepreneurs with reference to age at the time of entry into the business in Dakshina Kannada District ($p=0.451$). In the Udupi district 78% of the Christian entrepreneurs entered into the business at the age between 25 and 35 years, 20% were below 25 years, 2% between 36 and 45 years and none was above 45 years. Among Muslim entrepreneurs in Udupi district 74.4% entered into business between the age group of 25 and 35 years, 16.3% at the age below 25, 9.3% between the age group of 36 and 45 years. None of the Muslim entrepreneurs were above 45 years at the time of entry into the business. The results of the Fishers' Exact Test reveal that there is no significant difference between Christian and Muslim entrepreneurs with regard to the age at the time of entry into the business in Udupi district ($p=0.373$). Chi-square test result also shows that there is no significant difference among minority entrepreneurs with regard to the age at the time of entry into the business between the districts under study ($p=0.437$).

Table 4 : Marital status of the minority entrepreneurs

Location	Religion	Marital Status			Total
		Married	Unmarried	Widow(er) / Divorcee	
Dakshina Kannada	Christian	67 78.8%	14 16.5%	4 4.7%	85 100.0%
	Muslim	53 75.7%	13 18.6%	4 5.7%	70 100.0%
	Total	120 77.4%	27 17.4%	8 5.2%	155 100.0%
Udupi	Christian	42 84.0%	7 14.0%	1 2.0%	50 100.0%
	Muslim	35 81.4%	5 11.6%	3 7.0%	43 100.0%
	Total	77 82.8%	12 12.9%	4 4.3%	93 100.0%
Total		197 79.4%	39 15.7%	12 4.8%	248 100.0%

Source: Survey Data

Location		Value	df	p	
Dakshina Kannada	Chi-Square Test	.221	2	.895	NS
Udupi	Chi-Square Test	1.451	2	.484	NS
Total	Chi-Square Test	.858	2	.651	NS

Table 4 presents marital status of the minority entrepreneurs. Among Christian minority entrepreneurs in Dakshina Kannada District 78.8% were married, 16.5% were unmarried and just 4.7% were either divorcees or widows(er). Among Muslim entrepreneurs 75.7% were married, 18.6% were unmarried, and 5.7% were either divorcees or widows(er). Therefore, the sample results reveal that a vast majority of the entrepreneurs were married. Chi-square test results show that there is no significant difference between Christian and Muslim entrepreneurs regarding their marital status in Dakshina Kannada District ($p=0.895$). In Udupi district also the survey results show a similar view. 84% of the Christian minority entrepreneurs were married, 14% unmarried and only 2% were divorcees/widow(er). Among the Muslim entrepreneurs 81.4% were married, 11.6% were unmarried and 7% were divorcees/widow(er). Chi-square test results show no significant difference ($p=0.484$). Further, chi-square results also show that there is no significant difference between minority entrepreneurs with reference to their marital status between the two districts ($p=0.651$).

Table 5 : The mother tongue of the minority entrepreneurs

Location	Religion	Mother Tongue						Total
		Kannada	Konkani	Malayalam	Urdu	Beariy	Nawayats	
Dakshina Kannada	Christian	4 4.7%	80 94.1%	1 1.2%	0 .0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	85 100.0%
	Muslim	0 .0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	11 15.7%	59 84.3%	0 .0%	70 100.0%
	Total	4 2.6%	80 51.6%	1 .6%	11 7.1%	59 38.1%	0 .0%	155 100.0%
Udupi	Christian	2 4.0%	44 88.0%	3 6.0%	0 .0%	1 2.0%	0 .0%	50 100.0%
	Muslim	0 .0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	7 16.3%	27 62.8%	9 20.9%	43 100.0%
	Total	2 2.2%	44 47.3%	3 3.2%	7 7.5%	28 30.1%	9 9.7%	93 100.0%
Total		6 2.4%	124 50.0%	4 1.6%	18 7.3%	87 35.1%	9 3.6%	248 100.0%

Source: Survey Data

Location		p	
Dakshina Kannada	Fisher's Exact Test	p<0.001	HS
Udupi	Fisher's Exact Test	p<0.001	HS
Total	Fisher's Exact Test	p<0.001	HS

The above Table 5 shows data regarding mother tongue of the minority entrepreneurs. The survey result shows that in Dakshina Kannada District the mother tongue of 94.1% of Christian minority entrepreneurs is Konkani, 4.7% is Kannada and 1.2% is Malayalam. Similarly, the mother tongue of 84.3% Muslim minority entrepreneurs is Beary language, 15.7% is Urdu. Fishers Exact Test shows a significant relationship between Christian and Muslim entrepreneurs with reference to the mother tongue in Dakshina Kannada District (p<0.001). In Udupi district the mother tongue of 88% of the Christian entrepreneurs is Konkani, 4% is Kannada and 6% is Malayalam. Similarly, the mother tongue of 62.8% of Muslim entrepreneurs is Beary language, 20.9% is Nawayati, and 16.3% is Urdu. Fisher's Exact Test results for Udupi district show a significant relationship between Christian and Muslim entrepreneurs as far as mother tongue is concerned (p<0.001). Further, the Fisher's Exact Test results also show a highly significant relationship between minority entrepreneurs and the mother tongue between the districts (p<0.001).

Table 6 : Nature of the minority units

Location	Religion	Nature of the Units		Total
		Manufacturing	Servicing	
Dakshina Kannada	Christian	68 80.0%	17 20.0%	85 100.0%
	Muslim	57 81.43%	13 18.57%	70 100.0%
	Total	125 80.65%	30 19.35%	155 100.0%
Udupi	Christian	38 76.0%	12 24.0%	50 100.0%
	Muslim	32 74.4%	11 25.6%	43 100.0%
	Total	70 75.3%	23 24.7%	93 100.0%
Total		195 78.6%	53 21.4%	248 100.0%

Source: Survey Data

Location		Value	df	p	
Dakshina Kannada	Chi-Square Test	1.053	1	.305	NS
Udupi	Chi-Square Test	.031	1	.860	NS
Total	Chi-Square Test	.485	1	.486	NS

Table 6 presents the information regarding the nature of the minority units. In Dakshina Kannada District 80% of the Christian Minority units were manufacturing units and the rest 20% were service units. Among Muslim units 81.43% were manufacturing units and the

remaining 18.57% were service units. The above data reveals that a vast majority of the minority units in Dakshina Kannada were manufacturing units. Chi-square test results show that there is no significant difference between Christian and Muslim minority units relating to the nature of minority units in Dakshina Kannada District ($p=0.305$). In Udupi District 76% of the Christian Minority units were manufacturing units and the remaining 24% were service units. Similarly, 74.4% of the Muslim units were manufacturing units and the remaining 25.6% were service units. As in the case of Dakshina Kannada District, in Udupi District also a vast majority of the minority units were manufacturing units. Chi-square test results show that there is no significant difference between Christian and Muslim entrepreneurs relating to the nature of minority units ($p=0.860$). Further, chi-square test results also show that there is no significant difference between minority entrepreneurs and the nature of minority units between the districts ($p=0.486$).

Table 7 : Category of the minority units

Location	Religion	Category of the units							Total
		Food & Agro based	Electrical & Electronics	Mechanical Engineering	Printing	Wood Industry	Cement Products	Plastic Products	
Dakshina Kannada	Christian	18 21.2%	12 14.1%	30 35.3%	5 5.9%	9 10.6%	9 10.6%	2 2.4%	85 100%
	Muslim	19 27.1%	6 8.6%	6 8.6%	7 10.0%	16 22.9%	11 15.7%	5 7.1%	70 100%
	Total	37 23.9%	18 11.6%	36 23.2%	12 7.7%	25 16.1%	20 12.9%	7 4.5%	155 100%
Udupi	Christian	9 18.0%	4 8.0%	7 14.0%	8 16.0%	8 16.0%	10 20.0%	4 8.0%	50 100%
	Muslim	8 18.6%	8 18.6%	10 23.3%	3 7.0%	4 9.3%	4 9.3%	6 14.0%	43 100%
	Total	17 18.3%	12 12.9%	17 18.3%	11 11.8%	12 12.9%	14 15.1%	10 10.8%	93 100%
Total		54 21.8%	30 12.1%	53 21.4%	23 9.3%	37 14.9%	34 13.7%	17 6.9%	248 100%

Source: Survey Data

Location		Value	df	p	
Dakshina Kannada	Chi-Square Test	20.547	6	.002	HS
Udupi	Chi-Square Test	8.018	6	.237	NS
Total	Chi-Square Test	9.150	6	.165	NS

The above Table 7 presents the category of minority units in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi Districts. In Dakshina Kannada District 35.3% Christian units were mechanical engineering units, 21.2% were food and agro based units, 14.1% were electrical and electronic units, 10.6% were wood industries, another 10.6% were relating to cement products, 5.9% were printing units and the remaining 2.4% units were plastic manufacturing units. Among the Muslim units 27.1% were food and agro based, 22.9% were wood industries, 15.7% were

relating to cement products, 10% were printing, 8.6% each were mechanical engineering and electrical and electronics units and the remaining 7.1% were plastic product manufacturing units. Chi-square test results show a highly significant relationship between Christian and Muslim units with reference to the category of the units in Dakshina Kannada District ($p=0.002$). In Udupi district, 20% of the Christian minority units were cement product manufacturing, 18% were food and agro based, 16% each were printing and wood industries, 8% each were plastic and electrical and electronics and 14% of the sample units were mechanical engineering. Among Muslim units 23.3% were mechanical engineering units, 18.6% each of the units were electrical and electronics and food and agro based units, 14% were manufacturing plastic products, 9.3% each were wood industries and manufacturing cement products and the remaining 7% were printing units. Chi-square results show that there is no significant difference between Christian and Muslim units relating to the category of units in Udupi District ($p=0.237$). Chi-square test results also show that there is no significant difference between minority units and the category of units between Dakshina Kannada and Udupi Districts ($p=0.165$).

Table 8 : Ownership pattern of the minority units

Location	Religion	Type of Ownership			Total
		Single	Partnership	Private Limited	
Dakshina Kannada	Christian	60 70.6%	22 25.9%	3 3.5%	85 100.0%
	Muslim	46 65.7%	22 31.4%	2 2.9%	70 100.0%
	Total	106 68.4%	44 28.4%	5 3.2%	155 100.0%
Udupi	Christian	30 60.0%	17 34.0%	3 6.0%	50 100.0%
	Muslim	23 53.5%	14 32.6%	6 14.0%	43 100.0%
	Total	53 57.0%	31 33.3%	9 9.7%	93 100.0%
Total		159 64.1%	75 30.2%	14 5.6%	248 100.0%

Source: Survey Data

Location		Value	df	p	
Dakshina Kannada	Chi-Square Test	.603	2	.740	NS
Udupi	Chi-Square Test	1.698	2	.428	NS
Total	Chi-Square Test	1.237	2	.539	NS

The above Table 8 presents the information regarding the type of ownership of the minority entrepreneurs. In Dakshina Kannada district 70.6% of the Christian minority units were sole proprietorships, 25.9% were partnership firms and the remaining 3.5% were private limited companies. Among Muslim units 65.7% were sole proprietorship units, 31.4% were partnership units and the remaining 2.9% were private limited companies. The above data reveals that a vast majority of the minority units in Dakshina Kannada were sole proprietorship units. Chi-square test results show that there is no significant difference

between Christian and Muslim minority units with regard to the type of ownership in Dakshina Kannada district ($p=0.740$). In Udupi district 60% of the Christian minority units were sole proprietorships, 34% were partnership firms and the remaining 6% were private limited companies. Similarly, 53% of Muslim units were sole proprietorships, 32.6% were partnerships and the remaining 14% were private limited companies. As in the case of Dakshina Kannada District, in Udupi district also a vast majority of the minority units were sole proprietorship firms. Chi-square test results show that there is no significant difference between Christian and Muslim entrepreneurs regarding the type of ownership in Udupi District ($p=0.428$). Further, Chi-square test results also show that there is no significant difference between minority entrepreneurs and the type of ownership between the districts ($p=0.539$).

Conclusion:

Benjamin Higgins (1973) has stated that “each country has an optimal moment for launching development, a short period of time when sociological, political and economic factors coalesce to provide a climate usually favorable for takeoff into economic growth. The nature of this optimal moment can be described and analyzed in terms of interactions of entrepreneur and elite.” Thus, the social basis of entrepreneurship becomes an important ingredient of economic development. If certain social groups produce a large and capable body of entrepreneurs, while others do not, an explanation is to be found in the prevailing social factors. An analysis of the above tables show that Demographic Factors such as Age, Marital Status, Mother Tongue, Nature of the Minority Units, Category of the Minority Units and Ownership Pattern of the Minority Units were associated with the performance of the Minority Units.

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