

## CHAPTER XVIII

### PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

THE erstwhile Mysore State, of which this district was a part, was ruled by a galaxy of benevolent rulers and eminent dewans, after the Rendition in 1881. A Representative Assembly mainly consisting of prominent landholders and merchants from all over the State, was established at Mysore as early as in 1881. It was the first representative body of its kind in the whole of India at that time. Later, in 1907, was established the Mysore Legislative Council. The institution of these two bodies helped, to some extent, to develop a political consciousness among the people. The Hassan district was represented by 20 to 23 members in the Representative Assembly besides by one or two members in the Legislative Council in the third decade of this century. There were representatives from all the taluks—at the rate of two to three members from each taluk—besides five to six members representing the rural population, the minority communities and the like.

There has been a perceptible political and social consciousness among the people in the recent decades. With the achievement of independence and the establishment of popular Government, the people have had more and better opportunities to see and know more of their Government and its plans and programmes and to criticise more freely and boldly than ever before. They not only co-operate with the Government in their developmental efforts, but also lend their hand in building schools, dispensaries, roads and the like; for instance, in the community development blocks of the district, people are reported to have made voluntary contributions, both in cash and by way of labour, for the execution of some of the programmes. After the Chinese and Pakistani aggressions on our country in 1962 and 1965 respectively, the people of the district contributed considerable amounts to the National Defence Fund. As at the end of July 1970, the total cash contributions of the people of the district towards the fund stood at over Rs. 10.97 lakhs besides contributions in kind which included about 800 grams of gold and 1,134 grams of silver. Again, under the Bhoodan Yajna movement sponsored by Acharya

Vinoba Bhave, lands to the extent of about 132 acres have been donated by some people in the district for distribution among the landless.

The quinquennial general elections to the Parliament and the State Legislature are very keenly contested by the various political parties and individuals. With the decentralisation of administration brought about by the enactment of the Mysore Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act, 1959, a large number of people vie with one another to get elected to the Taluk Development Boards and Village Panchayats. Similarly, the elections to the Municipal Councils of the various towns in the district as also elections to the co-operative institutions and all other elective posts in the district are keenly contested.

#### Political parties

During the first general elections held in 1952, the Indian National Congress contested all the eight Assembly seats and one Parliamentary seat in the district and emerged successful in all of them. But in the second general elections held in 1957, its candidates were defeated in four out of the eight Assembly Constituencies, yielding place to two candidates of the Praja-Socialist Party and two Independents. The Praja-Socialist Party, which contested only three seats, came out successful in two of them, while the candidate put up by the Congress to the Parliamentary seat was elected unopposed. As for the Independents, although there were twelve of them in the field in seven of the Assembly Constituencies, only two candidates were returned.

In the third general elections held in 1962, the Congress Party was able to maintain the *status quo* without conceding any more seats to the opposition parties. Two new parties entered the field this time; they were the Swatantra and the Bharatiya Jan Sangh, which put up four and five candidates respectively. There was also a lone candidate from the Communist Party. But none of them was able to win any seats. The Praja-Socialist Party, which fielded seven candidates for the Assembly seats and one for the Parliamentary seat, emerged successful in three of the Assembly Constituencies, thus improving upon its previous number by one. The Independents, who contested five of the Assembly seats and the one Parliamentary seat, could win only one Assembly seat this time.

The fourth general elections held in 1967 witnessed a swing in favour of the Swatantra Party and the consequent reduction of the Congress Party to a secondary position in the district. The Swatantra Party, which contested only five of the eight Assembly seats and the one Parliamentary seat, emerged successful in four Assembly Constituencies and also in the Parliamentary Constituency. On the other hand, the Congress Party, which had put up

its candidates for all the seats, could win only two Assembly seats. The Praja-Socialist Party also likewise lost one of its previous seats, having been able to secure a lone Assembly seat; but the seats contested by it this time were also only two. The Independents, who contested only three Assembly seats, could retain just one seat as in the previous elections, while the Bharatiya Jan Sangh, which fielded three candidates, could not get any seat. Another interesting feature of the fourth general elections in the district was that in about half of the constituencies there were straight contests, while in the other half the contests were three-cornered, whereas in the previous two elections there were four to five contestants in most of the constituencies. A brief account of the last three general elections, together with particulars of constituencies, the number and party affiliation of contesting candidates, the number of votes polled by each of them, etc., is given in the following paragraphs.

According to the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1956, Hassan district formed a single-member Parliamentary Constituency and it was allotted eight seats in the State Legislative Assembly. These seats were distributed in seven Assembly Constituencies, of which, one, namely Belur, was a double member constituency, in which a seat was reserved for the Scheduled Castes.

**Delimitation of  
Constituencies  
in 1956**

The following table indicates the names of the constituencies, their extent and the total number of seats allotted in accordance with the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1956 :—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of constituency</i>	<i>Extent of constituency</i>	<i>No. of seats</i>
1	2	3	4
<b>Lok-Sabha</b>			
	Hassan ..	Hassan district ..	1
<b>Legislative Assembly</b>			
1.	Arsikere ..	Arsikere taluk (excluding Javagal and Gandasi hoblis) ..	1
2.	Belur ..	Belur, Manjarabad and Alur taluks; and Salagame hobli in Hassan taluk.	2
3.	Arkalgud ..	Arkalgud taluk ..	1
4.	Hassan ..	Hassan, Kattaya and Shantigrama hoblis in Hassan taluk ..	1

1	2	3	4
5.	Gandasi ..	Gandasi and Javagal hoblis in Arsi-kere taluk ; Dudda hobli in Hassan taluk, and Bagur hobli and Circle II in Dandiganahalli hobli in Channarayapatna taluk ..	1
6.	Shravanabelgola	Channarayapatna taluk (excluding Bagur and Dandiganahalli hoblis)	1
7.	Holenarsipur	Holenarsipur taluk, and Circle I in Dandiganahalli hobli in Channarayapatna taluk ..	1

**Abolition of  
Two-Member  
Constituencies**

According to Section 3 of the Two-Member Constituencies (Abolition) Act, 1961, the Election Commission were required to divide every two-member constituency (other than a two-member constituency in the State of Gujarat) into two single-member constituencies, delimit their extent and decide in which of them the seat should be reserved for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes, having regard to the fact that all such single-member constituencies should, as far as practicable, be geographically compact areas and the seat should be reserved in the constituency in which there was a greater concentration of population of the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes. The Commission was further empowered to make such further amendments as were necessary in the Delimitation Orders in order to carry out these provisions. The Commission, accordingly, amended and revised the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1956, and issued the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1961, in December 1961.

As a result of the revised order, Belur, which was formerly a double-member constituency, was split up into two single-member constituencies—Belur and Sakleshpur, a seat being reserved for the Scheduled Castes in the former constituency. The extent of these two constituencies were as indicated below :—

<i>Name of constituency</i>	<i>Extent of constituency</i>
Belur (Scheduled Castes) ..	Belur taluk and Salagame hobli in Hassan taluk.
Sakleshpur ..	Manjarabad and Alur taluks.

**General  
Elections, 1957**

The Indian National Congress and the Praja-Socialist Party were the only two political parties which contested the second general elections held in the district in the year 1957. These

political parties were affiliated to their respective All-India bodies. Of these political parties, the Indian National Congress won both the seats in the Belur double-member constituency and was successful in Arsikere and Gandasi constituencies also. Besides, as already stated earlier, the party won without a contest the Lok Sabha seat allotted to the district. The Praja-Socialist Party contested the elections only in three constituencies, namely, Arsikere, Shravanabelgola and Holenarsipur; the party was successful in two of them, viz., Shravanabelgola and Holenarsipur. Apart from these political parties, twelve independents contested the elections from all the constituencies barring Holenarsipur and were successful in two of them, namely Arkalgud and Hassan.

The following table shows the party affiliations of the contesting candidates, the number of valid votes polled by them, the percentage of votes secured and the successful parties, in respect of the general elections held in the district in the year 1957 :—

Sl. No.	Name of Constituency	Party affiliations of contesting candidates	No. of valid votes polled	Percentage of votes polled	Successful party
1	2	3	4	5	6

### LOK SABHA

Hassan	..	Congress			Uncontested election
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### LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1.	Arsikere	..	(1) Congress*	14,834	55.7	Congress	
			(2) Independent	10,469	39.3		
			(3) P.S.P**	1,343	5.0		
2.	Belur (double-member)	..	(1) Congress	33,144	30.4	Congress	
			(2) Independent	32,755	30.1		
			(3) Congress (Scheduled Castes)	28,618	26.3		Congress (Scheduled Castes)
			(4) Independent (Scheduled Castes)	10,720	9.8		
			(5) do	3,715	3.4		
3.	Arkalgud	..	(1) Independent	13,831	55.5	Independent	
			(2) Congress	11,079	44.5		
4	Hassan	..	(1) Independent	16,244	54.0	Independent	
			(2) Congress	13,070	43.4		
			(3) Independent	762	2.6		

\*Congress : Indian National Congress

\*\*P.S.P. : Praja-Socialist Party

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Gandasi ..	(1) Congress	8,388	34.4	Congress
		(2) Independent	6,746	27.6	
		(3) do	6,097	25.0	
		(4) do	3,168	13.0	
6.	Shravana- belgola	(1) P. S. P.	16,923	57.3	P.S.P.
		(2) Congress	7,086	24.0	
		(3) Independent	4,980	16.9	
		(4) do	537	1.8	
7.	Holenarsipur	(1) P.S.P.	17,233	59.2	P.S.P.
		(2) Congress	11,857	40.8	

**General  
Elections, 1962**

The Indian National Congress secured four seats out of the eight contested by it in all the Assembly constituencies in the general elections of 1962. The party was successful in Belur, Sakleshpur, Arkalgud and Hassan constituencies. It also won the Lok Sabha seat allotted to the district. Apart from the Congress, the Praja-Socialist Party contested all the Assembly seats except Sakleshpur, and came out successful in Arsikere, Gandasi and Shravanabelgola constituencies.

Although the Bharatiya Jan Sangh contested the elections in five Assembly constituencies, it was not successful in any of them. The same was the case with the Swatantra Party, which contested the elections from four constituencies, and the Communist Party whose only nominee was from Sakleshpur constituency. Seven Independents contested the elections in five Assembly constituencies of the district, but only one was returned to the Assembly from Holenarsipur constituency.

The sub-joined table shows the party affiliations of the contesting candidates, the number of valid votes polled by them, the percentage of votes secured and the successful parties, in respect of the general elections of 1962 :—

Sl. No.	Name of constituency	Party affiliations of contesting candidates	No. of valid votes polled	Percentage of votes polled	Successful party
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>LOK SABHA</b>					
	Hassan ..	(1) Congress	1,04,898	46.0	Congress
		(2) P. S. P.	99,083	43.5	
		(3) Independent	23,922	10.5	

1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY</b>					
1. Arsikere	..	(1) P. S. P.	14,639	52.0	P. S. P.
		(2) Congress	11,655	41.8	
		(3) Independent	928	3.3	
		(4) Jan Sangh	824	2.9	
2. Belur (Scheduled Castes).		(1) Congress	10,801	60.6	Congress
		(2) Jan Sangh	2,734	15.6	
		(3) P. S. P.	2,415	13.5	
		(4) Independent	978	5.5	
		(5) Swatantra	868	4.8	
3. Sakleshpur	..	(1) Congress	18,623	63.3	Congress
		(2) Jan Snagh	8,437	20.8	
		(3) Communist	2,358	15.9	
4. Arkalgud	..	(1) Congress	18,967	58.3	Congress
		(2) P. S. P.	11,870	36.0	
		(3) Independent	1,069	2.7	
		(4) Jan Sangh	739	2.0	
		(5) Independent	340	1.0	
5. Hassan	..	(1) Congress	11,498	41.8	Congress
		(2) Independent	9,265	33.6	
		(3) P. S. P.	6,166	22.4	
		(4) Jan Sangh	498	1.2	
		(5) Swatantra	300	1.0	
6. Gandasi	..	(1) P. S. P.	8,637	36.0	P. S. P.
		(2) Swatantra	8,267	34.4	
		(3) Congress	7,074	29.6	
7. Sharavanabelgola		(1) P. S. P.	21,136	62.9	P. S. P.
		(2) Congress	12,483	37.1	
8. Holenarsipur	..	(1) Independent	12,622	42.5	Independent
		(2) Congress	7,338	24.7	
		(3) P. S. P.	6,052	20.4	
		(4) Swatantra	2,934	9.9	
		(5) Independent	757	2.5	

The Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1966, did not much alter the extents of either the Parliamentary Constituency or the Assembly Constituencies in the district for purposes of the fourth general elections held in 1967. The Belur Assembly Constituency continued to be reserved for the Scheduled Caste candidates. The following statement shows the party affiliations of the contesting candidates, the number of valid votes polled by them, the percentage of votes secured and the successful parties in respect of the fourth general elections held in the district in 1967 :—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of constituency</i>	<i>Party affiliations of contesting candidates</i>	<i>No. of valid votes polled</i>	<i>Percentage of votes polled</i>	<i>Successful party</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>LOK SABHA</b>					
	Hassan ..	(1) Swatantra (2) Congress	1,68,620 1,26,168	57.20 42.80	Swatantra
<b>LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY</b>					
1.	Belur (S. C.) ..	(1) Swatantra (2) Congress (3) Jan Sangh	13,478 6,887 799	63.68 32.54 3.78	Swatantra
2.	Arsikere ..	(1) Congress (2) Swatantra (3) Jan Sangh	22,847 15,942 2,082	55.90 39.01 5.09	Congress
3.	Gandasi ..	(1) Congress (2) P. S. P. (3) Independent	12,971 11,505 5,616	43.10 38.23 18.66	Congress
4.	Shravanabelgola	(1) P. S. P. (2) Congress	30,637 16,798	64.59 35.41	P. S. P.
5.	Holenarsipur ..	(1) Independent (2) Congress (3) Independent	20,594 12,191 2,049	59.12 35.00 5.88	Independent
6.	Arkalgud ..	(1) Swatantra (2) Congress	22,876 12,589	64.50 35.50	Swatantra
7.	Hassan ..	(1) Swatantra (2) Congress (3) Jan Sangh	18,212 17,933 757	49.35 48.60 2.05	Swatantra
8.	Sakleshpur ..	(1) Swatantra (2) Congress	22,650 20,293	52.74 47.26	Swatantra

**Further  
Statistics of  
Voting: General  
Elections, 1957**

Hassan was a single-member Parliamentary Constituency, with 3,67,251 voters on the rolls, for the Lok Sabha elections of 1957. There was no contest to the Lok Sabha seat this time. The total number of electors in the district for the Assembly elections of 1957 was 3,67,251 and the total number of valid votes polled was 2,73,599. The average percentage of votes polled in a constituency was 60.18. The highest percentage of valid votes polled was 68.20 in Shravanabelgola Constituency while the lowest was 46.07 in Gandasi Constituency. The annexed table indicates the total number of voters, the total number of valid votes polled



and the percentage of votes polled, in respect of the general elections held in the district in the year 1957 :—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of constituency</i>	<i>No. of electors</i>	<i>No. of valid votes polled</i>	<i>Percentage of votes polled</i>
1	2	3	4	5

**LOK SABHA**

Hassan .. 3,67,251 Uncontested election

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

1.	Arsikere ..	45,101	26,646	59.08
2.	Belur (Double-member)	1,85,210	1,08,952	58.80
3.	Arkalgud ..	44,336	24,910	56.19
4.	Hassan ..	45,186	30,076	66.55
5.	Gandasi ..	52,955	24,399	46.07
6.	Sharvanabelgola ..	43,269	29,526	68.20
7.	Holenarsipur ..	43,799	29,090	66.42

Total .. 3,67,251 2,73,599 68.18  
(Average)

The number of electors in the district for the Lok Sabha General Elections, 1962 was 4,33,904 and the total number of valid votes polled was 2,27,903, the percentage of votes polled being 52.50. There were the same number of (4,33,904) voters in the district also for the Assembly elections of 1962 and the total number of valid votes polled was 2,23,272, the average percentage of votes polled in a constituency being 51.83. The highest percentage of valid votes polled in a constituency was 66.64 in Shraavanabelgola, while the lowest percentage was 31.11 in Belur.

The table given below shows the total number of voters, the total number of valid votes polled and the percentage of votes polled in respect of the general elections held in the district in the year 1962 :—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of constituency</i>	<i>No. of electors</i>	<i>No. of valid votes polled</i>	<i>Percentage of votes polled</i>
1	2	3	4	5

**LOK SABHA**

Hassan .. 4,33,904 2,27,903 52.50

1	2	3	4	5
<b>LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY</b>				
1.	Arsikere ..	52,554	28,046	53.43
2.	Belur ..	57,154	17,796	31.11
3.	Sakleshpur ..	57,812	29,418	50.89
4.	Arkalgud ..	51,962	32,985	61.56
5.	Hassan ..	52,721	27,727	52.61
6.	Gandasi ..	61,025	23,978	39.31
7.	Shravanabelgola ..	50,444	33,619	66.64
8.	Holenarsipur ..	50,232	29,703	59.12
	Total ..	4,33,904	2,23,272	51.83 (Average)

**General  
Elections, 1967**

The total number of electors in the district for both the Parliamentary and Assembly elections of 1967 was 4,68,838, while the total number of valid votes polled in respect of the Lok Sabha seat was 2,94,788 and that of the Assembly seats 2,89,706, the percentage of total votes polled being about 66 in both the cases. The highest percentage of votes polled in an Assembly Constituency was 76.98 in Sakleshpur, closely followed by Shravanabelgola with a percentage of 74.93, while the lowest was 45.51, again in Belur. The following table shows the total number of electors, the total number of votes polled and the percentage of votes polled in respect of the general elections held in the district in 1967 :—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of constituency</i>	<i>No. of electors</i>	<i>No. of votes polled*</i>	<i>Percentage of votes polled</i>
1	2	3	4	5

**LOK SABHA**

Hassan ..	4,68,838	3,07,979	65.69
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**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

1.	Belur (S.C.) ..	49,410	22,488	45.51
2.	Arsikere ..	62,060	42,958	69.22
3.	Gandasi ..	57,253	32,716	57.14
4.	Shravanabelgola ..	67,562	50,622	74.93
5.	Holenarsipur ..	59,116	37,825	63.98
6.	Arkalgud ..	53,780	37,058	68.91
7.	Hassan ..	61,208	39,306	64.22
8.	Sakleshpur ..	58,449	44,994	76.98

\* Includes invalid votes also.

There were, in all, 437 polling stations located in convenient centres in the district during the second general elections held in 1957. The number was increased to 465 during the general elections of 1962 and to 547 during the general elections of 1967 in order to provide more facilities to the voters of certain constituencies, who formerly had to travel over long distances to reach their polling stations. The statement given below indicates the number of polling stations in the district during the general elections of 1957, 1962 and 1967 :—

Sl. No.	Name of Assembly constituency	No. of polling stations during		
		1957 elections	1962 elections	1967 elections
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Arsikere ..	50	60	76
2.	Belur ..	131	63	59
3.	Sakleshpur ..	..	62	72
4.	Arkalgud ..	49	56	60
5.	Hassan ..	50	57	73
6.	Gandasi ..	58	60	62
7.	Shravanabelgola ..	53	52	77
8.	Holenarsipur ..	46	55	68
	Total ..	437	465	547

A mid-term election, as in other parts of the State and the country, was held for the Hassan Parliamentary Constituency on 4th March 1971, consequent on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha by the President. The entire Hassan district formed this Parliamentary constituency. Three candidates, one each from the Congress (R), Praja-Socialist Party and Swatantra Party contested the election and there was a brisk campaign. Out of a total number of 5,09,214 electors in the constituency, 2,68,070 (i.e., 52.6 per cent) voters exercised their franchise, the Congress (R) candidate emerging successful with a tally of 62.42 per cent of the total valid votes polled. As many as 807 polling stations had been setup this time in this constituency, as against 547 in the 1967 general elections. The following table indicates the number and percentage of valid votes polled by each of the candidates :—

Sl. No.	Party affiliation of contesting candidate	No. of valid votes polled	Percentage of valid votes polled
1.	Congress (R) ..	1,61,072	62.42
2.	Praja-Socialist Party ..	85,727	33.2
3.	Swatantra ..	11,617	4.4

**Newspapers and periodicals**

Journalism has not made much headway in the Hassan district, although a good number of sporadic attempts were made by some enthusiastic persons in the district to publish newspapers and periodicals, mostly weeklies and monthlies in Kannada, in the last few decades, especially after the achievement of Independence. *Negila Yogi*, a Kannada monthly, was being published from Hassan from October 1949, its editor being Sri G. H. Rangappa. As the nomenclature of the journal indicates, it was devoted to the cause of the agriculturists. A Kannada fortnightly entitled *Gramasevaki* started publication from Arsikere in February 1950, under the editorship of Smt. Yashodhara Dasappa. A bilingual quarterly journal called "Culture and Art" in English and Hindi, edited by Sri K. Srinivasachar, was the next periodical to be published in the district in the middle of 1951. The same year witnessed the publication of two more Kannada monthlies called *Hoorana* and *Vanamala*, edited by Sri K. N. Murthy and Sri H. M. Channa Shetty respectively. Yet another Kannada monthly, under the title *Vishvabandhu*, started publication in October 1952. It was edited by Sri Donigal Nanjappa and published from Sakleshpur. The same year witnessed also the publication of an English monthly entitled 'Mystical Rose' and a Kannada daily called *Janamana*, under the editorship of Rev. P.A. M. D'Souza and Sri Krishnappa respectively.

A Kannada weekly, *Bhaktakesari*, entered the field during the close of 1953 under the joint editorship of Sriyuths M. C. Narasimha Shastri and G. H. Rajappa. The next year saw the emergence of two more Kannada weeklies, *Shanti* and *Vistarana Vijnana*, edited by Sri M. C. Narasimha Shastri and Sri D. Basavaraj Urs respectively. A Kannada daily known as *Hassan Patrike* edited by Sri K. Anantha Subbaraya and a Kannada weekly entitled *Raitamitra* edited by Sri Govindaiah were the next newspapers to be published in the district during the first half of 1958. Another Kannada weekly called *Chaluva* edited by Smt. Gangamma came to light in 1961 and yet another, entitled *Pouravani*, edited by Sri M. S. Shivaramaiah, in 1963. But none of these newspapers and periodicals survived for long owing to financial and other difficulties.

Three daily newspapers and a monthly are being published in the district at present (1970). They are *Prathinidhi*, *Janamithra* and *Swatantra*, dailies, and *Adhyatma Prakasha*, a monthly. The *Prathinidhi* started publication in the year 1961. This Kannada daily newspaper is edited by Sri S. S. Iyengar and gives considerable amount of local news and other matters. It has a press of its own and is located on the Holenarsipur road in the Hassan town.

*Janamithra* is another Kannada daily newspaper of Hassan having a fair circulation in the district. It was started in the

year 1963, its editor being Sri K. N. Moorthy. It has also a press of its own in the heart of the old town area. It also gives comprehensive coverage to local news along with other features. It is learnt that another Kannada daily newspaper called *Swatantra* has been started recently at Hassan, its working Editor and Chief Editor being Sri Y. Krupadas and Sri N. K. Ganapaiah respectively.

*Adhyatma Prakasha* is a Kannada journal of a long standing, having been started as early as in 1920, by Sri Satchidananda Swamijee. It is being published by the Adyatma Prakasha Karyalaya at Holenarsipur. The journal is devoted to spiritual and cultural matters and aims at stimulating the study and practice of Adhyatma philosophy, and exposition of the various religious tenets in all their universal aspects. The present editor of the magazine is Sri Y. Narasappa and it is being printed in a press of its own. Another Kannada monthly journal, entitled *Srivani*, devoted to spiritual matters, has started publication from Arsikere recently under the auspices of the local Sainatha Seva Samithi.

Some of the newspapers and magazines published outside the district, especially from Bangalore, have a good circulation in the district. Among the Kannada daily papers which come from outside, the *Prajavani*, *Kannada Prabha* and *Samyukta Karnataka* of Bangalore are more popular. The *Navabharata*, a daily of Mangalore, has also some circulation especially in the urban areas of the district as also *Udayavani*, a daily of Manipal. The Kannada weekly and monthly journals like *Sudha*, *Prajamata*, *Karmaveera*, *Janapragathi*, *Kasturi*, *Mallige* and *Mayura* have a good appeal in the district. With the gradual increase in the literacy percentage, the number of readers of the Kannada newspapers and periodicals has also increased in recent years. English dailies like *Deccan Herald*, *Indian Express* and *Hindu* of Bangalore and the *Times of India* of Bombay are popular among the English reading public. Of late, the film periodicals published from Bombay and Madras also have a considerable circulation among the younger people. Most of the daily newspapers published in Bangalore have their correspondents in the district. They have made arrangements to send their morning editions in motor vans to reach Hassan fairly early. This method of quick transport has helped to increase their circulation.

Organised social activities form a particular feature of the non-official endeavour in the district, and there are a number of voluntary organisations doing good work in catering to the social needs of the community in a variety of ways. They cover several fields of ameliorative service which Government agencies alone cannot fulfil. Several institutions, including the Malnad College

**Voluntary  
Social Service  
Organisations**

of Engineering, Hassan, are being run by voluntary associations of public-spirited persons. Many of these organisations have been accorded official recognition and are getting assistance and general guidance from Government.

The existence of a number of voluntary social service organisations in an area gives a richness to its institutional life. Many public-spirited persons of the district have organised social service bodies and are carrying on useful programmes. The following are some of the social service organisations in the district, whose activities are given in a nut-shell so as to indicate the types of work being done by the various categories of such institutions. These particulars are of interest also as regards the pattern they represent.

**Malnad  
Technical  
Education  
Society**

The Malnad Technical Education Society, Hassan, was established in December 1958 by a group of public-spirited persons with the objective of serving the educational needs of the three *malnad* districts of Hassan, Chikmagalur and Coorg, by supplementing the efforts of the State and the Central Governments in this regard. In pursuance of its aim, the Society, which is a registered institution, established an engineering college, called the Malnad College of Engineering, at Hassan on September 1, 1960, after collecting an initial amount of Rs. ten lakhs from the public of the above three *malnad* districts. The Central and State Governments have also assisted in the establishment of this college which caters to the needs of the students of all these three *malnad* districts.

Another major venture of the Malnad Technical Education Society is the establishment of a Women's College at Hassan in January 1967. This college, called the Arkalgud Varadarajulu Kanthamma College (A. V. K. College) for Women, was started by the Society with the help of a donation of Rs. 75,000 given by Sri A. N. Varadarajulu, a retired Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories and Boilers. Since 1969, the Society has also been running an Evening College, also at Hassan, for the benefit of employed persons. The Society has also plans to establish a Girls' Polytechnic and a Medical College with the help of the people and the Government in the years to come.

While the activities of the Education Society are managed by an executive council consisting of 31 members, including a president, three vice-presidents, a secretary, a joint secretary and a treasurer, for the conduct of the affairs of the Malnad College of Engineering and the A.V.K. College for women, there are two separate governing councils, each consisting of 14 to 15 members. (For details about the educational institutions, please see Chapter XV).

The Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust is one of the pioneering constructive institutions in India founded in memory of Kasturba Gandhi in 1945 for the welfare of poor and needy women and children living in the rural areas. It is an all-India organisation which has its headquarters at Kasturbagram near Indore, Madhya Pradesh, and branches in all the States. Mahatma Gandhi himself was the first Chairman of this Trust. The Mysore State Branch of the Trust, which has its headquarters at Kasturbagram near Arsikere in Hassan district, was at first being managed by a committee, but in accordance with his decision to entrust the work of the Trust to chosen women workers, Mahatma Gandhi, as the Chairman of the Trust, appointed Smt. Yashodhara Dasappa as the Agent for Mysore State. Until the re-organisation of States in 1956, there was another branch of the Trust called the Karnataka Branch with jurisdiction over the districts of Belgaum, Dharwar, Bijapur, North Kanara, South Kanara, Bellary and Coorg, with a separate Agent in Smt. Umabai Kundapur from Hubli. With the formation of the new Mysore State, however, these two branches were combined and since then there is only one branch, *viz.*, the Mysore State Branch, which has been carrying out the activities of the Trust in the entire State. Initially, a sum of Rs. 2.86 lakhs was collected in the old Mysore State and Rs. 2.27 lakhs by the Karnataka Branch towards the Kasturba Memorial Fund. Of this amount, 25 per cent was transferred to the Central Fund and 75 per cent was earmarked for the respective branches.

**Kasturba  
Gandhi  
National  
Memorial  
Trust**

In pursuance of its objective of creating a body of women welfare workers, who would dedicate their lives for the service of the poor and needy women and children of the villages, the Trust at first directed its attention mainly towards the training of personnel as *Balawadi* teachers, Gramasevikas, Midwives, Craft workers, etc., and starting of Gramaseva Centres in villages managed by such trained personnel. The first training camp in this regard was conducted during 1945-46, first at Paduvarahalli near Mysore and later at Kengeri Gurukula. The subsequent camps were conducted at Arsikere and other places. In the meantime, the Central Social Welfare Board also entrusted to the Trust the responsibility of training the Gramasevikas required by it, for which purpose a building costing about Rs. 60,000 was constructed at the Kasturbagram, Arsikere, with the finances of the Board. Thus, in all, about fifteen training camps of the duration of two years were conducted by the Mysore State Branch of the Trust, training, in all, about 610 Gramasevikas.

As each batch of Gramasevikas was trained, Gramaseva Centres, each of which was manned by a Gramasevika, a Midwife and a helper, were opened at different rural centres. Although as many as 73 such centres, including eight in Hassan district, were

opened in various parts of the State, it is reported that only 18 of them are now (1970) working, all the remaining centres having been closed down either for want of proper response from the villagers or for want of enough funds. Of these 18 centres, 13 are provided with buildings of their own, constructed with the generous help of the people of the villages, while the rest are housed in rent-free buildings. Some of the centres are also provided with agricultural lands, donated either by Government or by philanthropic villagers. In all, the Mysore State Branch of the Trust owns about 400 acres of agricultural lands in various parts of the State. The main activities of these Gramaseva Centres are: running of *Balawadies* or *Shishuviharas*, imparting instruction in spinning, weaving, sewing, knitting and such other crafts and dispensing of medicines for ordinary ailments, conducting of adult education classes for women, organising cultural activities and undertaking relief works in times of distress like famine, floods, etc. Thousands of women in and around these centres are understood to have availed of the various services provided by them in one way or the other.

#### **Kasturbagram**

The Kasturbagram near Arsikere, the headquarters of the Mysore State Branch of the Trust, is located in a vast area of about 90 acres, granted by the State Government, free of cost, in 1948. This entire area is being utilised for raising different kinds of crops like coconut, paddy and some other dry crops. About 1,200 coconut plants have been raised and an intensive method of paddy cultivation is being adopted with the help of Japanese volunteers. For purposes of irrigation, four wells have been dug out and two electric pumpsets are being installed. The Trust was also running a residential *Kanyavidyalaya*, a *Balawadi*, an Industrial School and a Medical Centre at the place. They are said to have since ceased working. A two-year condensed course of S.S.L.C. for about 25 girls was conducted by the Trust recently. The inmates of Kasturbagram are not paid any salary. Only food and other necessaries and a little pocket money are provided. All of them mess together, work collectively and hold congregational prayers.

An urban Pilot Welfare Extension Project has also been functioning at Hassan under the auspices of the Kasturba Trust since 1959. Under this project, two *Balawadies* are being run in the town, one at the Sweepers Colony and another at the Harijan Colony. In the craft sections started under the project, about 30 women of these colonies are being imparted training in crafts like tailoring, embroidery, knitting, etc. The children, numbering about 100, of the *Balawadies* are provided with free mid-day meals with the help of the food-stuffs provided by the National Christian Association.



The Mysore State Branch of the Kasturba Trust has been getting financial assistance from its central office at Indore as well as from the Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi, for conducting its various activities. It is stated that as the Mysore quota of the Kasturba Trust Fund has already been exhausted, the assistance that it now gets from the Central Trust Fund is meagre *vis-a-vis* the annual estimated expenditure of about Rs. 60,000 of the State Branch for maintaining its existing institutions and activities. However, efforts are being made to make up this deficiency from the income of the agricultural lands at its disposal and to continue the present services of the Trust.

Sri Kempuchaluvajammanniyavaru Mahila Samaja, Hassan, was established on the 2nd October 1932 by the concerted efforts of the leading ladies of the town, and it was registered on the 3rd April 1940. The Samaja aims at improving the social welfare of women. It provides training to them in arts and crafts. It is managed by a committee of thirteen members which includes a president, two vice-presidents and a secretary. There were twenty-five members on the rolls, each paying a monthly subscription of Rs. 1.50, in 1969. The Samaja is getting an annual grant of Rs. 1,000 from the Government and Rs. 40 per month from the local Municipality. Besides, it has rented out one of its buildings to a co-operative society for a monthly rent of Rs. 125. The Samaja is said to possess assets worth about Rs. 80,000.

**Sri Kempuchaluvajammanniyavaru Mahila Samaja, Hassan**

The institution, which is located in the Krishnarajapuram Extension, has been running a *Shishuvihar*, with a strength of over one hundred children under the charge of three trained teachers. The Samaja is also running another *Shishuvihar* at Aduvalli, a suburb of Hassan town. About 45 children were attending this *Shishuvihar* during 1969. It was also running a free Hindi class and classes in music and dance, which are reported to have been discontinued since a few years. However, other classes for teaching crafts like tailoring, cutting, embroidery, cross-stitching, wire-work, etc., are being conducted; about 70 women were attending these classes during 1969. The institution has also conducted condensed courses for VII Standard and S.S.L.C. Examinations for the benefit of widows and poor women.

The Vani Mahila Samaja, Arsikere, was started in the year 1939. Its objects are mainly to promote the welfare of women and children and to improve their social and educational standards. It is managed by a committee consisting of a president, a vice-president, a secretary and five other elected members.

**Vani Mahila Samaja, Arsikere**

Handicrafts such as tailoring, needle-work and embroidery are taught in the institution for which a small fee is charged. It is also conducting a training course in Ambar Charaka spinning.

Hindi and music classes are also regularly held. There is also a *Balawadi* with about 150 children on its rolls. The Samaja is getting grants both from the Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi, and the State Board, and has a building of its own which costs about Rs. 20,000.

**Shankaripura  
Mahila Mandali,  
Hassan**

The Shankaripura Mahila Mandali, Hassan, was started on the 8th December 1954, with the main object of improving the social and economic conditions of women of the place. The functions of the Mandali are managed by a committee consisting of a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer and seven other members. The funds required for the activities of the institution are raised by subscriptions, fees and donations from the public. Besides, it gets grants from the Mysore State Social Welfare Board and the Department of Industries and Commerce. There were about forty members on the rolls of the institution during 1969.

The Mandali is running classes for the benefit of women, in which tailoring, hand-embroidery, bead-work and plastic wire-work are taught. In addition, machine-knitting and machine-embroidery have also been introduced recently. Dance and music classes are also being conducted for the benefit of children. A library containing many English and Kannada books is maintained for the benefit of the members. The Mandali has also started separate clubs for young girls and boys wherein they engage themselves in recreational activities like games of different kinds and also in cultural activities like dramas, lectures, etc.

**Mahila Samaja,  
Sakleshpur**

The Mahila Samaja, Sakleshpur, a women's welfare institution, was established in the year 1940, with the main object of promoting the social, cultural and economic well-being of the women of the place. There is a managing committee to look after the affairs of the institution, which has about 50 general members. The Samaja is also running a *Shishuvihar*, which had about 120 children on its rolls during 1969-70. A tailoring centre has also been attached to the institution and there were about 35 women undergoing training in tailoring at this centre. While the tailoring centre has a tailoring mistress, the *Shishuvihar* has three lady teachers. The Samaja is housed in its own building constructed at a cost of about Rs. 40,000 raised by way of donations from the public. The Samaja is getting an annual grant from the Government through the Department of Industries and Commerce.

**Uma Mahila  
Mandali,  
Kowshika**

The Uma Mahila Mandali, Kowshika, in Hassan taluk, was started in May 1955 as an adjunct to the Project Implementing Committee, Shantigrama, of the State Social Welfare Board, and it continued to function as a social welfare centre till the end of

December 1960. The committee decided in May 1960 that this centre should be handed over to the control of the village panchayat and that the panchayat should contribute 25 per cent of the estimated expenditure, the remaining 75 per cent being borne by the Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi. Accordingly, the Uma Mahila Mandali came into independent existence in May 1960 with a managing committee of eleven elected members, with the primary object of improving the economic, cultural and educational welfare of the women of the area. The Mahila Mandali has been running a *Balawadi* with about sixty children on its rolls. It is also conducting craft classes for the benefit of women.

The Gayathri Seva Mandir, Hassan, was started on the 8th November 1955. The aims and objects of this welfare institution are to train women in running nursery schools, serve the community in general through social welfare activities, and educate adult women-folk in sewing, knitting, cutting, embroidery and other useful crafts. It is running a nursery school, a primary school, a craft class, and classes in music, dance and Hindi. There were about eighty children each in the nursery and Hindi classes, fifteen students in the music and dance classes and thirty trainees in the tailoring class in the year 1968. There are seven sewing machines. A small fee of one rupee per month is levied to meet the establishment charges, but poor students are exempted from payment of this fee. The institution is also running a *gamaka* class and 25 students were being trained in that art. The Seva Mandir is getting an annual equipment grant of Rs. 300 from the Industries Department and monthly grants of Rs. 36 and Rs. 32 from the Social Welfare Board and the Education Department respectively. It is managed by a committee of thirteen members including a president, a vice-president and a secretary.

Gayathri Seva  
Mandir, Hassan

The Akkana Balaga, Hassan, was started in the year 1957. Its main object, like that of the other similar institutions, is to promote the welfare of women and children. It is managed by a committee of thirteen members including a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a joint-secretary and a treasurer. There were about eighty members in the institution during 1969, each paying a monthly subscription of one rupee.

Akkana Balaga,  
Hassan

The institution gets grants-in-aid from the Government, the Social Welfare Board and the local Municipality. It was running a *Balawadi* with a strength of about 100 children, and a tailoring and embroidery class with a strength of twenty five students in the year 1969. The institution has also made arrangements for teaching additional crafts, music and dance. A noteworthy feature of its activities is the collection of new clothes by going from house to house and distributing them among the poor and the needy children on days of important festivals like *Deepavali*

and *Yugadi*. The institution is housed in its own building constructed recently at a cost of about Rs. 35,000.

**Parvathi Mahila  
Samaja,  
Arsikere**

The Parvathi Mahila Samaja, Arsikere, another women's welfare institution, was established in May 1959 at the initiative of some progressive-minded lady members of the town. The membership of the Samaja during 1969 was about 60 and it was being managed by a managing committee of eight members. The institution has been imparting training in crafts like tailoring, embroidery, knitting, etc., to interested women so that they may be in a position to supplement their income after the completion of their training. About 35 women were undergoing training in these crafts during 1969. The Samaja is housed in its own building put up at a cost of about Rs. 20,000. In addition to getting an annual grant from the Government, the institution also raises public contributions and donations for financing its activities.

**Geetha Mahila  
Samaja,  
Banavara**

The Geetha Mahila Samaja, Banavara, was started in the year 1958 with the main object of improving the social and cultural welfare of women and children and to provide education to them in arts and crafts. It is managed by a committee consisting of thirteen elected members. The Samaja is getting grants both from the Government and the State Social Welfare Board. The institution is running a *Shishuvihar* for children and also classes in Hindi, music, tailoring and embroidery. During 1967-68, there were about 40 children in the *Shishuvihar*, 25 girls in Hindi and music classes and 15 girls in the tailoring class. There were about 30 members in the Samaja, each paying a monthly subscription of one rupee.

**Savithri Mahila  
Mandali,  
Salagame**

The Savithri Mahila Mandali, Salagame, in Hassan taluk, was started on the 1st April 1961. Its main objects are the improvement of the social, physical, cultural and educational well-being of women and children of the area. The affairs of the Mandali are managed by a committee of eleven elected members which included a president, a vice-president, a treasurer and a secretary. The funds for the institution are raised by means of subscriptions and donations both in cash and kind. Besides, the institution also receives grants from the Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi. There were about 150 members on the rolls of the Mandali in 1969. Classes are held for the benefit of the members in cutting and tailoring. A *Balawadi* class is also being conducted for children between three and five years of age. During 1969, there were about 50 children in the *Balawadi* and 15 trainees in the tailoring and cutting classes.

**Lakshmi  
Mahila Mandali,  
Nuggihalli**

The Lakshmi Mahila Mandali, Nuggihalli, in Channarayana taluk, is of recent origin, having been started in December 1968, at the initiative of the ladies of the place. The Mandali

aims at providing amenities and opportunities for the progress of young children, boys and girls, by starting nursery classes, classes for teaching tailoring, embroidery, music, Hindi, etc. So far, the institution has been able to start music, tailoring and embroidery classes. During 1969, there were about forty students in the music and other classes of the institution. A *Shishuvihar* is proposed to be started in the near future. The institution is managed by a committee consisting of eight members. Besides, there are about thirty other members in the Mandali, paying a prescribed membership fee every month. Donations by the philanthropic public is the main source of revenue of the institution for the present.

Started in February 1958, the Group Social Service Centre, Balughatta, in Channarayapatna taluk, is working for the amelioration of women and children living in rural areas. The centre is catering to the needs of about thirty villages, situated within a radius of three miles. It has been running a *Balawadi*, with about thirty children on its rolls. A craft class has been opened for the benefit of women, who are trained in spinning, knitting, embroidery and other useful handicrafts. The women in the surrounding villages have been benefited by the activities of this centre. Besides handicrafts, provision has also been made for indoor and outdoor games to the members of the institution.

The Adhyatma Prakasha Karyalaya, Holenarsipur, is a charitable institution founded by Swami Satchidananda Saraswati. It was first established in 1920 at Bangalore and was later shifted to Holenarsipur in 1935. The main object of the institution is to promote the correct study and practice of *adhyatma vidya*, in its universal aspects, especially as revealed in the Upanishads and allied literature. In pursuance of this objective, the institution has so far published about 180 books in Kannada, Sanskrit and English on spiritual subjects. It also arranges periodically discussions, discourses and public lectures on such subjects. A Vedanta College is also being maintained by the institution with the object of training up model students devoted to the spread of Vedantic ideas, besides publishing a Kannada monthly journal called the *Adhyatma Prakasha*, which contains articles on *jnana*, *bhakti* and *vairagya*. It maintains also a free reading room and a library for the use of the public and has also a printing press of its own for printing its various publications.

The institution has its own buildings and other property including gifted lands. Sri Jayachamaraja Wodeyar, the Ex-Maharaja of Mysore, is the *Paripalaka* (protector) of the institution. The various activities of the institution are conducted, among other things, with the help of donations and contributions received from philanthropists and other charitably disposed

persons. The affairs of the institution are administered by a working committee consisting of about a dozen members. It has been recently registered as a private trust.

**Rotary Club,  
Hassan**

The Rotary Club, Hassan, was chartered in the year 1954, being sponsored by the Rotary Club, Mysore. From the time of its inception, the Club has been striving to translate its motto—"service above self—he profits most who serves best", into action. It is essentially a service organisation covering four avenues of service, namely, club service, vocational service, community service and international service. It is managed by a Board of nine Directors which includes a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer and a sergeant-at-arms. There is a director for each of the four avenues of service. There were thirty-eight members on the rolls of the institution during 1969. There are four kinds of membership, namely, active, senior active, past service and honorary. The first three categories are required to pay an admission fee of thirty rupees and an annual subscription of rupees sixty. In addition to membership fees, donations are collected from the public for specific purposes.

The Club has donated a sum of Rs. 50,000 for the establishment of a Tuberculosis Clinic and a ward of 36 beds at Hassan, a sum of Rs. 5,000 for the construction of a maternity ward in the Redfern Memorial Hospital at Hassan, and another sum of Rs. 5,000 for the Malnad College of Engineering at Hassan. It has set up a *Bala Mandir* in the George V Coronation Institute, Hassan, for the benefit of children, and has opened two Book-Banks, one in the Malnad College of Engineering and the other in the Smt. L. V. Polytechnic, Hassan. During 1963-64, it organised a Drug Bank and a free weekly dispensary at Kattaya in Hassan taluk. Among the other activities of the institution, mention may be made of the free distribution of milk powder to poor school children, and the help it rendered in running a mid-day meal scheme in the schools. The Club has also donated a radio set to the young farmers of Janiwar village in Hassan taluk. It has also recently undertaken a triple antigen scheme for the benefit of children between the ages of three and five.

As a maiden effort, the Club took up community service at Boovanahalli in Hassan taluk in the year 1954. It has now become a model village with a good drainage system, electricity and water supply. The Club selects a village every year for community service. The Rotarians thus selected two more villages, Kasturavalli and Uddur, also in Hassan taluk, and worked with the villagers to instil in them a spirit of service and equality. The Club has an income of about Rs. 8,000 every year by way of membership fees, donations and contributions and a bulk of this amount is spent on various schemes of service to the community.

The Rotary Club, Hassan, was inaugurated on the 3rd July 1960 on the initiative and with the assistance of the Rotary Club, Hassan. The membership of this Club is open only to women. From the time of its inception, the Club has been rendering its service to the community with the co-operation of the Rotary Club, Hassan. It is also a service organisation and is, in many ways, supplementing the efforts of the Rotary Club in most of its undertakings. The affairs of this institution are managed by a Board of six Directors which includes a president, a vice-president, a secretary and a treasurer.

A number of dance recitals and other entertainments have been got up by the Club on various occasions, and especially in connection with the celebration of important national festivals. An important service which this institution is rendering is the collection of new clothes from persons and their distribution among the poor and needy children on important festival days. The Rotary Club also visit hospitals and distribute medicines and drugs to needy patients.

The Rotary Club, Sakleshpur, was established in the year 1959, having been sponsored by the Rotary Club, Hassan, with the main object of encouraging and fostering the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise. There are about 35 members in the Club and its activities are managed by a governing body consisting of a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a joint-secretary, a treasurer, four directors and a sergeant-at-arms. Among the important activities of the Club may be mentioned the adoption of Kumbardi village near Sakleshpur for improvement as a model village, establishment of a Blood Bank and donation of a Resuscitator to the local Crawford Hospital, construction of a bus shelter in the town, immunisation of children with triple antigen and polio, conducting of eye-operation camps, distribution of fruits to the patients of the local hospital on national holidays like Independence Day and Republic Day and conducting of inter-high school debates and organisation of seminars. Besides, during 1968-69, the Club completed the construction of a girls' primary school in the town at a cost of about Rs. 25,000. It has also undertaken the construction of a Rotary Shuttle-Cock Hall. While the internal activities of the Club are carried on with the help of the money subscriptions of the members, the external services are undertaken with the help of public contributions and donations.

The Rotary Club, Arsikere, was also established during the year 1959, with the object of fostering the ideal of service. The membership of the Club during 1969 was only about twenty. The institution has a governing body and its activities are financed

from members' subscriptions and public contributions. Construction of a T.B. ward and supply of an X-Ray plant to the local hospital, starting of a Book-Bank and construction of additional class rooms to the local Government High School have been among the important activities and achievements of the Club so far.

**Junior  
Chamber.  
Hassan**

The Hassan Junior Chamber, which is affiliated to the Indian Chamber, is of recent origin having been inaugurated in May 1970, its sponsors being the Shimoga Junior Chamber. There were 45 members on the rolls of the chamber and its activities were being managed by a Board of Directors consisting of a president, two vice-presidents, a secretary, a joint-secretary, a treasurer and four other directors. Among the important activities undertaken by this institution during the year (1970), was the institution of some scholarships benefiting about 25 students to pay their examination fee, etc.

**Bharat Sevak  
Samaj, Hassan**

Another important voluntary social service organisation in the district is the branch of the All-India Bharat Sevak Samaj. The various activities of the Samaj organised throughout the district are guided and directed by an executive committee including a chairman, a vice-chairman and a secretary. In addition, there are associate members, representing various institutions. One of the major activities of the Samaj is the holding of social service camps for students, youths and villages. Most of these camps were held in the National Extension Service Blocks and were conducted during the summer and Christmas holidays. Manual labour formed an important item of work at these camps.

**Bharat Scouts  
and Guides,  
Hassan**

The Bharat Scouts and Guides, Hassan, is a branch of the All-India body. Like all other branches, the Hassan branch also trains its members, both boy-scouts and girl-guides, in voluntary service and inculcates a sense of discipline in them. It renders help to the public when required, at public meetings, functions, fairs and the like. During 1970, there were three cub packs with 72 cubs, 16 scout troops with 480 scouts and four guide companies with 102 guides. There is also a District Scout Association at Hassan.

**Church of  
South India  
Institutions**

The Church of South India organisation had its origin in a small boarding school founded in 1856 under the auspices of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society, but it was only during the great famine of 1876-77 that it attained any size of importance, when the boarding institution was made a centre for the care and rehabilitation of starving children. When the famine was over, many children had no refuge other than the Mission.

This institution which, in 1947, was incorporated together with all the work of the Methodist Mission in the Church of South



India (a union of Protestant Churches in South India), is run by a managing committee of eight members set up under the constitution of the Mysore Diocese of the Church of South India, and is under the control of the Education Committee of the Mysore Diocesan Council of the Church of South India. The aims of the institution, among other things, are to run a home for orphans and poor children, to provide facilities by which these children may qualify themselves in such crafts or occupations as may from time to time be taught in the institutions and to give also educational and medical facilities to them. There were about a hundred children who were getting free boarding and lodging facilities in the year 1968. The institution is also running a New Type Middle School with a trained staff. Another important achievement of the institution was the establishment, in the year 1904, of the Redfern Memorial Hospital at Hassan in memory of Mr. Ernest William Redfern, a Wesleyan Missionary, who worked in Hassan for a period of five years from 1897 to 1901. This hospital is well equipped and has a qualified staff (see Chapter XVI).

The religious body of sisters belonging to the congregation of the "Sisters of Charity", whose mother organisation is in Milan, Italy, is running the St. Philomena's convent schools in Hassan providing nursery, primary and secondary education. The community of sisters is also running an orphanage and taking care of destitute children, as also a free boarding and lodging home for the benefit of poor students coming from distant villages for their education.

**Catholic  
Mission  
institutions**

The Maruthi Youth Club, Kodihalli, in Holenarsipur taluk, is of recent origin, having been established in July 1970. The aims of the Youth Club are undertaking of rural development programmes, encouragement of sports and games, organising of library service and cultural activities and the like. There are about 55 members in the club who pay the prescribed membership fee towards its functioning. Voluntary contributions are also raised from the public for augmenting the resources of the club, in addition to receipt of a grant from the State Government. There is a managing committee to look after the affairs of the club which consists of a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer and a few other members. The members of the club have undertaken a few road works through *shramadan*, as also construction of pit-wells for providing drinking water to men and also cattle.

**Maruthi Youth  
Club, Kodihalli**

A Youth Association has been formed at Sakleshpur recently, *i.e.*, during September 1970, by a band of enthusiastic youth of the place. The main object of the Association is to develop qualities of leadership among the youth and train them for constructive work. For the present, the Association is housed in

**Youth  
Association,  
Sakleshpur**

the local Cosmopolitan Club. Its activities are looked after by a managing committee headed by a president. Among the other office-bearers are a vice-president, a secretary and a joint-secretary.

There are a number of other similar institutions also spread over in the various parts of the district, mostly in the towns and bigger villages, which are striving for the social, cultural, educational and economic uplift of the various sections of the society in their own humble way. There are also *Mathas* belonging to different religious denominations, which also seek to promote social, cultural and religious objectives. Many Mahila Samajas, Recreation Clubs, Youth Clubs, Radio Rural Forums and the like have come up in recent years, especially in the rural areas, thus adding lustre and strength to the social fabric of the district (*See also Chapter XV*).

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