



***Irrigation Projects as a Solution to Regional Disparity:
A Strategic Review of North Karnataka***

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Abstract:

North Karnataka has long experienced significant socio-economic disparities compared to the more developed southern regions of the state. These inequalities stem from the region's reliance on an agrarian economy, limited water resources, and dependence on rain-fed agriculture. This article offers a strategic review of irrigation projects in North Karnataka, evaluating their potential to reduce these regional disparities. It examines the impact of major initiatives like the Upper Krishna Project on agricultural productivity, rural livelihoods, and overall socio-economic progress. Using secondary data from government reports and case studies, the article assesses how irrigation projects have

addressed regional inequality. Challenges such as political will, funding, and water management are also discussed. The study concludes that while irrigation projects hold promise for mitigating regional disparities, their success hinges on better governance, efficient resource allocation, and continuous investment. Policy recommendations are offered to enhance the impact of irrigation infrastructure on equitable development in North Karnataka.

Key Words:

Irrigation Projects, Regional Disparity, North Karnataka, Upper Krishna Project, Water Management, Socio-Economic Development.

