

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

Hassan district is located on the border of the Western Ghats, in the southern part of Karnataka state. It is located between 12° 30' and 13° 35' North latitude and 75° 15' and 76° 40' East longitude. Hassan town is the district headquarters and the district is divided into eight taluks viz. Alur, Arkalgud, Arsikere, Belur, Channarayapatna, Hassan, Holenarsipura and Sakleshpur. The major part of the district is in Cauvery main basin drained by Cauvery, Hemavathy and Yagachi rivers which flow towards east to join the Bay of Bengal.

Agriculture is the main activity of the people in the district. The net sown area comprises 55% of the total geographical area. Paddy, ragi, jowar, groundnut and pulses are the important agricultural crops and coffee and areca nut are the main horticulture crops. About 20.5% of the net sown area is irrigated by surface water (11.4%) and ground water (9.1%) sources. Hemavathy reservoir is a major irrigation project and Yagachi is a medium Irrigation Project in the district.

Hassan District is located in semiarid zone with large variation in rainfall and stream network distribution. Around 30 % of area towards west lies in western ghat receiving heavy rainfall and rest of the area in district is consider as dry zone. List of current lift irrigation project procured from the Minor and Major irrigation department of Hassan district, as per the list there are 58 lift irrigation projects, but only few of them are working and few of them are partially working. Majority of the lift irrigation system given in the list are not functioning even with huge investment of money due to various reasons. There is a regional imbalance in the distribution of lift irrigation project in the district. With these facts, it is required to analyze the present condition of the lift irrigation in the district with the intention of improve the efficiency from its present existing condition.