

## An Analysis of Kannada Language Newspapers, Magazines and Journals: 2008-2017

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**Abstract** – The paper presents the analysis of Kannada language newspapers, magazines and journals published during the 2008-2017 with help of Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) database is controlled by The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Major findings are highest 13.23% publications published in 2012, following 11.85, 11.12% in 2014 and 2011 year, 10.97% in 2015, 10.90% in 2009, 10.17% in 2016, 10.38% in 2013 year published. Among 2843 publications, majority 46.4% monthly publications, 20.30% of the publications fortnight, 15.30% weekly publications, 14.46% daily publications. Among 30 districts, majority 26.70% of the publications published in Bangalore and 14.03% in Bengaluru urban district, and least 0.28% published in Vijayapura (Bijapur) district. It is important to study the Kannada literature publications for identifying the major developments and growth of the Kannada literature publications of Annual, Bi-Monthly, Daily, Daily Evening, Fortnightly, Four Monthly, Half Yearly, Monthly, Quarterly and Weekly's were analysed in the study.

**Keywords:** Kannda language publications, Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI), Journalism, Daily newspapers, Magazines, Journals, Bibliometric studies.

### Introduction

Information is an important element in every sector of life, be it social, economic, political, educational, industrial and technical development. In the present world, information is a very valuable commodity. Newspapers, magazines and journals are a mirror or replica of day today developments and changes of human life, society, environment, business, sports, entertainment, politics, science, editorial, advice, food, etc. Newspapers have a long tradition and centuries of experience behind today's newspaper design. Newspapers are a vital source of information in enlightened societies providing the most recent information to readers. Newspapers serve various purposes for different categories of users. A newspaper is a publication printed on paper and issued regularly, usually once a day or once a week. It gives information and opinions about current events and news. The world's first Newspaper was the German-language newspaper 'The Relation' (Relation aller Furnemmen and gedencckwurdigen historian). Published by Johann Carolus, in Strasbourg, in 1605

### Newspaper in India

Man is a social animal and every human being has an unquenchable thirst to communicate. Now a day's man has evolved various systems and technologies for communication. From the development of language and scripts to printing and finally to the world-wide-web of the internet, we have developed an impressive array of communication systems. With the help of these systems only, we are able to send messages instant across vast distances and arouse similar meanings in millions of people simultaneously. Be it newspapers, magazines, books,

radio, television etc. Newspaper can be defined as a printed means of conveying current information. Today the newspaper in India is a proud institution of our society. While working as a vehicle of persuasion its basic function is to provide, information, education and entertainment. It also plays the role of 'watch dog' of the society.

The first newspaper in India was published on 29 January, 1780 by James Augustus Hicky under the British Raj and its name was 'The Bengal Gazette'. It was also called as 'Calcutta General Advertiser' and people simply remember it as 'Hicky's Gazette'. It was very small two sheet weekly newspaper. And the paper was filled with lots of advertisements with the name- The Calcutta General Advertiser. In fact, its front page was filled with advertisements only.

In 1785, Richard Johnson in Madras brought out 'Madras Courier' in English language. R. William's 'Madras Gazette' in 1795 and Humphrey's 'India Herald' in 1796.

In Bombay first newspaper was 'Bombay Herald' in 1789, 'Bombay Courier' in 1789 and 'Bombay Gazette' in 1791.

### **Freedom of press**

From the trials of Tilak in 1897 and 1908, Mahatma Gandhi in 1922, Vernacular Press Act of 1878, the Newspapers Incitement to offences Act of 1908, the Indian Press Act 1931, the Press Objectionable Matter Act of 1951, the Newspaper Price and Page Act of 1956 bear testimony of the suppressive and oppressive measures taken against the Indian newspapers. However, all these suppressions and oppression reached brutal heights during the 1975-77 Emergency regime of Indira Gandhi. But later the conditions of Press changed and reached to its zenith. Freedom of the press is a very important and also news-media, press enjoys greater freedom in a democratic country.

### **Current scenario and future of newspaper**

As television and the new media, internet emerges, it is said that newspapers are becoming irrelevant in terms of providing the latest news. But now a day's many newspapers in India and in the world to some extent started providing analysis of news as well. Daily newspapers like Times of India, The Hindu, Hindustan Times, The Statesman, Economic Times, The Tribune, Dainik Jagran, Dainik Bhaskar, Amar Ujala, etc. have become the most circulated newspapers in the country.

We all know that newspaper acts as an important check on Government and Administrators plans and policies. Press also raise their voice if anything went wrong in the society. They raise voice against dictatorship, corruption and malpractices. They also keep us informed of what is happening in the country. It plays a vital role in strengthening the sovereignty and integrity of a nation. It also makes us aware of the problems faced by the people.

### **Registrar of Newspapers /Magazine for India (RNI)**

The Office of the Registrar of Newspapers for India, more popularly known as RNI came into being on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1956, on the recommendation of the First Press Commission in 1953 and by amending the Press and Registration of Books Act 1867 is the primary statute that governs and regulates the Publication of books, newspapers and magazines. The office of the Registrar of

Newspapers for India (RNI) is controlled by The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and it is also responsible for framing rules under the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867. So, anybody who's willing to start a Newspaper or Magazine, Journals, etc. will have to seek prior approval of RNI. The Regional offices of RNI are in Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.

Mangaluru Samachara or Mangalooru Samachara which literally means "The news of Mangalore" is the first newspaper published in Kannada. It was produced by a German, Rev. Hermann Friedrich Mögling of the Basel Mission beginning in 1843. The paper was printed using stone slabs, which exist to this day in the Basel Mission Printing Press in Balmatta, Mangalore. It was a very difficult task to publish a newspaper at that time because there was no simple way of communicating news and other written words to the general public. (Wikipedia)

The RNI's figures, which are supposed to include every newspaper in the country, are considered to be lustily inflated. In 1991, the RNI reported total circulation of Kannada dailies at 6,78,000. In the same year, the four Kannada dailies were members of the Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC), recorded combined circulations of 4,73,000. The proportion was low by national standards, placing Kannada seventh among 10 major languages. Jeffrey, Robin (1997) In 1991, urbanisation in Karnataka at 37 percent was considerably higher than the all-India average and literacy, Karnataka's peculiar history, may have been as much a hindrance to the development Kannada newspapers as a propellant for a language to flourish in the sense that people write and read it, that it has a publication industry and that its speakers and readers reproduce themselves, it needs the support of the apparatus of a modern state. Perhaps the proposition should be put another way; once the apparatus of a modern state is inspirable, languages that lack its support are vulnerable. Languages that have such support will adopt to the market and the capitalism that such states nurture. Newspapers are probably the single-most important vehicle in the process, in which language moves from being diverse, momentary speech to becoming a standardized preserver and propagator of the law and the commerce that states require.

### **Review of Literature:**

Prabha Basavaraj Swamy and Onkargouda Kakade (2015). Study explores the rural area, small and medium newspapers bridge between the society and concerned government. Small and medium newspapers commenced with an intension to ignite the freedom fire in people mind in the pre-independence India. They are playing momentous role in the development of nation in post independence India also. Development of rural area can drive the nation in the path of development in all the sectors. Andolana, Suddimoola, Prajapragati and Hasirukrantiare the small and medium newspapers of Karnataka state from Raichur, Mysore, Tumkur, Belgaum districts. Development of rural area can drive the nation in the path of development in all the sectors. This investigation is to know the role of these four kannada small and medium newspapers in covering developmental issues.

The first weekly Mangalore Samachar, started in 1843 by Basel Mission, Germany Missionary in Mangalore. After that it was shifted to Bellary where it did not survive for a long time and ceased to exist. (Karnataka State Gazetteer, Journalism in Karnataka, 1986, pp. 930-970))

Jeffrey, Robin (1997) study explores the growth of Bangalore since 1970s and the peculiar history of Karnataka may have been as much hindrances as propellants to the development of Kannada newspapers. The circulation of daily newspapers in all languages trebled between 1976 and 1992 from 9.3 million to 28.1 million and the dailies-per-thousand people ratio doubled - from 15 daily newspapers per 1,000 people to 32 per 1,000. Regular reading of something called "news" both indicates and causes change. Expansion of competing newspapers clearly signals the vitality and growth of capitalism: newspapers have owners and owners must have advertisers. The changes of the past 20 years are obvious yet largely unstudied.

### Objectives of the study

- To know the year-wise growth of publications
- To know the periodicity-wise of Kannada publications
- To know the district-wise published publications

### Methodology

The study intended to know the Kannada language daily newspapers, magazines and journals published in India with the help of RNI database, there were 2843 publication records during the 2008 to 2017, all the data was captured and analyzed with MS Excel spreadsheet and presented in the tables.

### Data analysis and interpretation

**Table-1: Year-wise distribution of publications**

S.No.	Year	No. of publications	Percentage
1	2008	144	5.07
2	2009	310	10.90
3	2010	248	8.72
4	2011	316	11.12
5	2012	376	13.23
6	2013	295	10.38
7	2014	337	11.85
8	2015	312	10.97
9	2016	289	10.17
10	2017	216	7.60
<b>Total</b>		<b>2843</b>	<b>100</b>

Table-1 shows the year-wise distribution of publications, highest 13.23% publications published in 2012, following 11.85, 11.12% in 2014 and 2011 year, 10.97% in 2015, 10.90% in 2009, 10.17% in 2016, 10.38% in 2013 year published and least 7.60% in 2017 with little variation 5.07% published in 2008 year, and it presented in figure.1

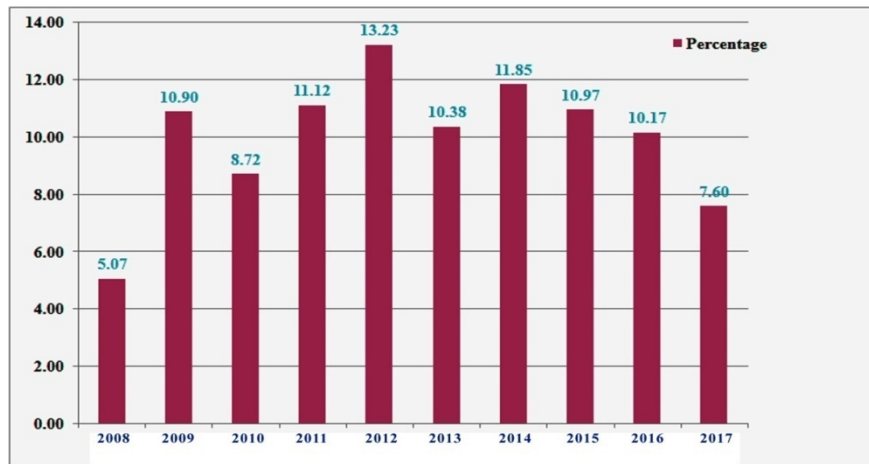


Figure.1: Year-wise distribution

Table-2: Periodicity-wise publications

Periodicity	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total	Percentage
Annual										1	1	0.04
Bi-Monthly	1	2	4	3	3	2	3		4	6	28	0.98
Daily	21	40	34	55	50	39	36	64	49	23	411	14.46
Daily Evening		3	2	5	4	5	5	2	1	1	28	0.98
Fortnightly	35	68	69	72	85	57	70	39	56	26	577	20.30
Four Monthly										1	1	0.04
Half Yearly		1									1	0.04
Monthly	61	132	109	126	172	143	174	162	131	116	1326	46.64
Quarterly	1	3	3	5	5	2	3	3	3	5	33	1.16
Weekly	25	61	27	50	56	46	46	42	45	37	435	15.30
Other Periodicity					1	1					2	0.07
Total	144	310	248	316	376	295	337	312	289	216	2843	100

Table-2 illustrates the periodicity-wise publications, among 2843 publications, majority 46.4% monthly publications, 20.30% of the publications fortnight, 15.30% weekly publications, 14.46% daily publications, 1.16% quarterly, 0.98% bi-monthly and daily evening, 0.07% other periodicity and 0.04% annual, four monthly and half yearly publications. The highest publication 376 published in 2012.

Table-3: District-wise publication

Districts & States	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total	Percentage
Bagalkot	5	5	10	11	27	13	12	14	17	12	126	4.43
Ballari (Bellari)	1	7	3	2	1	5	5	2	2	4	32	1.13
Bangalore	7	41	37	108	155	131	162	117	1		759	26.70
Belagavi (Belgaum)	2	13	9	18	25	14	12	16	18	23	150	5.28
Bengaluru Rural		5	2	7	2	6	6	12	8	16	64	2.25
Bengaluru Urban	49	83	75					15	110	67	399	14.03
Bidar			2	3		3	6	4		1	19	0.67

Chamarajanagar			4	1	3	4	2	2	1		17	0.60
Chhikaballapur	2	9		8	6		2	3	3		33	1.16
Chikkamagaluru	4	12	7	18	14	6	9	8	2	7	87	3.06
Chitradurga	1	3	4	3	4	5	4	12	15	8	59	2.08
Dakshin Kannada	3	6	16	5		5	2	1	3	3	44	1.55
Davangere	9	17	6	10	14	14	19	13	8	13	123	4.33
Dharwad	7	10	8	14	8	1	4	11	4	5	72	2.53
Gadag		1	1	8	5	2	4	11	5	4	41	1.44
Hassan	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	4	6	3	28	0.98
Haveri		2		1		2	1		1	1	8	0.28
Kalaburagi (Gulbarga)	2	2	5	5	6	2	1	6	5	4	38	1.34
Kodagu	1	2	1		1	1	1	1			8	0.28
Kolar	4	6		11	2	3	3	7	11	3	50	1.76
Koppal	3	3	3	3	6	2	4	4	5	7	40	1.41
Mandya	11	11	8	11	16	1	2	8	10	2	80	2.81
Mysuru (Mysore)	10	21	9	12	12	11	17	9	15	8	124	4.36
Raichur	2	4	2	1	5	5	4	1	1	3	28	0.98
Ramanagara	3	10	5	18	8	8	8	2	4	6	72	2.53
Shivamogga (Shimoga)	3	6	7	7	8	5	12	2	7	5	62	2.18
Tumakuru (Tumkur)	2	4	4	7	14	17	10	4	11	3	76	2.67
Udupi	1	4	3	5	4	4	1	1	1		24	0.84
Uttara Kannada (Karwar)	2	1	1			1	7	1		2	15	0.53
Vijayapura (Bijapur)	6	15	13	16	18	18	12	16	12	2	128	4.50
Yadgiri			1				1	3	1	2	8	0.28
<b>States</b>												
Delhi		1	1		1			1	1		5	0.18
Goa					1						1	0.04
Gujarat		1									1	0.04
Maharashtra	1	2		1	4	2		1		1	12	0.42
Rajasthan					1						1	0.04
Tamilnadu		2		1	1	1	1		1	1	8	0.28
Telangana					1						1	0.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>2843</b>	<b>100</b>

There are 30 districts in Karnataka state, few Kannada literature publication published in out of Karnataka state also because of Kannada people who are living other states. Among 30 districts, majority 26.70% of the publications published in Bangalore and 14.03% in Bengaluru urban district, and least 0.28% published in Vijayapura (Bijapur) district. And very few publication published in Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu and Telangana states as shown in the table-3.

### Findings and Conclusion

For the last 10 years, there has been a substantial increasing and decreasing in the percentage in Kannada publications of Karnataka state. Highest 13.23% publications published in 2012, following 11.85, 11.12% in 2014 and 2011 year, 10.97% in 2015, 10.90% in 2009, 10.17% in 2016, 10.38% in 2013 year published. Among 2843 publications, majority 46.4% monthly publications, 20.30% of the publications fortnight, 15.30% weekly publications, 14.46% daily publications. Among 30 districts, majority 26.70% of the publications published in Bangalore and 14.03% in Bengaluru urban district, and least 0.28% published in Vijayapura (Bijapur) district. The Kannada press faced many difficulties even in the post-independence era.



It has extensively expanded amid several hardships. It is important to study the Kannada literature publications for identifying the major developments and growth of the Kannada literature publications of Annual, Bi-Monthly, Daily, Daily Evening, Fortnightly, Four Monthly, Half Yearly, Monthly, Quarterly and Weekly's were analysed in the study. The study covers the analysis Kannada publication during the 2008-2017.

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