

Mother Tongues in Mysore

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“A census is when the state connects to every individual... Finding out age, gender, economic status, religion and languages spoken yields information of another order, making it a treasure trove of findings...”

Seema Chishti, *The Hindu*, Sep. 23, 2022.

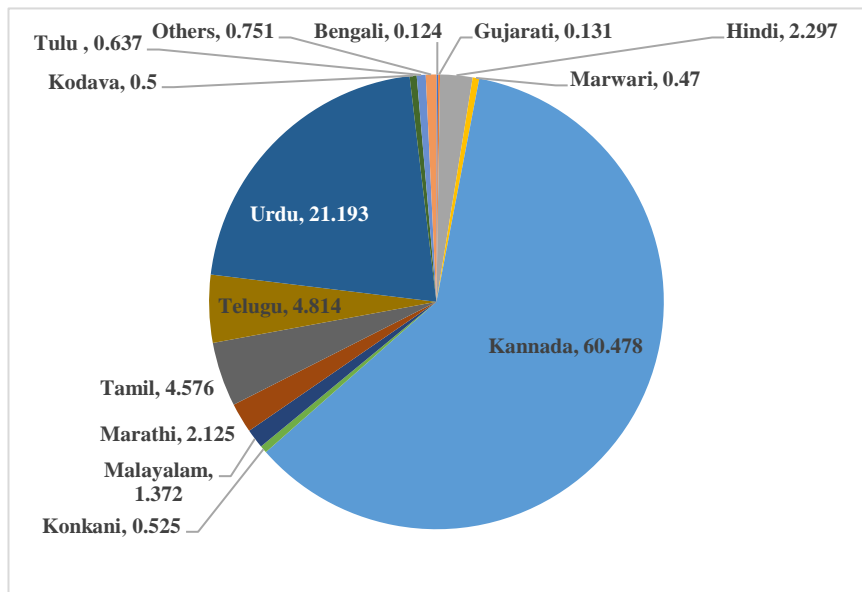
Karnataka, one of the states of India, has 5.05% of the population of the country. According to the 2011 Census, 38.67% of them live in urban areas and 61.33% live in the rural areas. The 2001 Census recorded 31.54% as the urban population. There is an increase of 7.4% in 2011. The state has five metropolitan regions. They are - Bangalore: T-85,20,435 (M-44,33,855; F-40,83,580); Mysore: T-9,90,900 (M-4,97,138; F-4,93,762); Mangalore: T-6,23,841(M-309380; F-314461; Belgaum: T-6,10,350 (M-308905; F-301445) and Gulbarga / Kalburgi- 5,43,147 (M-2,96,552; F-2,66,595). The Census of 2021 was not conducted. However, the Census has made a projection of population of Mysore Metropolitan region for 2023 as 13,65,000 and Mysore city as 12,29,000. The projection for metropolitan region in 2031 is 17,25,000 and for Mysore city, it is 15,52,000.

This paper intends to document and analyze the linguistic demography of one of the culturally and historically important cities of Karnataka. In the absence of actual mother tongue data for 2021 we have to bank upon 2011 census data only. It fairly provides a clear picture of mother tongue composition of Mysore. Here it is to be recorded that, Mysore Metropolitan Areas include - Alanahalli, Belvata, Bhogadi, Chamundibetta, Dattagalli, Hebbalu, Hinkal, Hutagalli, Lingambudi, Metagalli, Mysore, Sathagalli, and Srirampura. Table-1 and the chart illustrate the linguistic composition of Mysore.

Table-1

Mother Tongues in Mysore

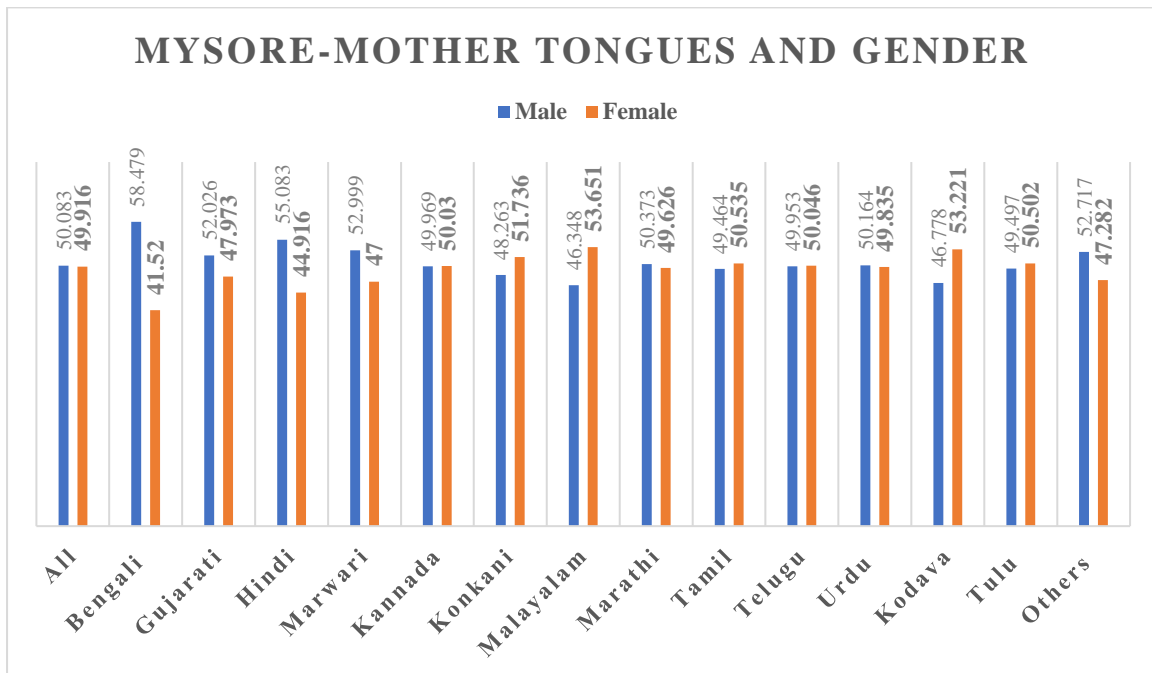
| Mother tongue | % |
|---------------|--------|
| Bengali | 0.124 |
| Gujarati | 0.131 |
| Hindi | 2.297 |
| Marwari | 0.470 |
| Kannada | 60.478 |
| Konkani | 0.525 |
| Malayalam | 1.372 |
| Marathi | 2.125 |
| Tamil | 4.576 |
| Telugu | 4.814 |
| Urdu | 21.193 |
| Kodava | 0.500 |



| | |
|---------------|-------|
| Tulu | 0.637 |
| Others | 0.751 |

Here 60.478% of the population has Kannada as their mother tongue, the Official Language of the State; 2.297% of the population has Hindi, an Official Language of the Union of India. Kodava and Tulu are the indigenous mother tongues of the State, and they are spoken by 0.500% and 0.637% of the population respectively. Karnataka is surrounded by Kerala, Telangana, Goa, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nādu. The Official languages of these states are minority mother tongues in Karnataka. They are spoken by Malayalam-1.372%, Telugu-4.814%, Konkani-0.525%, Marathi-2.125%, Tamil-4.576% speakers. It must be recorded here that the second major mother tongue of Mysore is Urdu, and it has 21.193% speakers.

Table-2
Mysore-Mother Tongues and Gender



| Mother tongue | Male | Female | Mother tongue | Male | Female |
|----------------------|-------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Bengali | 58.479 | 41.520 | Malayalam | 46.348 | 53.651 |
| Gujarati | 52.026 | 47.973 | Marathi | 50.373 | 49.626 |
| Hindi | 55.083 | 44.916 | Tamil | 49.464 | 50.535 |
| Marwari | 52.999 | 47.000 | Telugu | 49.953 | 50.046 |
| Kannada | 49.969 | 50.030 | Urdu | 50.164 | 49.835 |
| Konkani | 48.263 | 51.736 | Kodava | 46.778 | 53.221 |
| | | | Tulu | 49.497 | 50.502 |
| All | 50.083 | 49.916 | Others | 52.717 | 47.282 |

The Table-2 and the chart there on mother tongues and gender illustrate the details of distribution of mother tongue speakers between male and female categories. In the case of Kannada (50.030%), Konkani (51.736%), Malayalam (53.651%), Tamil (50.535%), Telugu (50.046%), Kodava (53.331%) and Tulu (50.502%), the female speakers outnumber the male speakers, whereas in the case of Bengali (58.479%), Gujarati (52.026%), Hindi (55.083%), Marwari (52.999%), Marathi (50.373%) and Urdu (50.164%) male speakers outnumber the female speakers.

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