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## “A POLITICAL STUDY OF PUBLIC OPINION ON BELGAUM BORDER DISPUTE”

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### Abstract

*This study is mainly an attempt to explore the socio-economic status of the masses and leaders and the extent of their impact on border dispute areas this study examines political analysis of public opinion on Belgaum border dispute. The problems of the study is to measure the attitude of the leaders, regarding Belgaum border dispute, in terms of leaders language conflict, often movements, culture, medium of education, socio-economic development impact on border dispute areas. The present problem is related to border dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra. In the researcher is can find to the study of border dispute of Belgaum districts between Karnataka and Maharashtra: so it is a case study of Belgaum district. Objectives of the study: 1 to study the public opinion of the Belgaum border dispute. 2 to study the opinion of leaders on border dispute about disputed area.3.to know whether the caste, religion, language is impact on border dispute problem. Hypotheses: 1 there is no significant difference between the attitudes of different age group people of border issue of disputed area.2there is no significant different between the views of border d impute of different locality (urban/rural) of disputed area. Variables: 1 gender (male – female) 2 age group (18-30 years, 31-50 years, 51 to above) 3 locality (urban / rural) 4language (kannada, hindu, marathi, urdu and other) population and sample: the researcher will use random sampling technique. The investigator will finally draw 400 respondents who are staying in border area between Karnataka and Maharashtra. Method of the study: the researcher will use historical method to know the details of issues of border dispute and empirical method for the data collection and pilot analysis. It is a case study of the border dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra. Tools used: questionnaire will be prepared by the investigator and administered to the respondents. Procedure of data collection: the investigator will personally visit all the 400 respondents staying in the Karnataka and Maharashtra border of Belgaum district and collect the required information*

*within the speculated time. Major findings of the public opinion on Belgaum border dispute 1 majority of them are in favour of retention of disputed villages in Karnataka state, but the senior respondents of above 51 years age are not exposed to the facilities of Karnataka government in their early life. They disagree with the statement.2 the study found that, only the Maratha community respondents of Hindu religion do not agree that, disputed villages shall be part of Karnataka. But compared to percentage of agreeing responses of all the religious/community peoples is more and Maratha community people's response is less. It means that, only 38.62% percentage of Maratha people are not agreeing with statement of Belgaum district disputed villages shall be part of Karnataka state. Hence this study focuses on the public opinion regarding this problem. The opinion collected for the study area reviewed and analyzed with a political perspective on the basis of analysis and collected data conclusion will be drawn.*

**. Key word: border dispute, attitude,**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Most of the disputes have been mostly cantered on border areas and the related issues. As such, resolution of those disputed, addresses the question as to which of the riparian countries gets how much area? However, even those kinds of disputes are getting complex. Furthermore, other border disputes are emerging with difficult, intricate and novel shapes. The parties are no longer riparian states only. Individuals and legal entities of one riparian state are now parties to such disputes against the governments of other riparian states. Multinational corporations are also emerging as parties to such border disputes against states. Issues where differences emerging are no longer confined to quantity, but extend to quality, right of use, as well as monetary compensation. The question of where the borders across boundary are to be drawn is emerging as a serious and complex one.

The present study aims at providing profile of the disputed areas of Karnataka and Maharashtra in terms of the socio-economic and political backgrounds in the specific context of development process to which these areas have been exposed. To find out the back ground of border dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra, Belgaum border dispute and present status of these areas are taken into consideration. The present study focuses on to collect the opinion of masses and leaders, and to examine the correlation between Kannada and Marathi speaking people about Belgaum border disputed villages along with Belgaum City. The following are the summary of Mahajan committee report.

1. Belgaum to continue in Karnataka
2. Around 247 villages/places including Jatta, Akkalakote, Sholapur to be part of Karnataka
3. Around 264 villages/places including Nandagad, Nippani Khanapur to be part of Maharashtra
4. Kasaragod (of Kerala) to be part of Karnataka

**NEED FOR THE STUDY:** Serious history issues have marred border-disputes relations and public opinions since 1947. The Maharashtra government grievances about time suffering and the lack of contrition became major sources. Is Border Disputes between Karnataka and Maharashtra reconciliation possible in the future? It uses a wide selection of sources in Karnataka and Maharashtra including documents of Governments, Municipal Corporation, Commissions, NGO, diplomatic archives and interviews with attorneys representing both the victims and the perpetrators of the incident.

After going through many research reviews and literature it was noticed by the researcher that there are very few studies done in the border dispute areas especially in India. The present study stresses on the opinion of the people residing in border dispute area in Belgaum district. The struggle between border dispute of the Maharashtra and Karnataka Government since 1947 is being focused by the investigator. An attempt to know the causes of the dispute is going to be the area of research. The opinion of the people on border dispute of Belgaum District has to be recognized. Hence, the investigator has made an attempt to collect the available literature on the issue and public opinion in this regard. The primary information collected shall be subject to political analysis. Therefore the subject, "The Political Analysis of Border Dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra in the Belgaum District" has been undertaken.

**REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE:** The review of related literature is an important aspect in any research. Each new generation of human being do make use of accumulated knowledge as a foundation for building up further knowledge. Hence, the study of literature is necessary in any field of enquiry. The investigation needs to altogether update information about the area of research. Availability of adequate information and possession of sufficient familiarity with it, are unavoidable to investigation. It helps the investigator to decide whether the evidence already available solves problem adequately without further and investigation, thus to avoid risk of duplication. The review of related literature involves the systematic identification, location and analysis of documents containing information related to the research problem. The review tells the researcher what has been done and needs to be done. Some of the reviews collected from the various sources are specified below:

Liu Xuecheng (2000) concluded in his study that in the "Look beyond the Sino-Indian Border Dispute" that since 1950s, the border dispute has shadowed the ebb and flow of Sino-Indian relations.

The Chinese and Indian governments have attempted to resolve the border dispute through diplomatic negotiations which have generated several meaningful documents. But the basic position of both the countries on the border dispute remains unchanged. Both sides have agreed to press ahead with the frame-work negotiations in accordance with the agreed political parameters and guiding principles so as to seek a fair and reasonable solution acceptable to them. Prior to that, both sides have agreed to work together to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas. While we are cautiously optimistic about the steady improvement of the bilateral relations between the two rising Asian giants, we are increasingly concerned about the consequences of their geopolitical rhetoric and strategic suspicion originating primarily from the unresolved border dispute. Their political leaders should understand and respect each other's core national interests and major concerns, properly handle their differences, and seek common development and a win-win situation. A good China–India relationship makes both winners while a confrontational one makes both losers.

Rongxing Guo (2004) opined that *Cross-Border Resource Management: Theory and Practice*

This study is about the management of natural and environmental resources in cross-border areas. It explores a group of geographical, political, legal, economic and cultural factors that arise when political units (such as sovereign countries, dependent states and any other administrative units) seek to utilize natural and environmental resources efficiently and equitably while minimizing the resultant damages (for example, prevention of resource degradation and preservation of the physical environment). A cross-border area is a geographical system divided by two or more man-made boundaries. According to political rules in this system, all sub areas are interacting with each other. Elements of each sub-area, which include various political, economic and cultural actors, are correlated with each other in sequence. The whole geographical system provides a very complicated function with respect to the locations of and interactions between the various elements of all sub-areas. In addition, cross-border areas are sometimes integrated and dynamic. The former emphasizes that all adjacent areas are interdependent in geography, whereas the latter uncovers the relations between state and time of systems. Rational exploitation and utilization of natural and environmental resources usually becomes more difficult in cross-border areas than in any other types of areas (especially those under the jurisdiction of a single authority). Moreover, cross-border resource management becomes increasingly difficult and inefficient with respect to the number of independent stakeholders involved. The primary reasons for this come from the uneven distribution of production factors within each cross-border area as well as the non-cooperative mechanism resulting from two or more political, economic and even cultural stakeholders within each cross-border area. Facing with the cross-border pollution, policymakers have been always short-sighted, with the crucial emphasis on the direct costs and benefits of their own but not of the others. Besides, research institutions and international donors have not paid full attentions to the environmental issues in cross-border areas. Consequently, cross-border resource management has still been a marginalized, if not a forgettable topic.

**A. T. Aghemelo and S. bhasebhor (2006)** observed in their study that Colonialism as a Source of Boundary Dispute and Conflict among African States: The World Court Judgment on the Bakassi Peninsula and its Implications for Nigeria

The African territories, which have attained independence and national sovereignty, cannot in a strict sense, be regarded as national states. They do not embrace a common past and a common culture; they are indeed, the arbitrary creations of colonialist. The manner, in which European nations descended on Africa during the closing years of the nineteenth century in their scramble for territory, was bound to leave a heritage of artificially controlled borderlines, which now demarcate the emergent African states. It is against this backdrop that the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Judgment on the Bakassi peninsula is critically examined. It is the intention of this study to demonstrate that the international agreements of the era of the scramble for Africa are source of conflict among African states, themselves. Undoubtedly, several boundary disputes have broken out between African states and so far, there is no acceptable criterion which may afford the best guide to a settlement of an 'unhappy legacy of colonialism'. Historical research may enable African statesmen to borrow a leaf from their pre-colonial ancestors, whose attitude to 'international' frontiers between one ethnic group and the other was much less emotional, much less rigid and much more pragmatic than that which many African leaders are adopting today. It is therefore hoped that African statesmen would adopt a more objective and 'pan-Africanist' attitude to their boundary problems. This could pave the way for peaceful, brotherly and fraternal relations between Nigeria and Cameroon.

Salman M. A. Salman (2006) study concluded that International Water Disputes: A New Breed of Claims, Claimants, and Settlement Institutions.

The challenges facing water resources world-wide stem from a multitude of factors, included the steady increase in population, urbanization, environmental degradation, and industrialization. Those challenges are compounding water shortages, and in turn, resulting in steadily increasing international disputes over water. Such disputes are getting more complex and novel, involving not only states, but also legal entities, corporations, and individuals against other states. The claims now go beyond the traditional water quantity issues, and involve water quality, border lines across Boundary Rivers, and water rights issues. The settlement institutions have expanded considerably and now include varied international and national tribunals, as well as third and fourth parties. This article reviews and discusses those novel claims, claimants and dispute settlement institutions, and analyzes emerging trends in this area.

Sara McLaughlin Mitchell and Paul R. Hensel (2007) studied Issues and Conflict. This study reviews the contentious issues approach to world politics. This approach focuses on specific issues that states contend over, such as territorial sovereignty, maritime resources, and the usage of shared international rivers. States' choices among foreign policy options, such as militarized force, bilateral negotiations, or third party mediation, depend on the salience or importance of a contested issue. Data collection

projects designed to test propositions from the issue approach are discussed. Findings from studies employing these datasets are summarized, including the linkage between territorial disputes and militarized conflict, as well as the more general pattern of militarization of highly salient issues. Several factors that improve the chances for peaceful conflict management are identified. Directions for future development of the issue-based approach include further research on the onset of new issue claims, the evolution of issue rivalries, the role of domestic and international institutions in issue management, and the role of issues in civil wars.

Patrick Berg (2008) recommended that Dynamics of Conflict in the Tri-Border Region of the Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic. The analysis in this study and the information contained herein are based on the many years of experience of the author working as a country expert on the Sudan for various organisations. In this context he repeatedly travelled to various regions of the country over the period 2002-2006, including the south, Darfur and the border region with Eritrea. To perform this study, the author travelled to Chad and the Central African Republic from the middle of November to the middle of December 2007. While in the region he also visited the crisis regions in eastern Chad and the northeast of the Central African Republic. In preparation for the journey, the author carried out an intensive research of the literature and, in October 2007, met with regional experts and diplomats in Paris and Brussels. In addition to representatives of the French government, the EU Commission, the EU Council secretariat and representatives of various EU member countries, he also held discussions with human rights activists and humanitarian organisations working in these countries. In Chad and the Central African Republic, a series of expert interviews were conducted with representatives of the respective governments, the political opposition and civil society as well as members of international organisations and diplomatic missions. With the exception of the UFDR, however, no contact could be established with rebel movements in the two countries. A majority of the discussions were confidential. Hence, the study does not cite any individuals' names or provide information allowing statements to be traced to individuals.

Jonah Leff (2009) studied on Pastoralists at War: Violence and Security in the Kenya-Sudan-Uganda Border Region. The majority of those living in the border region of Kenya, Sudan, and Uganda are pastoralists, whose livelihoods are dictated by the upkeep and size of their herds. Harsh environmental conditions force pastoralists to migrate in search of water and pasturelands during the dry season. With limited access to water and competing rights to land, inter-tribal conflict arises when pastoralists from one tribe enter the territory of another. The increased availability of small arms in the region from past wars increasingly makes ordinary clashes fatal. Governments in the region have responded with heavy-handed coercive disarmament operations. These have led to distrust and subsequent violent clashes between communities and security providers. This report reviews the scale, consequences of, and responses to the many pastoral conflicts, utilizing methodological tools such as key informant interviews, retrospective analysis, and a thorough review of available literature.

Kawashima Shin (2010) stated in the study that *Memory of the National Border in Modern and Contemporary China: China's Imagined Original Territory*.

This study explores the memory of China's national border and the revision of national history. The main discourse on the national border in China maintains that the modern border was determined under pressure from foreign powers, and that the border had shrunk from its original size. Such discourses were created in the process of nation-building, thus connecting Chinese nationalism to impureness. In the 1990s, the PRC successfully negotiated with neighbouring countries and resolved most territorial disputes. Though the political context largely determined China's new border, it was far from a repudiation of the imagined original border. If so, China's border remains fragile. Thus many scholars have studied international border disputes between many countries including South Asian states. Similarly in the present study an attempt is made to understand the problems of border dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra states on Belgaum district with the help of findings of many national and international scholars. The present study wants to find out the solution to the border dispute.

Otto F. Von Feigenblatt (2011) *Coping With Violence In The Thai-Cambodian Border: The Silence of the Border*. This study shows how the dispute is viewed and undertaken by three distinct communities involved in the conflict, the militaries, the metropolitan political elites and activists, and the local villagers. The three communities represent three different cultures of conflict with different interests and most importantly with differential access to the media and official representations of the dispute. The recent listing of Preah Vihear Temple as a World Heritage Site has awakened a longtime simmering border dispute between Thailand and Cambodia over a few square kilometers surrounding the ancient Khmer Temple. While the listing of the site by UNESCO was expected to revive the economy of the impoverished border towns near the temple due to the increased tourism and funding for the preservation of the archeological site, it has had the opposite effect due to the sharp increase in violent conflict carried out by the armed forces and nationalist activists from both sides. Military skirmishes and violent protests have brought the local economy to a halt in addition to causing considerable physical damage to the local infrastructure and to the local transnational network of ethnic Kui, local business owners, Khmer and Thai villagers.

Florence Alessa Metz (2015) described in their study that *The Cameroonian-Nigerian Border Conflict in the Lake Chad Region: Assessment of the Resource and Conflict Management Capacities of the Lake Chad Basin Commission*.

With the increasing impact of global climate change, a great deal of recent writings has analyzed the link between environment and conflict. Whereas some researchers warn that growing scarcity of renewable resources can lead to violent clashes, others concede that environmental scarcity alone does not trigger violent conflicts. Instead, insufficient institutional capacity to deal with resource scarcity is seen as a major predictor for resource conflicts. In the mid 1990ies a violent environmental

conflict arose between Nigeria and Cameroon in the Lake Chad river bed in response growing water and land scarcity. Even though an institution, the regional Lake Chad Basin Commission, was charged with settling the conflict, an armed clash arose. The aim of this study is to analyze this environmental conflict in the Lake Chad region and to understand the capacity of the Lake Chad Basin Commission to manage the conflict. For this purpose, a two-step analysis is conducted: First, the linkages between environmental degradation and conflict risks are identified by applying Homer-Dixon's environmental security model to the Lake Chad region. Second, the LCBC's resilience is tested based on common pool theory, which regards insufficient institutional capacity to deal with resource scarcity as a major predictor for resource conflict. Based on these insights environmental degradation can be characterized as the necessary condition for conflict risk, but the outbreak of the conflict largely depends on the presence or absence of resilient institutions. The findings of this case study underline the importance of international basin organizations in times of increasing climate and societal pressures on African waters. In order to prevent future climate change related conflicts it is important to understand the characteristics of resilient basin organizations.

**STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:** "A POLITICAL STUDY OF PUBLIC OPINION ON BELGAUM BORDERS DISPUTE"

**TYPE OF PROBLEM:** The present problem is related to border dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra. In the researcher is can find to the study of border dispute of Belgaum Districts between Karnataka and Maharashtra: So it is a case study of Belgaum district.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

1. To study the public opinion of the Belgaum border dispute.
2. To study the opinion of leaders on border dispute about disputed area.
3. To know whether the caste, religion, language is impact on border dispute problem.

**HYPOTHESES:**

1. There is no significant difference between the attitudes of different age group people of border issue of disputed area.
2. There is no significant different between the views of border dispute of different locality (Urban/Rural) of disputed area.

**VARIABLES:** A "Variable" is a symbol to which numerals or values are assigned. According to Fox (1969) variable is a characteristic, which is given research project, can have more than one value? Tuckman (1978) defined variable as that factor, which is measured, manipulated and observed by the investigator.



To find the opinion of leaders and masses of these areas and to impart solution regarding Border Dispute. Border problem depends upon people and leaders opinion. Impact and large number of variables which interact with one another, among these variables some significant ones. They are.

1. Gender (Male – Female)
2. Age Group (18-30 years, 31-50 years, 51 to above)
3. Locality (Urban / Rural )
4. Language (Kannada, Hindu, Marathi, Urdu and other)

**POPULATION AND SAMPLE:** The researcher will use Random Sampling Technique. The investigator will finally draw 400 respondents who are staying in Border area between Karnataka and Maharashtra.

**METHOD OF THE STUDY:** The researcher will use historical method to know the details of issues of border dispute and empirical method for the data collection and Pilot Analysis. It is a case study of the border dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra.

**TOOLS USED:** Questionnaire will be prepared by the investigator and administered to the respondents.

**PROCEDURE OF DATA COLLECTION:** The investigator will personally visit all the 400 respondents staying in the Karnataka and Maharashtra border of Belgaum district and collect the required information within the speculated time.

**LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:**

1. The study will be limited to people of Karnataka - Maharashtra Disputed area in Belgaum District.
2. The study will be limited to Kannada and Marathi speaking people in Karnataka - Maharashtra Disputed area in Belgaum District

## Data Analysis and Result

Table 1: Age Group Wise Analysis of Public Opinion on Disputed Villages

SL No	Age Group	Agree (%)	Disagree (%)	Undecided (%)
1	18-30 Years (146)	49.31% (72)	42.46% (62)	8.21% (12)
2	31-50 Years (168)	51.78% (87)	37.50% (63)	10.71% (18)
3	Above 51 Years (86)	37.20% (32)	53.48% (46)	9.30% (08)

The figures shown in table No 4.1 reveal that, younger generation of 18-30 years of age group are 146 in this study. Out of 146 respondents 49.31% respondents agree that the present Disputed Villages which are already in Karnataka shall be part of Karnataka. On the contrary 42.46% respondents of this age group do not agree that Disputed Villages shall be part of Karnataka. But 8.21% respondents of this age group are unable to come to a definite opinion. Similarly respondents of the age group of 31 and 50 years are 168. Out of which 51.78% respondents agree that the Disputed Villages shall be part of Karnataka. But 37.5% of respondents are of the opinion that Disputed Villages of Belgaum District are to be transfer to Maharashtra State and 10.71% of them have not expressed their opinion in this regard.

Similarly senior people of above 51 years of are 86 in this study. Among them 37.20% respondents agree that the Disputed Villages shall be part of Karnataka but 53.48% respondents do not agree that Disputed Villages shall be part of Karnataka and 9.30% of them have not decided in this regard.

The figures shown in the table reveal that, the Younger generations are in favour of retention of disputed villages in Karnataka while only 42.46% of them are in favour of transfer of disputed villages to Maharashtra. Again in the middle age group people agreeing with retention of disputed areas of Belgaum District are 45.24% while disagreeing are 44.05%, but only in case of respondents above 51 years of age group more (53.48%) respondents want to transfer disputed villages to Maharashtra state while 37.20% respondents of this study are in favour of retention of disputed villages in Karnataka. In other words as the age group of respondents increases the percentage of disagreeing with the statement also increases. Therefore the study found that the people born after the rise of Karnataka state (1956) are benefited by many welfare measures of Karnataka and they are exposed to the facilities of Karnataka government. Therefore majority of them are in favour of retention of disputed villages in

Karnataka state, but the senior respondents of above 51 years age are not exposed to the facilities of Karnataka government in their early life. Therefore they disagree with the statement.

**Table 2: Caste wise analysis of Public opinion on Belgaum district disputed villages**

Sl no	Caste/ Religion		Agree (%)	Disagree (%)	Undecided (%)
1	Hindu (297)	Marathas (189)	<b>38.62%</b> (73)	<b>51.32%</b> (97)	<b>10.05%</b> (19)
		Other Castes (108)	<b>49.07%</b> (53)	<b>38.88%</b> (42)	<b>12.03%</b> (13)
2	Muslims (81)		<b>60.49%</b> (49)	<b>34.56%</b> (28)	<b>4.93%</b> (04)
3	Others (22)		<b>72.72%</b> (16)	<b>18.18%</b> (04)	<b>9.1%</b> (02)

The data presented in the table 4.2 reveals that, respondents of Hindu religion are 297, among them Marathas are 189 and other caste respondents are 108 in this study. Out of 189 Marathas 38.62% respondents agree that, the present Disputed Villages which are already in Karnataka shall be part of Karnataka. On the contrary 51.32% respondents of this community do not agree that, Belgaum District Disputed Villages shall be part of Karnataka. But 10.05% respondents of same community are undecided that, the present disputed villages whether shall be part of Karnataka or Maharashtra. Similarly the respondents of other castes including Lingayat, Brahmin, S.C, S.T, Jain and Kuruba Community among Hindus are 108. Out of which 49.07% respondents agree that the Disputed Villages shall be part of Karnataka. But 38.88% of respondents are of the opinion that, Disputed Villages of Belgaum District are to be transferred to Maharashtra State and 12.03% of them have not expressed their opinion in this regard.

The Muslims are 81 in this study, among them 60.49% respondents agree that, the Belgaum border Disputed Villages shall be part of Karnataka where as 34.56% respondents do not agree that Disputed Villages shall be part of Karnataka and 4.93% of them have not decided in this regard.

The other religious respondents are 22 in this study. Out of 22 respondents, 72.72% respondents agree that the Disputed Villages shall be part of Karnataka, where as 18.18% respondents do not agree that Disputed Villages shall be part of Karnataka and 9.1% respondents have not expressed their opinion in this regard.

The figures shown in the table represented that, the Maratha community people who were 38.62% and other community people of Hindu religion were 51.32%, and they are in favour of retention of disputed villages in Karnataka. While only 49.07% of Maratha and 38.88% other community people of Hindu religion favour for transfer of disputed villages to Maharashtra. Again in the Muslim religion people agreeing with retention of disputed areas of Belgaum District are 60.49% while disagreeing are 34.56% and among the other religious people agreeing with retention of disputed areas of Belgaum District are 72.72% while disagreeing are 18.18% but only in case of Maratha community respondents, more (51.32%) respondents stand for transfer of disputed villages to Maharashtra state, while 38.62% respondents of this study are in favour of retention of disputed villages in Karnataka. Thus the above data clearly show that, the respondents of all the religious people except Maratha community are in favour of Karnataka. The percentage of agreeing people are more than the disagreeing peoples with the statement of Belgaum district disputed villages shall be part of Karnataka. The study found that, only the Maratha community respondents of Hindu religion do not agree that, Disputed Villages shall be part of Karnataka. But compared to percentage of agreeing responses of all the religious/community peoples is more and Maratha community people's response is less. It means that, only 38.62% percentage of Maratha people are not agreeing with statement of Belgaum district disputed villages shall be part of Karnataka state.

#### **MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE PUBLIC OPINION ON BELGAUM BORDER DISPUTE**

1. Majority of them are in favour of retention of disputed villages in Karnataka state, but the senior respondents of above 51 years age are not exposed to the facilities of Karnataka government in their early life. They disagree with the statement.
2. The study found that, only the Maratha community respondents of Hindu religion do not agree that, Disputed Villages shall be part of Karnataka. But compared to percentage of agreeing responses of all the religious/community peoples is more and Maratha community people's response is less. It means that, only 38.62% percentage of Maratha people are not agreeing with statement of Belgaum district disputed villages shall be part of Karnataka state.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

According to Mahajan Report "Geographically, Kannada areas surround the city of Belgaum on three sides and by a smattering of villages belonging to Maharashtra on the fourth. From the records of rights of Belgaum city, it is seen that a majority of lands belong to Kannadigas. All the original records in the offices of the amaladar and collector are in Kannada". But Marathi speaking people want to get transferred Belgaum city to Maharashtra. Hence this study focuses on the public opinion regarding this problem. The opinion collected for the study area reviewed and analyzed with a political perspective on the basis of analysis and collected data conclusion will be drawn.

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