



New Reflections on Kannada Historiography of Tour Literature - With Special Reference To Vijayanagara Period

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Abstract : *Vijayanagar empire was the last great Hindu empire which ruled south India from 1336 to 1565 AD. South India had enjoyed a long cultural efflorescence under Vijayanagar regime. A very few examples of tourist handbooks were written in Kannada to give the visitors a clear vision of the monuments in the Hampi region & erstwhile Vijayanagar empire. An examination of the historical writings of tourism literature in Kannada about the monuments & historical artifacts in Vijayanagar locations through a writer's individual experiences needs to be remembered because of their inventiveness & originality. This paper analyses the historiography of tourist literature with special reference to Vijayanagara monuments in post-unification period.*

Keywords : *Vijayanagar empire , ruins , monuments , tourist hand book , Kannada tourist literature*

Introduction: Tracing the historiography of tourist literature in Kannada language about Vijayanagara period tourist destinations & list the kannada language tourist books on Vijayanagara since 19th century is the objectives of study. This research paper has been prepared with the support of secondary works both Kannada & English books , International & national journal citations & other secondary documents.

The fall of Vijayanagar Empire was so rapid & catastrophic that the empire came to be considered as a forgotten empire following its demise. The ruins of the capital city of Hampi earned it a name of ruined Hampi , depopulated Hampi , ravaged Hampi , deserted Hampi etc. Once a sprawling & a bustling region with plenty of shops , tons & tons of merchandise , innumerable luxury commodities & affluent resourceful avenues , came crushing like a pack of

cards. This devastated state of the city was remembered through several Kannada writings in the late 19th & early 20th century. Kannada speaking regions during pre - unification & post - unification period saw the emergence of innumerable books on various topics. Tourism literature was one such arena which saw writings by authors pertaining to tourism literature considerably.

The following books are published regarding Kannada tourist historiography on Vijayanagara period tourist destinations .

1. Prof. Lakshman Telagavi (Ed) – Jeerna Vijayanagaradarshanama , Prasara Kanna Vishwa Vidya Nilaya Publications, Hampi 2006
2. Mallepuram G Venkatesh-Pravasa Sahitya –Ondu Adhyayana Honna Prakashana



- Bangalore Publications,1992
(Kannada)
3. Vivek Rai – Pravasi Kanda Vijayanagara Prasaranga Kannada Vishwa Vidya Nilaya Publications, Hampi 2005
 4. Pampa Yatre ; Kannada Department Of Culture publication Publications, Bangalore 1990

It is one of the important tourist guide books which served as a handbook for tourists touring Hampi. It gives a complete & comprehensive knowledge about Vijayanagara destinations. It introduces each & every monuments with an historical perspective. In Kannada language, tour literature on Vijayanagara period is very scanty¹. Even though books are written on Vijayanagara period in English about Tourist destinations, Kannada language books are very less. The following are some of the Kannada books on Tourist destinations of Vijayanagara empire.

1. **Karki Venkataramana shastry soori** - In 1890 Karki Venkataramana shastry soori a great journalist of the time & a great social thinker published his **Dakshina yatra charitre**
2. ¹.
3. **V seetharamaiah** – V. Seetharamaiah wrote **pampa yatra** detailing the important places of visit in Vijayanagara capital Hampi.

Development of Tourist literature in Kannada language has been divided into four stages.

¹ Prof. Lakshman Telagavi (Ed) – Jeerna Vijayanagaradarshanam, Prasaranga Kannada Vishwa Vidya Nilaya Publications, Hampi 2006

1. The writings of V. Seetharamaiah - the first stage saw the writings of following luminaries.
2. Post V. Seetharamaiah writings till 1950. later post unification period. The last one is the current period or the modern period²
 1. Karki Venkataramana shastry Soori
 2. Krishnamurthy J
 3. Karaveerappa
 4. Andanappa kulkarni

V. Seetharamaiah's **Pampa Yatre** is considered as the initial attempt in writing about Vijayanagara monuments & relics. It was published in 1926. A.H. Lang Hurst's **Hampi ruins** was published in 1917. **Jeerna Vijayanagara Darshanam** was written by Krishnaswamy Iyengar was published in 1916.

About Jeerna Vijayanagara Darshanam

Krishnaswamy Iyengar wrote a book by name Jeerna Vijayanagara darshanam on monumental excursion of Vijayanagar empire locations based on his own individual touring experiences. The title of the work was –Jeerna Vijayanagaradarshanam. This book was published in 1916 through Bangalore city press. It depicts personal experiences of a month long touring in & around Vijayanagara empire locations by the author himself. It is a descriptive voyage of the author to each & every monuments in Vijayanagar empire locations. It explains each temple each monument, each shrine, each building & each corridor with intricate details³. This book is a tourist guide book or hand book giving all inclusive & exhaustive



information about destinations to be visited inside present Vijayanagar locations . There references to several monuments in this hand book . The narration attracts the readers because

1. It is Practical Experience Based description
2. Self Pioneering narrative
3. Simplicity of Narration
4. Self Search rendering
5. Research Based tour account
6. Motivating portrayal
7. Thought Provoking

Significance of the Writing – The significance of this book

1. The book gains importance as one of the initial attempts by an author to write a tourist hand books
2. Even though several works are written on Vijayanagara monuments
3. Several of them are in English hence tourist specially local tourists would feel the lack of information on touring Hampi & nearby places⁴
4. As this book is in Kannada language it helps the tourists to learn about planning a tour to Vijayanagar empire
5. A simple narrative style attractive but also very useful for tourists & tour guides of Vijayanagar empire

Publication details -This was published as the 74th contribution of Karnataka Grantha mala series. It was printed at GTA (Graduate Trading Association , press) Mysore . The cover page was printed at city press Bangalore.

Scholastic Contributions of Karnataka Grantha Mala -Karnataka Grantha mala

situated in Mysore was a pioneer publishing house which was publishing books in serialized sequence ⁵. It strove towards publications of Kannada books with an intention to popularize Kannada readings. It wanted to promote new writers & wished to bring old unpublished books into light. It was a great task as it was during this time that the unification of Karnataka was being demanded. Integrity of Kannada loving people was on high . Kannada associations were being established to promote Kannada language & literature . Kannada books were sold through door to door service in order to make people read Kannada publications & involve in reading scholarly works⁶ .

Contemporary relevance

It is one of the important tourist guide books which served as a handbook for tourists touring Hampi. It gives a complete & comprehensive knowledge about Vijayanagara destinations It introduces each & every monuments with an historical perspective. This book has been re – edited & published by Prof . Lakshmana Telagavi through Hampi Kannada University.

Conclusion- Hampi & the destinations of Hampi as a tourist place has attracted several scholars & writers of Karnataka. Several writings reflected on the historical implications of visiting Hampi as a tour destination. The Writings also reflected on the importance of creating an awareness about visiting Hampi with supportive knowledge through printed literature. These writings catered to local people as the writings were in Kannada. Thus tourist literature in Kannada in pre - unification period even though is very less , it was very informative & comprehensive. The style adopted was very simple narration was



research & based on individual experiencing. The authors' concern for visiting monuments for the sole sake of knowing history was predictably noticeable. The writings reflected originality, love for objectivity of history & great concern for monument preservation.

References

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- ³ Prof. Lakshman Telagavi (Ed) – Jeerna Vijayanagara Darshana , Prasaraṅga Kannada Vishva Vidya Nilaya Publications, Hampi 2006
- ⁴ Vivek Rai B A- Pravasi Kanda Vijayanagara : Prasaraṅga : Kannada Vishva Vidya Nilaya publications , Hampi 2005
- ⁵ Vivek Rai – Pravasi Kanda Vijayanagara Prasaraṅga Kannada Vishva Vidya Nilaya Publications, Hampi 2005
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