

Assessing the Impact of Article 371(J) on Regional Development: A Study of Kalyana Karnataka

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ABSTRACT

Article 371(J) was introduced as a constitutional mechanism to address long-standing regional imbalances in the Kalyana Karnataka (formerly Hyderabad-Karnataka) region of Karnataka. This study evaluates the impact of Article 371(J) on regional development with a focus on education and employment opportunities under the provision. Using secondary data from government reports, census statistics, and recruitment records, the study examines whether the policy has achieved its intended objectives. The findings suggest that while Article 371(J) has contributed to increased access to education and public employment, significant disparities persist in economic development and infrastructure. The study concludes that although the provision has made measurable progress, structural challenges and implementation gaps continue to limit its overall effectiveness.

Keywords: Article 371(J), Regional Disparity, Kalyana Karnataka, constitutional provision, reservations, education, employment.

INTRODUCTION

Regional disparities have been a persistent challenge in India's development trajectory, particularly in states with historically uneven growth patterns. Karnataka presents a clear case of such imbalance, where the Kalyana Karnataka region has lagged behind other regions in key socio-economic indicators. To address this issue, Article 371(J) was incorporated into the Constitution of India in 2012, granting special status to the region.

The provision aims to promote equitable development through targeted interventions, including reservations in education and public employment, and the establishment of institutional mechanisms for resource allocation. This paper examines the effectiveness of Article 371(J) in reducing regional disparities and fostering inclusive development, focussing on reservations in public employment and access to education opportunities.

Objectives of the Study

The present study aims to examine the impact of Article 371(J) on the regional development of Kalyana Karnataka. The specific objectives are:

1. To analyse the historical background of regional backwardness in Kalyana Karnataka and the need for constitutional safeguards.
2. To examine the role of Article 371(J) in promoting equitable development through reservations in education and public employment.
3. To assess the impact of Article 371(J) on access to professional education, including engineering, medical, and other higher education opportunities.
4. To study the implementation of employment reservations under Article 371(J) and evaluate the extent of representation of local candidates in government services.
5. To identify the achievements, challenges, and implementation gaps associated with Article 371(J) in reducing regional disparities.

Methodology of the Study

The study adopts a descriptive and analytical research approach to examine the impact of Article 371(J) on the development of the Kalyana Karnataka region. The study is based mainly on secondary sources of data. Information has been collected from government reports, Census publications, Karnataka Economic Surveys, reports of the Kalyana Karnataka Regional Development Board (KKRDB), Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) and Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) records, along with relevant books, research articles, and official documents.

Profile of Kalyana Karnataka

Kalyana Karnataka has 7 districts, comprising Kalaburagi, Bidar, Raichur, Koppal, Yadgir, Ballari, and Vijayanagar districts, lies in north-eastern Karnataka bordering Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. Formerly part of the Nizam’s dominion and merged with Karnataka in 1956, the region remained relatively underdeveloped compared to the rest of the state. Recognising this, the State Government appointed the Dr. D. M. Nanjundappa Committee (2000) to study regional imbalances. Its report (2001) revealed that of 175 taluks in Karnataka, 21 of the 39 “most backward” were in this region, prompting the launch of a Special Development Plan (SDP).

Table 2.1: Population and Sex Ratio details of Kalyana Karnataka Region (Census 2011)

District	Area (In Sq. Kms)	Population							
		Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	SC	ST	Sex Ratio
Bellary	4252	1404022	648447	755575	707620	696402	269332	263094	989
Bidar	5448	1703300	435863	1267437	870665	832635	399785	235822	960
Kalaburagi	10954	2566326	852684	1713642	1301755	1264571	648782	65259	977
Koppal	5570	1389920	298666	1091254	699926	689994	258608	164271	987
Raichur	8442	1928812	506314	1422498	964511	964301	400933	367071	1001
Vijayanagara	5644	1454352	433818	1020534	735219	719133	348671	251301	973
Yadgiri	5270	1174412	259709	914703	590400	584012	273356	146853	990
Total	45580	11621144	3435501	8185643	5870096	5751048	2599467	1493671	982

Source: Gram Panchayath Atlas – 2023, Karnataka, p 400, Karnataka at a glance 2022-23, p 76.

The table 2.2, indicates that the development status of the Kalyana Karnataka (KK) region has shown some improvement over time, but disparities remain significant. The number of relatively developed taluks increased from 3 in 2001–02 to 7 in 2019–20, reflecting gradual progress. At the same time, the number of backward taluks rose slightly, and more notably, the category of “more backward” taluks expanded sharply from 5 to 15, suggesting that many taluks have not progressed adequately. Furthermore, the number of most backward taluks has remained consistently high (21 in 2002 and 2019–20), indicating persistent structural underdevelopment. Overall, the data reveals that although there are signs of development, the region continues to experience uneven growth and deep-rooted regional imbalances.

Table 2.2: Development Status of KK region based on CCDI index for 2001-02, 2014-15,2019-20

Classification	Based on CCDI Index 2002*		Based on CCDI Index 2015**		Based on CCDI Index 2019-20***	
	No of Taluks in the State	No. of Taluks in the KK Region	No of Taluks in the State	No. of Taluks in the KK Region	No of Taluks in the State	No. of Taluks in the KK Region
Relatively Developed	61	3	66	3	80	7
Backward	35	2	40	4	53	7
More Backward	40	5	33	6	56	15

Most Backward	39	21	36	18	38	21
Total	175	31	175	31	227	50

Sources: Compiled by authors from * D M Nanjundappa Committee Report 2002, pp 166- 168,

** Critical Evaluation – cum – Impact Study of the Report of the High-Power Committee on Redressal of Regional Imbalances with special reference to Hyderabad Karnataka Region, Centre for Budget and Policy Studies, p 28,

*** CAG Report on Performance audit on Functioning of Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board, p 15. Despite many efforts by the governments both central and state, backwardness persisted, leading to strong public demand for constitutional safeguards.

Salient Features of Article 371J

Following public demand, the Karnataka Legislative Assembly passed a resolution in 2010 for special status to the Kalyana Karnataka region, leading to the insertion of Article 371J through the 98th Constitutional Amendment Act in 2013. The Article empowers the President to assign special responsibilities to the Governor, including establishing a separate development board, ensuring equitable allocation of development funds, and providing equal opportunities in public employment, education, and vocational training. It also enables reservation of seats in educational institutions and posts in government services for persons belonging to the region by birth or domicile.¹

The present article deals with the following issues with respect to the above provisions:

1. Reservation in educational and Vocational Training institutions.
2. Identification and reservation in posts by recruitment and promotion.

Reservation in educational and Vocational Training institutions.

The data on reservation of seats under Article 371J in educational and vocational training institutions indicates a significant expansion of opportunities in professional education over time, particularly in engineering and medical fields. Engineering seats (see Table 3.1) show considerable fluctuation but an overall upward trend, increasing from 1,965 in 2019–20 to a peak of 3,279 in 2022–23, reflecting enhanced capacity and policy emphasis on technical education in the region. In contrast, dental seats remain relatively stagnant, hovering around 150–170 seats throughout the period, suggesting limited expansion in this sector.

Table 3.1: No. of seats under 371 J for Engineering courses

Year	No. of Seats (admissions)
2019-20	1965
2020-21	1512
2021-22	2787
2022-23	3279

Source: March of Karnataka, Volume-60 Issue-10, October- 2023, p10.

Table 3.2: No. of seats under 371 J for Dental courses

Year	No. of Seats (admissions)
2019-20	169
2020-21	158
2021-22	166
2022-23	160

Source: March of Karnataka, Volume-60 Issue-10, October- 2023, p10.

Table 3.3: No. of seats under 371 J for Medical courses

Year	No. of Seats (admissions)
2014-15	530
2015-16	691
2016-17	717
2017-18	780
2018-19	767
2019-20	784
2020-21	790
2021-22	797
2022-23	939
2023-24	999
Total	7,523

Source: Vijay Karnataka, September 20, 2024 and March of Karnataka, Volume-60, Issue-10, October-2023, p10.

Medical education (Table 3.3), however, demonstrates a steady and consistent rise over a longer time frame, with seats increasing from 530 in 2014–15 to 999 in 2023–24, nearly doubling over the decade. This sustained growth indicates a strong policy focus on improving healthcare education and addressing regional shortages of medical professionals. Overall, the data suggests that Article 371J has played a crucial role in expanding access to higher and professional education, although the growth is uneven across disciplines, with significant progress in engineering and medicine but limited change in dental education.

Identification and Reservation in Government posts by Recruitment or by Promotion.

The Karnataka Public Employment (Reservation in Appointment for Kalyana-Karnataka Region) Order 2013 – Provides for creation of a local cadre and reservation in the Kalyana-Karnataka Region as- Group A (Junior Scale) 75%, Group B- 75%, Group C- 80%, Group D- 85%², besides reservation of 8% of the posts in the State level offices or institutions or apex institutions.³

Cabinet Sub-Committees have been formed to regularly review the implementation of Article 371(J) and ensure its effective execution. Following the constitutional amendment, which provides reservation in public employment, some relaxations have been introduced. These allow appointing authorities to fill vacant posts in both the local and residual state cadres once the formation of local cadres is completed and local persons are assigned to respective posts based on their preferences. To facilitate smooth implementation, the government has been issuing clarifications and guidelines through circulars, official memoranda, and government orders periodically. Efforts are underway to fill all vacant government positions in the Kalyana Karnataka region.

The matter of reservation in public employment under Art 371 J can be understood in two ways:

- A. Posts filled through Direct recruitment
- B. Posts filled through Promotion.

Posts Filled Through Direct Recruitment

As per clause 2(1)(a) of the Karnataka Public Employment (Reservation in Appointment for Kalyana-Karnataka Region) 2013 order, its provisions apply to all statutory and non-statutory bodies or institutions established and maintained by the State Government. Accordingly, appointing authorities of field departments, corporations, boards, universities, autonomous institutions, civic bodies, and Panchayat Raj institutions under various administrative departments must identify posts, fix applicable reservations, and form local cadres comprising reserved posts, to be notified within three months from the date of the order. The reservation mandated under Article 371J is applicable to both direct recruitment and promotion posts, necessitating the constitution of local cadres aligned with recruitment rules. Regional reservation percentages are specified—75% for Group-A and B,

80% for Group-C, and 85% for Group-D posts—for posts in the Hyderabad-Karnataka region offices. Additionally, an 8% reservation is prescribed at the State level (covering all groups) for offices across the state, including Hyderabad-Karnataka.

The reservation policy extends to posts filled on permanent, temporary, contract, assignment, or outsourced basis and must also include ex-cadre and N-cadre posts as per cadre rules. Only candidates classified as local persons (as per clause 6 of 2013 order) are eligible for reserved posts. Priority must be given to eligible local candidates from the same Taluk, District, or Division. If adequate candidates are not available, candidates from other regions of the state who qualify as local persons and have opted for local cadres within the specified time may be considered. Remaining vacancies are to be filled through direct recruitment, promotion, and postings from eligible local persons.

The Table 3.4, below presents a statement of the details of sanctioned, filled and vacant posts through direct recruitment given under 371(J) both in state and local cadre,

Table 3.4: Details of posts sanctioned, filled and promotions given under 371(J) (Direct Recruitment)

Cadre	No. of posts filled through Direct Recruitment			
	Sanctioned	Filled	Vacant	Vacancy rate
State Cadre (8%)	19,864	13,390	6,474	32.59 %
Local Cadre (KK)	1,05,168	74,179	30,989	29.50 %
Total	1,25,032	87,569	37,463	29.96 %

Source: Karnataka Economic Survey 2024-25, pp 621.

Under the implementation of Article 371(J), a total of 1,25,032 posts were sanctioned across both the State Cadre and the Local Cadre (Kalyana Karnataka). Of these, 87,569 posts have been filled, leaving 37,463 posts vacant, indicating a 29.96% vacancy rate. Within the State Cadre, which is allocated 8% of the total reservation, 19,864 posts were sanctioned, of which 13,390 were filled and 6,474 remain vacant, resulting in a 32.6% vacancy rate. In contrast, the Local Cadre (KK), which accounts for a significantly larger share with 1,05,168 sanctioned posts, has filled 74,179, leaving 30,989 posts unfilled. This reflects a 29.5% vacancy rate in the local cadre.

The higher absolute number of vacancies in the local cadre suggests a persistent challenge in fully utilizing the reservation benefits under Article 371(J), especially in the Kalyana Karnataka region. Despite the intention to enhance employment opportunities for local persons, the substantial number of vacancies highlights possible issues such as delays in recruitment, lack of political will, or procedural bottlenecks in cadre formation and allocation. As per the CAG Report on Performance Audit on Functioning of KKRDB (2022), 44 Departments of the State Government identified 34,962 posts for direct recruitment under the Region to local cadre. Out of this, 16,037 positions were filled up leaving 18,925 posts vacant (54 percent)⁴. Moreover, 20 % of non-KK employees who work in the Kalyana Karnataka region get promotions before the employees of KK region under the 371 J provisions⁵. Another allegation is that, the 2013 order directed the state authorities to recruit all the vacant posts within the stipulated time and the cabinet meeting held back in 2014 in Kalaburagi, chaired by the then C.M Siddaramaiah had taken decision to recruit the identified 34,000 vacant posts within 2015⁶. But in the last 10 years, only 14,000 jobs have been recruited⁷. Addressing these gaps is crucial to realizing the developmental intent of the constitutional amendment.

The Table 3.5, on special recruitment under Article 371J in the Kalaburagi region (up to August 2025) highlights both the achievements and continuing challenges in employment generation. Under direct recruitment, a substantial number of posts have been created in the State and Local Cadre (119,923), out of which 84,620 have been filled, while a significant 35,303 posts remain vacant, indicating partial implementation and administrative gaps. Similarly, in the State Cadre (8% reservation), out of 12,632 posts, only 7,311 have been filled, leaving 5,321 vacancies, which reflects underutilization of the reservation provision. In terms of promotions, the pattern remains similar; out of 41,028 posts in the State and Local Cadre, 25,966 are filled while 15,062 remain vacant,

and in the State Cadre, 2,418 out of 4,199 posts have been filled. Overall, while Article 371J has significantly contributed to expanding employment opportunities in the region, the persistence of a large number of vacancies across both direct recruitment and promotion categories suggests issues in recruitment processes, delays in appointments, or administrative inefficiencies. This gap between sanctioned and filled posts limits the full realization of the policy’s objectives and indicates the need for more effective implementation to ensure equitable employment generation in the backward region.

Table 3.5: 371 J- Special Recruitment in Kalaburagi Region– Details of Employment Provided (Up to August 2025)

A. Through Direct Recruitment					
State & Local Cadre			State Cadre (8%)		
Total Posts	Filled	Vacant	Total Posts	Filled	Vacant
119923	84620	35303	12632	7311	5321
B. Through Promotion					
41028	25966	15062	4199	2418	1718

Source: “Abhivrudhi Pakshi Nota”, A Hand out of KKRDB on ‘A Birds view on Development’,p 43.

Posts filled through Promotion

As per clause 2(1)(a) of the Karnataka Public Employment (Reservation in Appointment for Kalyana-Karnataka Region) 2013 order, all direct recruitment posts are subject to reservation; however, for promotions, reservation is limited to junior cadre posts of Group-A.

Table 3.6: Details of posts Reserved, filled and Vacant given under 371(J) (through Promotion)

Cadre	No. of posts filled through Promotion			
	Reserved	Filled	Vacant	Vacancy rate
State Cadre (8%)	2926	1759	1147	39.20 %
Local Cadre (KK)	42,115	26,490	14,314	33.40 %
Total	45,041	28,249	15,461	34.32 %

Source: Karnataka Economic Survey 2024-25, p 621.

The above data (Table 3.6) on posts reserved under Article 371(J) through promotions reveals a considerable gap between the number of reserved posts and those filled. Out of 45,041 reserved posts, only 28,249 have been filled, leaving 15,461 vacancies, which reflects an overall vacancy rate of 34.32%. In the State Cadre, 2,926 posts were reserved, of which 1,759 have been filled, resulting in 1,147 vacancies and a vacancy rate of 39.20%. Meanwhile, the Local Cadre (Kalyana Karnataka) had 42,115 reserved posts, with 26,490 filled and 14,314 vacant, indicating a 33.40% vacancy rate. Although the Local Cadre has a marginally lower vacancy rate compared to the State Cadre, both exhibit significant shortfalls in promotions. These high vacancy rates suggest ongoing challenges such as procedural delays or inefficiencies in cadre management, delays in the preparation of gradation or seniority list. As per the CAG Report on Performance Audit on Functioning of KKRDB (2022), in 44 Departments of the State Government out of 24,401 posts identified for filling through promotion, 14,155 were filled up leaving 9,156 posts vacant (38 per cent) as of March 2022. Addressing these gaps is essential to fully implement the objectives of Article 371(J) and to ensure equitable promotional opportunities for local candidates in the region.

Table 3.7: Department-wise data on promotions under Article 371(J)

Department	No. of Posts considered for Promotion	No. of Posts filled through Promotion	No. of Posts yet to be filled through Promotion (vacant)
Education	10389	8507	1882
Energy	3796	2377	1419

Urban Development	1390	434	956
Commerce & Industry	2909	1722	1187
Transport	2716	2293	423
Higher Education	844	304	540
Economics Dept.	1233	716	517
RDPR	1397	1055	342
Water Resources	576	234	342
Home	770	431	339
Law	974	728	246
Co-operative	641	327	314
Health	896	678	218
Agriculture	591	429	162
Revenue	1087	925	162
Skill development	211	90	121
Social welfare	274	180	94
PWD	137	37	100
Forest	360	293	67
Food	167	74	93
Backward classes	169	114	55
Planning	146	99	47
Medical education	769	633	136
Tourism	58	26	32
Housing	50	29	21
Information & Public relation	28	5	23
Women & Child welfare	182	175	7

Source: Vijay Karnataka, Sept 15, 2023.

Table 3.7, presents a study in a recent publication of news in a major Kannada daily shows the department-wise data on promotions under Article 371(J), which reveals significant disparities in the number of posts filled versus those still vacant, highlighting uneven progress across various government departments. Out of major departments, the Education Department shows the highest volume of promotion activity, with 10,389 posts considered, 8,507 filled, and 1,882 still vacant. Departments like Energy and Commerce & Industry also show notable gaps, with over 1,400 and 1,100 vacancies respectively. In the Urban Development Department, less than one-third of the posts have been filled, leaving 956 out of 1,390 posts vacant, indicating serious delays or constraints in the promotion process.

Similarly, the Higher Education, Economics, and Water Resources departments show considerable shortfalls, with more than 500 posts yet to be filled in each. Departments like Transport, Revenue, and Health have performed relatively better, with a higher percentage of posts filled.

Smaller departments such as Skill Development, Social Welfare, PWD, Information & Public Relations, and Housing have very low numbers of filled promotions, reflecting administrative inertia or lack of eligible candidates. Notably, the Women & Child Welfare Department has shown near-complete utilization, with 175 out of 182 posts filled, leaving only 7 vacant, indicating efficient implementation. Overall, out of 33,371 posts considered to be filled through promotions, 23,101 posts have been filled, and 10,085 posts are yet vacant.

The data highlights inconsistent implementation of promotional reservations across departments. While some have progressed well, others show a backlog that undermines the intended objectives of Article 371(J). This calls for targeted administrative attention, capacity-building measures, and periodic monitoring to ensure that promotion-based reservations are fulfilled uniformly and promptly.

Table 3.8: Details of KPSC Gazetted Probationers (KAS) Recruitment under 371 J

Year	Total Posts	No. of Posts reserved under HK quota	No. of Posts selected in Group-A (HK)	No. of Posts selected in Group B (HK)
2014	464	90	28	62
2015	428	70	27	43
2017	106	12	03	09
Total	998	172	58	114

Source: Compiled by the author from data collected through KPSC website.

The Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) plays a pivotal role in implementing Article 371J. An analysis of KPSC Gazetted Probationers (KAS) recruitments for 2014, 2015, and 2017 reveals the implementation of Article 371J, which reserves posts for the Hyderabad-Karnataka (HK) region (see Table 3.8). Across these three recruitment cycles, a total of 998 Gazetted Probationer posts were advertised. Out of these, 172 posts were specifically reserved under the HK quota. This translates to an average of approximately 17.23% of the total posts being reserved for the HK region over these years. Breaking down the reserved posts further, 58 Group-A posts and 114 Group-B posts were selected from the HK quota during these recruitments. The data consistently shows a significant number of posts being allocated to the HK region, demonstrating KPSC's role in implementing the special provisions of Article 371J to address regional imbalances in employment opportunities.

Table 3.9: Details of Group- wise KPSC Recruitment under 371 J from 2017-18 to 2024-25*

Group	Total Posts	Posts reserved under KK quota	Posts selected under KK quota	Percentage selection to total posts
Group A	1397	168	145	10.38%
Group B	421	88	81	19.23%
Group C	4899	1183	1138	23.22%
Total	6717	1439	1364	23.30%

Source: - Compiled by the author using data of 102 Final selection Lists of various recruitments conducted by KPSC was collected and analyzed, website: <https://kpsc.kar.nic.in/indexk.html#>

*The year-wise analysis cannot be given due to delays (in some cases more than 10 years), modifications and changes in notification of posts and the final select list.

Note: variations to the actual posts filled against the reserved (KK) because of the following reasons: 1. Posts reserved under state cadre and Backlog recruitments, 2. non-availability of qualified candidates to the posts, 3. Posts filled entirely under KK quota, 4. Improper classifications of posts, 5. Many recruitments and selection list are challenged in Courts, 6. Selections under 8% quota in state cadre.

An analysis of the Group-wise KPSC recruitment data from 2017–18 to 2024–25 (see Table 3.9) reveals notable disparities when viewed in light of the Kalyana Karnataka (KK) region’s share of the state’s area and population. The region constitutes approximately 22.9% of Karnataka’s geographical area and 25% of its population. However, the data shows that the overall selection rate of candidates from KK under the reservation quota stands at 20.3%, which is lower than both its population and area share, indicating underrepresentation.

When broken down by group, Group A posts—which represent the highest level of administrative positions—show a particularly concerning trend, with only 10.38% of total selections being from KK. This is less than half of the region's population share, pointing to significant disparities in access to top-tier government jobs. Group B selections stand at 19.23%, which, though better than Group A, still falls short of equity. In contrast, Group C selections from KK are 23.22%, closer to the region’s share of the population and area, suggesting better representation in lower-level jobs.

This data highlights a persistent imbalance in opportunities, especially in higher-level roles. Despite the constitutional mandate under Article 371J, which aims to address historical and regional inequalities, the underrepresentation in Group A and B categories underscores the need for stronger implementation of local quotas, enhanced support for competitive exam preparation, and focused policy measures to ensure proportional representation across all levels of government service.

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) plays a key role in implementing Article 371J by conducting entrance exams and managing admissions to professional courses. Through KCET, PG CET, DCET, and NEET-based counselling, it ensures equitable access to higher education for students from the Kalyana Karnataka region.

The Table 3.10 on seats allotted under Article 371J (as per KEA report up to August 2023) clearly reflects the expansion of educational opportunities across various professional courses, though with notable variations in distribution. Engineering accounts for the largest share with 29,839 seats, indicating a strong emphasis on technical education and employability-oriented courses in the region. Medical education also shows substantial allocation with 9,943 seats, highlighting policy focus on strengthening healthcare human resources. Agriculture and allied courses (4,510 seats) and ISMN (3,448 seats) receive moderate attention, which is significant given the agrarian base and traditional medical practices prevalent in the region. However, dental (2,109 seats) and pharmacy (1,719 seats) have comparatively lower allocations, while veterinary science receives a very minimal share (only 38 seats), indicating sectoral imbalance in professional education. Overall, the data suggests that Article 371J has significantly widened access to higher education, particularly in engineering and medical fields, but the uneven distribution across disciplines points to a need for more balanced development of diverse professional sectors to support holistic regional growth.

Table 3.10: Details of No. of Seats allotted to Candidates under 371 J- KEA Report (Up to August 2023)

Sl No.	Courses	No. of Seats allotted to Candidates under 371 J
1	Medical	9943
2	Dental	2109
3	Engineering	29839
4	Agriculture & Allied	4510
5	ISMN (Indian System of Medicine & Homeopathy)	3448
6	Pharmacy	1719
7	Veterinary Science	38

Source: “Abhivrudhi Pakshi Nota” (A Birds view on Development)- A Hand out of KKRDB, pp 43.

The KEA seat matrix data (see Table 3.11) for engineering courses from 2021–22 to 2023–24 reveals a steady expansion in overall intake as well as the number of seats reserved under the Hyderabad-Karnataka (HK) quota, though the proportional share remains almost constant. The total intake increased significantly from 1,11,322 in 2021–22 to 1,31,689 in 2023–24, reflecting the rapid growth of technical education, particularly driven by private unaided colleges and private universities. Correspondingly, HK-reserved seats rose from 6,761 to 7,940 during the same period, indicating a gradual increase in absolute opportunities for students from the region. However, the percentage share of HK reservation to total intake remains nearly stagnant at around 6%, suggesting that the expansion has been proportional rather than redistributive. A closer look shows that the bulk of HK seats are concentrated in private unaided institutions, which dominate the overall intake, while government and aided institutions contribute a relatively smaller but more stable share. This pattern implies that although access has widened numerically under Article 371J, much of the growth is market-driven and may raise concerns regarding affordability and equitable access. Overall, the data highlights that while there is quantitative progress in seat availability, the limited change in proportional representation points to structural constraints in achieving greater educational equity for the HK region.

Table 3.11: KEA- Seat Matrix of Engineering (2021 to 2024)

Type of Seats	Total Intake	Total KEA (Govt) Seats	Seats reserved under HK	% Share to total intake
2021-22				
Seats in Government Engineering Colleges / Universities/VTU Constituent Colleges	5140	5140	1148	6.07%
Seats in Aided Engineering Colleges	3200	3040	406	
Seats in Private Unaided Colleges & Unaided Courses	74872	33707	3807	
Seats in Private Unaided Minority Colleges.	8910	3564	453	
Seats in Private Universities	17160	7030	901	
Seats in Deemed Universities.	2040	627	46	
Total	1,11322	53,108	6761	
2022-23				
Seats in Government Engineering Colleges / Universities/VTU Constituent Colleges	4770	4770	1124	6.02 %
Seats in Aided Engineering Colleges	3080	2926	397	
Seats in Private Unaided Colleges & Unaided Courses	81521	36685	4166	
Seats in Private Unaided Minority Colleges.	9420	3768	482	
Seats in Private/ Deemed Universities	19280	7564	943	
Total	1,18071	55713	7112	
2023-24				
Seats in Government Engineering Colleges / Universities/VTU Constituent Colleges	6290	6290	1362	6.02%
Seats in Aided Engineering Colleges	3010	2860	393	
Seats in Private Unaided Colleges & Unaided Courses	86579	38960	4373	
Seats in Private Unaided Minority Colleges.	9420	3768	510	
Seats in Private Universities	25340	9988	1270	
Seats in Deemed Universities.	1050	420	32	
Total	131689	62286	7940	

Source: Compiled by the author from data collected from KEA website.

The KEA recruitment data from Table 3.12, under Article 371J shows that out of 6,239 total posts, 1,332 were reserved for the KK quota, of which 1,258 were filled, accounting for 20.16% of total posts. Group B recorded the highest representation with 510 out of 1,148 posts (44.42%), all reserved seats being filled. Group A had 344 out of 2,967 posts (11.60%), with full utilization of reserved seats, while Group C showed 404 out of 2,124 posts (19.02%), with some vacancies (478 reserved vs. 404 filled). Overall, while the data reflects a positive impact of Article 371J in enhancing employment opportunities, especially in middle-level positions, disparities across groups and unfilled reserved posts in certain categories highlight the need for more balanced and efficient implementation to ensure equitable representation across all levels of public employment.

Table 3.12: Details of Group- wise KEA Recruitment under 371 J

Group	Total Posts*	Posts reserved under KK quota	Posts selected under KK quota	Percentage selection to total posts
Group A	2967	344	344	11.60
Group B	1148	510	510	44.42



Group C	2124	478	404	19.02
Total	6239	1332	1258	20.16

Source: Compiled by the author from KEA website- Final selection Lists of various recruitments.

Note: Final selection lists of few recruitments conducted by KEA are published by the respective departments, hence such posts are not included in the table.

*Includes backlog, carry-forwarded posts.

CONCLUSION

The study finds that Article 371(J) has played an important role in improving educational and employment opportunities in the Kalyana Karnataka region. The provision has increased access to professional education through reservations in medical, engineering, and other higher education courses, thereby creating greater opportunities for students from the region. It has also enhanced representation of local candidates in government employment through local cadre reservations. However, the study reveals that the benefits have not been fully realised due to continued vacancies, delays in recruitment, and administrative challenges in implementing reservation provisions. Representation in higher-level government services remains relatively limited, indicating persistent inequality in access to better employment opportunities. Overall, Article 371(J) has contributed to reducing regional disparities and promoting inclusive development, but significant gaps remain in infrastructure, economic growth, and effective implementation, requiring broader development strategies beyond reservations.

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