

CHAPTER-VII
MAIN FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

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CHAPTER-VII
MAIN FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

7.1 Introduction.

This Chapter briefly takes an account of all the preceding Chapters and then presents the suggestions on the basis of the findings.

7.2 Objectives and Methodology.

The present study began with the following objectives:

1. To examine and study the composition of growth of revenue of Solapur Zilla Parishad over time;
2. To examine and study the nature of public expenditure on various heads made by Solapur Zilla Parishad over time;
3. To evaluate the role played by Solapur Zilla Parishad while providing the physical facilities of education, primary health care, animal husbandry, etc.;
4. To give suitable suggestions based on the study of the data obtained and its analysis.

For attaining these objectives, we have used the following methodology:

This study mainly deals with the effects of public expenditure of Solapur Zilla parishad. In the theoretical literature, effects of public expenditure are measured in terms

of effects on production, consumption and distribution of income. However, the nature of the functions performed by the local self government in the form of a Zilla Parishad is quite different. So, we have adopted some such parameters for evaluating the effects of public expenditure of a Zilla Parishad as would reflect the contribution of the expenditure to the availability of physical facilities per unit of 1000 population. For this, we have used the following parameters:

1. Change in the composition of expenditure of various facilities;
2. Growth of expenditure on the facilities provided by the Zilla Parishad (absolute and relative growth);
3. Absolute growth in the physical facilities provided by the Zilla Parishad in various fields;
4. Growth in the availability of physical facilities to the units of per 1000 population over the period taken for the study.

Some estimations have been made on the basis of the available secondary data. Also, an attempt has been made to analyse the growth of public expenditure of Solapur Zilla Parishad over time. For this purpose, percentage significance of simple growth rate techniques have been used. Thus, the methodology of the study comprises use of secondary data, application of simple statistical techniques and estimation of the parameters by using the data available. The time period of the study, from 1982-83 to 1986-87, is selected on the basis of the data available.

7.3 Theoretical Review.

Chapter-II deals with the theoretical review of the Democratic Decentralization. Democratic Decentralization is the need of the present time to develop the rural part of India. Democratic Decentralization gives an opportunity to the people, even at remotest villages level, to take part in the planning process.

The V.P.Naik Committee appointed by the Government of Maharashtra to study the recommendations of 'Mehta Study Team on Community Development Programme' and to suggest a suitable structure and plan for Panchayati Raj implementation in Maharashtra, made the following observations regarding their perception of 'Democratic Decentralization:

"In our view, decentralization does not mean division of the functions of the State between the State government and the local bodies, each discharging its functions independent of the other.

"Decentralization means and includes devolution of State functions on local bodies. The latter discharging them subject to the Constitutional responsibility of the State in respect of law and order and development, of course, in respect of the functions devolved on the local bodies, they will have full freedom in deciding the priorities between the various activities and the suitability of the areas in which they should be undertaken, provided they conform to the general policy of the State".

In this Chapter, the review of the suggestions made by Mehta Study Team on C.D.P. also has been taken.

Mehta Study Team suggested the plan of implementation of Panchayati Raj in India with its three-tier structure of institutions, viz. Gram Panchayat at village level, Panchayat Samiti at block/Tahsil level, and Zilla parishad at district level. Soon after the recommendations made by the Study Team, almost all the States in India accepted the Panchayati Raj System. The States of Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh were the first to implement Panchayati Raj in India.

Chapter-II further takes into account the need of Democratic Decentralization. The need of Democratic Decentralization helps to cure the failures of macro-level planning, by way of involvement of maximum people in the process of decision-making of domestic planning.

In the present state of Panchayati Raj, the decentralization has been effected to the maximum extent possible. At the bottom level, there are Gram Panchayats at village, the representatives of which are elected on the basis of adult franchise. At Taluka level, there is a Panchayat Samiti to co-ordinate in these Gram Panchayats and at the apex level, there are Zilla Parishads which are having the role of crucial importance in Panchayati Raj system in India.

The implementation of Democratic Decentralization in India has already proved its worth and it is still being rightly revitalised.

7.4 History of Solapur Zilla Parishad.

In Chapter-III, a brief history of Solapur Zilla Parishad and Panchayati Raj system in India has been given.

The Panchayati Raj organizations as now commonly understood came into existence soon after the acceptance of the recommendations of the Study Team on C.D.P. headed by Balwantrao Mehta in India. The aim of the Panchayati Raj is to bring rural population under the influence of the process of rural development activity. The failure of C.D.P. gave ground to the implementation of Panchayati Raj system in India. In January 1957, the Study Team of C.D.P. submitted its recommendations. Soon after that, Rajasthan implemented Panchayati Raj in October 1959 and Andhra Pradesh in November 1959. The Government of Maharashtra passed the Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti Act in 1961, but the Panchayati Raj system actually came into existence in Maharashtra in May 1962.

History of Solapur Zilla Parishad.

The history of the establishment of Solapur Zilla Parishad is not different to that of history of Panchayati Raj establishment in India. Solapur Zilla Parishad actually started working from August 15th, 1962; at the same time, first Council of Solapur Zilla Parishad came into existence comprising 54 members directly elected. The late Mr. Namdeorao Jagtap and Mr. Sambhajirao Patil came to power as President and vice-President of Solapur Zilla Parishad.

At the same time, Panchayat Samitis at respective Tahsils of Solapur district were created. Seven committees were formed immediately after the Zilla Parishad came into existence, namely:

1. Standing Committee,
2. Finance Committee,
3. Agriculture Committee,
4. Co-operative Committee,
5. Building and Construction Committee,
6. Education Committee,
7. Health Committee.

The late Shri.Namdeorao Jagtap, Shri.S.S.Patil, Shri.Vijaysinh Patil, Shri.K.R.Nimbalkar were elected as the Chairmen of Solapur Zilla Parishad. Recently, there has been a change in the Chairmanship of Solapur Zilla Parishad. Mr.Ramchandra Sripati Mane has assumed the power as a President in April 1989.

Solapur Zilla Parishad has completed 27 years of its functioning.

7.5 Functions of Zilla Parishad.

Chapter-IV of this study gives a brief account of the functions and powers of Zilla Parishad.

These functions and powers of Zilla Parishad are not uniform in India, this being a subject of States. In some States, Zilla Parishads are very powerful and in some States,

they are not so. In some States, Zilla Parishads are working as the supervisory and advisory bodies and in some other States, they are having some executive functions to perform.

But in Maharashtra, Zilla Parishad is the strongest body of the Panchayati Raj and is vested with executive functions in various fields.

The functions of the Zilla Parishad can be classified under the following categories:

1. Executive,
2. Supervisory and Guidance,
3. Co-ordination,
4. Appellate and Advisory,
5. Joint Servicing and Establishment.

According to these functions, there are functional committees ranging from 3 to 7 in number in various States of India.

7.6 Trends in the Revenue and Expenditure of Solapur Zilla Parishad.

As far as the revenue of the Solapur Zilla Parishad is concerned, there is a persistent growth in the revenue of Solapur Zilla Parishad over the time period taken for the study. But most of the part of the total revenue comes from the government grants. This has paralysed the autonomy of Zilla Parishads.

The expenditure of Solapur Zilla Parishad on

revenue account on various heads has also increased over period of time. It has grown from Rs.14 crores in 1982-83 to Rs.29 crores in 1986-87. But if, we study the percentage changes of expenditure we find that there is only considerably increase in the percentage of expenditure on health facilities. The rise in the expenditure is only due to the rise in the salary expenditure of Solapur Zilla Parishad. Salary expenditure comprises the major part of the public expenditure of Zilla Parishad on various heads, e.g. expenditure on education.

7.7 Effects of Expenditure.

The effects of expenditure have been measured by the changes in the composition of expenditure on various facilities, growth of expenditure on the provision of facilities, absolute growth in physical facilities and growth in the availability of physical facilities per unit of 1000 population.

When we applied these parameters to the data available over period of time, we found that there is a very insignificant positive change in the availability of physical facilities of various fields.

Public expenditure of Solapur Zilla Parishad has not made any significant change to considerable extent of availability of physical facilities to district population.

7.8 Suggestions.

In view of the fact that the Panchayati Raj system is being revitalised as a step towards strengthening the democracy

in Indian economy, the local self-government of Zilla Parishad has assumed more significance at present. The analysis of expenditure presented above clearly shows the following trends and facts:

1. The major source of revenue for Zilla Parishad is the government grants received from the State Government;
2. The autonomy of revenue, thus is greatly paralysed by the non-availability or inadequate availability of the own sources of finances for Zilla Parishad;
3. It appears from the pattern of expenditure that education has been a major item of expenditure of Zilla Parishad. However, a major part of the expenditure on education by the Zilla Parishad is spent normally on the salaries of the teaching and non-teaching staff. This calls for immediate attention towards some significant provision for the capital expenditure to be incurred upon the provision of infrastructural facilities. It is, therefore, suggested that the structure of expenditure on education should be made more productive and helpful for capital formation in the field of education.
4. It is also seen from the public expenditure that the physical facilities in various fields have not kept pace with the growing needs of population. It is suggested therefore, that economic planning at the district level should take an account of the growing population and its needs.
5. The primary health and animal husbandry facilities are just being maintained at the existing levels. This shows an absence of foresight for the planning of the district economy. Hence, in order to make the economic planning

more effective, fulfilment of physical targets in respect of various facilities should be accorded the topmost priority.

7.9 Conclusion.

Thus, we have attempted to examine the growth of public expenditure and its effects on the economy of Solapur district.
