
C H A P T E R V I

CONCLUSIONS

AND

SUGGESTIONS



CHAPTER - VICONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

The concept of district planning adopted by the Government of Maharashtra in Sangli district is suitable to the agricultural development. It includes all the administrative institutions like Zilla Parishad, Municipal Council, Panchayat Rajya Institutions and other local government bodies. During the last two decades the political and administrative set up at the district level has matured sufficiently.

With reference to the process of planning in Sangli district, the district has adopted the same formula given by the State Government. The methodology of district planning in the Sangli district is streamlined and fair. It covers all the administrative bodies encompassing district area and their role is very effective. Particularly the Collector plays a crucial role in the process.

So far as implementation is concerned the five year plans and annual plans implemented by planning officers under the leadership of Collector and other departments like Irrigation, Land Reforms, Animal

Husbandry, Fisheries etc. These departments are responsible for implementation and day today administration.

As regarding to the objectives of the plan are concerned all the objectives of district plans fair and rational. The financial provision made by district planning and the received outlay are allocated to the various schemes and sub - schemes. The district planning machinery works as a middleman of State Government. It has no supreme power. It just allocates the funds. So the District planning has freedom to prepare self plans, So far as choice of scheme and allocation of funds are concerned.

It is observed that the targets are fixed by the district planning board according to their convenience and needs and after that they put in draft annual plans.

Our second chapter and third chapter studies Research Methodology and agricultural profile of the district respectively.

The fourth chapter of our study goes into the various aspects of agriculture and allied

activities . It studied the share of agriculture in total outlay during 6th and 7th plan period. So far as Irrigation is concerned during the 6th and 7th plan Rs. 1,556.47 lakhs as against Rs. 1,598.52 lakhs were spent. Total outlay spent for Land Reforms was Rs. 5.05 lakhs, actual outlay spent for Horticulture and Plant Protection was Rs. 61.71 lakhs as against Rs. 67.57 lakhs. Rs. 166.53 lakhs were spent on Crop Husbandry. against Rs. 162.21 lakhs. The total outlay spent for Soil and water Conservation was Rs. 84.86 lakhs as against provision of Rs. 147.25 lakhs and Rs. 155.23 lakhs as against Rs. 145.79 lakhs for Animal Husbandry. Rs. 436.70 lakhs were spent as against Rs. 383.24 lakhs for Dairy Development. Fisheries claimed Rs. 15.08 lakhs against the received outlay Rs. 14.73 lakhs. Rs. 17.00 lakhs as against the received outlay Rs. 17.06 lakhs and Rs. 1.90 lakhs were spent for the development of Marketing and warehousing.

So far as the total outlay is concerned the amount received by various schemes during 6th plan and 7th plan was inadequate. So far as targets and achievement are concerned most of the targets remained incomplete in the both plan period. After the discussion with the office bearer it is observed that the State

Government grants certain specific amount for the annual plan which is about Rs. 14.00 crores only. It is difficult to complete the given targets which in this amount.

The Fifth chapter of our study goes into the various aspects of the physical targets and achievement of agriculture and allied activities. In this fifth chapter it is found that achievement of different schemes and projects zoom between zero percent to 165 percent. Though there was a target of completion of five drainage schemes set in 1980 - 81 no financial outlay was set aside and thus the achievement was nil (table 5.2). Same in the case of distribution of minikits for sapplings (table 5.6). This probably is counter balanced by more than hundred percent fulfilment of targets. In the sixth plan 76 M.T. lakhs were constructed as against the target of 57 lakhs and in the seventh plan no tank was constructed against the target of construction of 21 tanks. Plant Protection programme was completed in 9945 hectares in the sixth plan against no target (table 5.8). No building was constructed for veterinary polyclinic in the sixth plan against the target of 11 buildings (table 5.12).

while 144 intensive cattle development projects were completed against the target of 96 projects (table 5.12).

So far as the targets and achievements are concerned a vast frequency is observed. It is also observed that if there is financial provision there is no note about the achievements and if there is financial provision there is no note of targets. It is observed from the discussion with office bearer that the review outlays were diverted from one ~~scheme~~ to another scheme and sometimes due to some technical problems the work were stopped by the people and the sanctioned grants were lapsed or the money were returned to the State Governments. Sometimes this surplus amounts were spent on other sub - schemes.

However, a detailed analysis of the district plan reveals certain inherent weakness in the plan. Some of which are described below.

(1) District Planning received considerable attention in Sangli district but some major work was done at the state level itself.

(2) The District Planning Boards were only advisory bodies. The District Planning Boards were used as plan framing rather than plan formulating organisations. So district planning did not have any meaning until available planning machinery with sufficient expertise was developed. Planning Boards try to identify local needs and implements.

(3) The plan seems to have been merely an exercise in splitting up the total outlay into various heads and sub - heads. No perspective planning seems to have done and no effort seems to have been made to find out as to how best this investment could have yielded the best possible returns for this district.

(4) No alternative models of investment were prepared by the District Planning Board before finalising the district plan.

(5) After the target has been decided no attempts have been made for their further devision and inter - linking.

(6) The majority of the schemes envisaged in the plan are subsidy schemes with two planning weakness. --

(a) the number of schemes is quite large and the provision of funds are comparatively small which show that each of these schemes is lost in the multitude without making any impact whatsoever.

(b) helping to 40 to 50 persons or training to 8 to 16 farmers under the same scheme is meaningless.

(7) No plan can made a complete break with the previous plans and to that extent it is futile to expect one plan to be a substantial improvement upon the previous plan.

(8) On the whole, the plan gives a general impression that the serious economic considerations have not at all been gone into, at the time of the formulation of the plan. This could perhaps be due to the fact that this was the first time such an effort was made and because of that, the District Planning Board did not wish depart radically from the pattern accepted by the state. It requires courage and boldness on the part of the District Planning Boards to break away from the part and to initiate something more meaningful and worthwhile.

Suggestions :-

- (1) The Methodology of District planning should be simple, and the district planning should be itself concrete, specific and practical.
- (2) within the frame work of district planning, the functions of the District Planning Boards should be streamlined with following objectives.
 - (i) To allocate the taluka wise outlay.
 - (ii) To understand and identify the local needs and objectives.
 - (iii) To consider the natural and human resources.
 - (iv) Listing and mapping of soil resources.
 - (vi) Formulation of plans, policies, programmes, and priorities.
 - (vii) Co - ordination and interlinking between the scheme and sub - scheme.
 - (viii) Review the targets, implementations and resources periodically.

- (3) The Departmental officers and particularly office bearers at the district level should not be subjected to frequent transfers from one department to another. It is observed that in Sangli district there were frequent transfers from planning to revenue, revenue to statistic office, statistical office to planning. Staff of the Planning Board should be trained in the technique of planning.
- (4) Research assistance -- Planners must be trained in Economic Planning.
- (5) There should be Rural and Urban Integration.
- (6) There should be technical planning staff.
- (7) District Planning must consist of integration of development activities in primary, secondary, tertiary and infrastructures so as to deal with the problems.

District Planning was introduced with a hope that the administrative and political structure at the district level had matured.

It is tried to find out whether it was indeed so ?
A study of the district planning of Sangli provides a clearcut answer that it is not so, at least, not yet. In due course of time, perhaps, the District Planning Boards will be able to furnish much better plans. May be the plans of other districts might have been better even now.

It is also possible that the government can educate the local leadership and initiate them in the process of plan formulation. The local leaders have now started thinking as to how best they can satisfy the local demands out of the total outlays earmarked for each district.

It is doubtful whether the District Planning Board can go back on the commitments made by the state to continue the previous plans and it is found that there is no breakthrough of schemes. We can expect that the planning will take some actions regarding this.

The district plan has been very successful in removing inter - district and intra - district imbalances to a very large extent.

All said and done, it seems to be absolutely fair to conclude that this experiment has been quite

a success and needs to be continued. The limitations and the shortcomings are already pointed out, but it can be overcome in due course of time. The planning machinery at the district level can be strengthened by appointing say a few more experts, like Economists, Statisticians etc. The guidelines issued by the District Planning Board can be made mandatory on the local institutions such as Zilla Parishads, the municipal councils and the Gram Panchayats etc. so far as the vital sectors of the economy are concerned. The district plan will, of course, have to continue to conform to the national plans and the state's plans because there will be just no other alternative. It is felt that the deliberations of the district planning and development councils could be made more meaningful if the council is split into various consultative groups which can be entrusted with specific problems and specific studies. The consultative groups could be made permanent bodies and attached to the various departments of the government of the district level. Similarly, these consultative groups could be made more broad-based by giving them the powers to co-opt any number of members from the academic side, from the bar, from the business, industry or from any other walks of life. In this manner, fresh ideas will keep on coming in and it is hoped that the consensus that would emerge would be really helpful for the deliberations of the District Planning Boards.

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