

CHAPTER - III
=====

RESEARCH DESIGN

.....

- A) Introduction
- B) Significance of study
- C) Objectives of the study
- D) Limitations and Scope of
the study
- E) Research Methodology

=====

A) INTRODUCTION :

The study of local government in India has acquired a special significance in the post independence period because India has adopted the aim of socialistic pattern of society and the concept of welfare state. The local self-government plays a vital role in providing for the participation of public in the political process and accordingly it has to carry out multifarious function with the available resources to meet the needs and demands of the people.

The study of local finance is inseparable from the study of functions, structure and organisation of the institutions of local self-government. Local self-government is an inalienable part of democracy. Hence the study of its finances is likely to be useful. The Panchayat Raj Institutions is one of the most important part of local self-government in India. The Zilla Parishad is one of the most important tier or parts of Panchayat Raj Institutions. The Zilla Parishads are playing the vital role for rural development in Maharashtra. In this state Zilla Parishad come into force on 1st May 1962 according to Maharashtra Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti Act 1961.

B) SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY :

India's 70% population is scattered in the rural areas. The rate of growth of population during the span of ten years 1971-81 is increased by about 23%. The problems faced by the rural people are various; scarcity of water, housing, lack of

educational and medical facilities, increasing unemployment, breaking away of joint families and thrust for city life and shortage of agricultural labourer. This points to the importance of the study of rural local bodies and their finances on whom a major responsibility lies under the Indian Constitution. Rural local bodies are expected to play a major role in fulfilling the needs of the rural population.

Hence a close study of the resources and the finances of the rural local bodies, to get an overall picture of its finances and to understand the matching of obligations and resources of Zilla Parishad is highly desirable. With this in mind I have chosen to undertake "A study of sources and application of fund with special reference to Sangli Zilla Parishad". This study tries to analyse and assess the financial aspects of the Sangli Zilla Parishad.

Finance is the life blood of the Zilla Parishad and rural local bodies had no exception to it. If the financial resources are weak, those institutions cannot come up to the desired expectations. The ability of these local bodies to discharge the functions entrusted to them depend on the adequacy of financial resources. The Zilla Parishads are expected to perform various functions which promote human comfort and welfare. Therefore, it is expected that the adequate resources and finances are made available to the rural local bodies. But unfortunately, the local finance has been in the direction of centralisation of revenue and decentralisation of expenditure, stated thus, the problem become

very clear, what is needed is a matching of obligation and resources. The finance of rural local bodies is not an encouraging one. The proportion of local resources to the total resources is a comparatively minor and waning factor in local bodies and there is a large measure of dependence of government grants, which has resulted in complete dependence of rural local bodies upon the mercy of the state government for their existence.

Thus, I have tried to examine broadly how far an equilibrium between functions and finances prevailing in the Sangli Zilla Parishad.

C) OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

The present study is mostly related to the indepth analysis in regards to the economic aspects namely, revenue expenditure and physical achievements. The objectives of the study undertaken is as follows :-

- 1) To analyse the revenue pattern of Zilla Parishad.
- 2) To analyse the expenditure pattern of Zilla Parishad.
- 3) To study the physical achievements in regard to Agriculture, Education, Animal husbandry and other relevant aspects, etc.
- 4) To suggest measures for the effective utilisation of finance.

D) LIMITATIONS AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY :

This study covers only 5 years period from 1980-81 to 1984-85. Its approach is to analysis sources and expenditure based on annual reports and annual accounts which are the main

sources of Sangli Zilla Parishad and how it should be utilised for the needs and demands of public.

E) RESEARCH METHODOLOGY :

The approach of the study as far as the Methodology is concerned in both a historical approach and an aggregate analysis of facts and figures based on :-

- i) Published material,
- ii) Unpublished material from the Zilla Parishad records and
- iii) Personal interviews.

Under this study mainly secondary data has been used. The sources of the published data is collected from the various libraries such as Chhatrapati Shahu Central Institute of Business Education and Research, Kolhapur, the library of Shivaji University, Kolhapur, the library of Marathwada University, Aurangabad.

Chapter Scheme :

- Chapter - I : Historical review of Panchayat Raj Institutions
- Chapter - II : Profile of Sangli District
- Chapter - III : Research Design
- Chapter - IV : Analysis and Findings
 - A) Revenue pattern of Zilla Parishad
 - B) Expenditure pattern of Zilla Parishad
 - C) Physical achievement of Zilla Parishad
 - D) Findings in brief
- Chapter - V : Conclusion and Suggestions