CHAPTER 3

PROJECT DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

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A) SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

A business proposition has to be self-sustained after the initial period of gestation if it has to last long and perform satisfactorily. A passenger transport service is no exception to this rule whether the service is in private sector or public sector. In fact, of late, with the liberlisation of the economy, the government is now in a mood to eliminate as much burden of subsidy as it can from its burdened shoulders, and has already been keen on advising the public sector services to become viable to ensure continuation of the service. MSRTC is also faced with the problem of viability as it is continuously incurring losses for a number of years.

In a transport service, the optimum capacity utilisation of the fleet is an important consideration and perhaps also a very significant indicator of the operating health of the service. A study of capacity utilisation of MSRTC and related matters on a sample basis though, is expected to reveal the weak points of the service and pave the way for undertaking necessary improvement in order to help the service lead to viability. Hence it is felt that this area is very significant.

B) OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study has been undertaken with the basic objective of knowing the capacity utilisation of seleccted routes in

Kolhapur Division of MSRTC, knowing the reasons thereof, diffi-
culties experienced and explore the measures that can be taken up
to improve the performance of the service and make suggestions
thereof.

C) **METHODOLOGY**

The study covers the following selected routes where
MSRTC Bus service is operated from Kolhapur Division.

1.   Kolhapur Satana Kolhapur

2.   Kolhapur Bombay Kolhapur (Day Journey)

3.   Kolhapur Bombay Kolhapur (Night Journey)

4.   Kolhapur Solapur Kolhapur (Day Journey)

5.   Kolhapur Solapur Kolhapur (Night Journey)

6.   Kolhapur Pune Kolhapur

7.   Kolhapur Pune Kolhapur (Semi Luxury)

8.   Kolhapur Chiplun Kolhapur

9.   Kolhapur Chandgad Kolhapur

10. Kolhapur Chikodi Kolhapur

11. Kolhapur Miraj Kolhapur

12. Kolhapur Audumbar Kolhapur

13. Kolhapur Sangli Kolhapur

14. Kolhapur Warananagar Kolhapur

15. Kolhapur Kodoli Kolhapur

16. Kolhapur Ichalkaranji Kolhapur

17. Kolhapur Jotiba Kolhapur

18. Vadgaon Ghunki Vadgaon

19. Vadgaon Kini Vadgaon

As the study deals with the capacity utilisation of MSRTC Buses on selected routes, the Primary and Secondary data are used to study various issues and the key problems of MSRTC Bus services in Kolhapur Division and find suitable solutions to them.

a) PRIMARY DATA

Major information was collected with the help of following primary data.

1. Discussions with officers at Divisional Office

To get the first hand information and to know the opinions of the top divisional management, frequent visits were made to the officers at Divisional Office. Key issues like capacity utilisation, characterstics of selected routes were discussed with Assistant Traffic Inspector, Incharge of Statistical Department and other managers at depot level.

2. Discussion with Expert Staff at C.I.R.T. Pune

Discussions with Expert staff and the suggestions received from them at the time of discussion were of great help and use for this study.

3. Personal Observation

Different routes and the positions at bus stops and

terminals were observed personally, travelling by MSRTC buses and personal vehicle.

b) SECONDARY DATA

The information available with different sources is used to supplement this work. It includes following sources of information.

1. Statistical Information from Divisional Office

Information maintained over a number of years at Divisional Office about S.T. Bus operations and its performance routewise.

2. Record of Crew Duties

A complete record of crew duties maintained at Kolhapur division for working out time table and route coverage.

3. Information from Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT) Pune

Information published by CIRT, Pune on various aspects such as route rationalisation, fleet utilisation, fuel conservation cost analysis, operational efficiency maintenance requirements and other aspects of bus transport for arriving at findings.

4. Monthly Bullentins and Annual Administration Reports

Published by Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation and Indian Institute of Road Transport for getting relevant

additional information.

CHAPTER SCHEME

Chapter 1 is introductory in nature presenting the profile of MSRTC in general and Kolhapur Division in particular.

Chapter 2 deals with the concptual framework dealing with capacity utilisation of transport unit and other related terms.

Chapter 3 contains the project design and Methodology. It deals with the significance of the study, objectivies and methodology.

Chapter 4 presents and interprets the data collected. It deals with route analysis of the selected routes from the point of view of passengers service, capacity utilisation of Bus services and other related matters.

Chapter 5 gives conclusions or findings of the study and the suggestions based on these findings for futher improvemet of passengers Bus services.