

INTRODUCTION AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

The history of village level Panchayat Raj institutions in India goes back to hundreds of years. A salient feature of these institutions is that, they were largely self governing, although their social background was characterised by a rigid social structure.

Panchayats have been a part of our social organisation for such a long time. The inspiration for Panchayati Raj is derived from the tradition of Panch Parmeshwar, where God speaks through the five Panchayati Raj has its roots in the political tradition of our country and is traced to the Vedic time. In the post independence period, Panchayati Raj institutions were launched in Maharashtra on 1st May 1962. Panchayati Raj aims at establishing democracy at grass roots and giving a sense of involvement to the people at the village level. It is a concept of an ideal socio economic and administrative order, wherein with full decentralisation of power. We can achieve the objective of making the society an organic whole.

The present study attempts to study the finances of the Village Panchayats and review their revenue and expenditure pattern.

It is against this overall context, that an attempt is made in this study to review the finances of local rural bodies, Village Panchayat namely Village Panchayat of Hupari, Tal. Hatkanangale, Dist. Kolhapur, state of Maharashtra. The study attempts to analyse the revenue growth

and composition, expenditure growth analysis and study of the tax structure of the village Panchayat under study.

Title of the Dissertation

The title of the present dissertation is "Finances of Hupari Village Panchayat".

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the study are -

1. Study the overall budgetary trends in village Panchayat finance.
2. study the source of finance of the Village Panchayats.
3. examine the tax structure of village Panchayats.
4. analyse the expenditure pattern of village Panchayats.

Scope of the Study

The dissertation attempts to study the economic condition of one village Panchayat viz. Hupari, Tal. Hatkanangale, Dist. Kolhapur.

Period of the Study

The period of the study selected is from 2000-01 to 2005-06.

Research Methodology

The present study relies heavily on the secondary data gathered from the office records of the Village Panchayat under study for the study Tal. Hatkanangale, Dist. Kolhapur one Village Panchayat is selected

i. e. Hupari Village Panchayat. It is with population of more than 30,000 as per 2001 Census. The necessary secondary data is collected from the official records of the Village Panchayat. Data is collected for the period from 2000-01 to 2005-06. The data was classified, tabulated and processed for interpretation purpose. The collected data was processed by using appropriate statistical tools such as Ratio Analysis, Growth in Percentage Increase, Compound Growth Rate.

Chapter Scheme of the Study

The following is the chapter scheme of the study.

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| Chapter - I : | Introduction |
| Chapter - II : | Overall Budgetary Trends in Village Panchayat Finance |
| Chapter - III : | Analysis of Sources of Finance and Tax Structure of Village Panchayat |
| Chapter - IV : | Composition of Expenditure of Village Panchayat Under Study |
| Chapter - V : | Major Findings and Suggestions |