

CHAPTER - VI

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION

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Public health and sanitation occupies greater importance among the functions of municipality. Because they are concerned with the life and death of citizens. These functions are not only fundamental but they are the basic needs of the city life. In a sense local self-govt. originated to fulfil this basic need of the city life. The function of public health and sanitation mainly covers the protective and remedial measures to maintain the health of the citizens. As per the Bombay municipal Act of 1925 the functions of public health and sanitation comprises of following heads.¹

1. Epidemics.
2. Endemic diseases.
3. Collection and disposal of refuse.
4. Removal of the night soil.
5. Meat and fish market.
6. Cremation and burial grounds.

The Bijapur municipality has been aware of its responsibility in this matter and had made every effort to maintain a high level of public health and sanitation in the city.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH

I) EPIDEMICS:

During 1854-1954 the Bijapur municipality had to face two kinds of epidemics namely. 1) Plague and 2) Cholera.

A) P L A G U E :

The first historical reference to an epidemic of plague was when Bijapur was occupied by Aurangzeb in the year 1689.² Hundred thousand people are said to have been died during that year. Even after two centuries Bijapur remembered with horror the deadly toll that was taken by plague on that occasion.

Epidemic of plague was the greatest problem that Bijapur municipality faced during 1895-96 to 1945-46.³ During 1895-96 to 1915-16 it occurred every second year and several times in a virtual epidemic form.⁴

The municipality's efforts to fight against this dreadful epidemic make a note worthy chapter in the history of the municipal public health and sanitary administration. It is interesting to note that Bijapur municipality was a pioneer in making use of the latest preventive and curative measures against plague.⁵

After the establishment of the municipality the first outbreak of Plague in the district occurred in Kaladagi

in 1896.⁶ For about ten years after 1896 plague was frequent visitor to Bijapur and municipality spent thousands of rupees every years to relieve the distress of the people. Unfortunately these were no effective preventive and curative measures, known during those days. Hence plague broke out again in August, 1903 in a severe epidemic form.⁷ This lasted till the end of December. There were 947 attacks and 861 deaths.⁸ Free medical treatment was given to the patients. The municipal squad worked hard. Here mention may be made to Dr. Telkar, who rendered very valuable service to the public and unfortunately himself fell victim to plague and died in 1903. The severity of the plague was such that municipality spent about Rs. 7,000/- on relief measures. From that time onwards till 1912 Bijapur was comparatively free from this epidemic. In 1912, though there was another outbreak, but was not severe one.

T A B L E N O. 1.

History of plague epidemic in Bijapur from 1912-1935.⁹

Year	Attacks	Deaths	Inauculation Performed
1912-13	13	10	-
1913-14	860	636	9,849
1915-16	556	376	11,109
1916-17	619	412	8,059

1917-18	271	190	63,000
1923-24	107	62	22,000
1924-25	276	196	10,556
1926-27	209	149	12,868
1929-30	17	8	4,981
1932-33	260	164	27,797
1933-34	233	148	25,952
1934-35	223	148	20,205

Above table brings out the fact that plague was a frequent visitor after 1912-13 till 1934-35. Municipality of Bijapur took preventive measures by performing anti plague inoculations through out this period.

PREVENTIVE AND CURATIVE MEASURES AGAINST PLAGUE :

Realizing severity of plague and its frequency Bijapur municipality took both preventive and curative measures.

a) APPOINTMENT OF HEALTH OFFICER :

On 8th August, 1923 the municipality appointed Dr.R.D. Perulekar as the first Health officer.¹⁰ After that vigerous anti plague measures, both preventive and curative were taken by the municipality.

b) INFECTIOUS DISEASE HOSPITAL:

The Bijapur municipality as a part of the fight against plague constructed an infectious disease hospital on a site measuring more than two acres, (West of Shikar Khana Locality) away from the any inhabited area, in 1930-31 at the cost of Rs. 5,015/-.¹¹

c) NEW MEASURE OF CYNO-GAS FUMIGATION :

The Bijapur municipality was the first in the whole of Bombay presidency to under take this new method of Cyno-gas fumigation as an anti plague measure.

Major A.Y. Dabolkar, Director of public health Bombay, camped in Bijapur for four days from 17.04.1934, along with Dr. Chitre and Dr. K.A. Gandhi, Assistant Director of Public Health, Belgaum, to hold a demonstration on the use of Cyno-gas a dust.¹² The Bijapur municipality carried on the demonstration on the use of Cyno-gas very succesfully. In all 213 godowns, 250 shops and 649 houses were fumigated.¹³ A sand bed was prepared near different municipal nakes to disinfect the head loads of persons bringing goods from the infected areas, 438 headloads, were disinfected on such sand beds. Loaded carts coming with goods from the infected villages were fumigated with cyno-gas under tarpoline cover. 1963 bags containing grains etc. were thus fumigated.¹⁴

In every year during plague season, the municipality of Bijapur undertook Cyno-gas fumigation and ratting operation by way of preventive measures. Such measures were intensified whenever the town was threatened with infection from outside. Hundreds of houses were fumigated in the localities where imported infection was suspected.

By such prompt, vigerous, comprehensive and effective anti plague measures taken by the municipality at heavy cost Bijapur became almost completely free from plague since 1935.

d) C H O L E R A :

Epidemic of cholera was another problem that Bijapur municipality had to face during the first half of this century. It had occured for seven times during the period 1905 and 1954, and had taken the toll of 294 citizens.¹⁵

T A B L E N O. 2.

Table showing the total number of deaths caused by Cholera in Bijapur from 1905 to 1954.¹⁶

Year	Attacks	Deaths
1905	231	112
1906 to 1908	Nil	Nil
1909	41	21
1909 to 1911	Nil	Nil

1912-13	113	61
1914 to 1934	N11	N11
1935	148	92
1936 to 1949	N11	N11
1950 to 1951	9	5
1952	N11	N11
1953 to 1954	5	3

It appears from the above table that during the years 1905, 1909, 1912, 1935 the epidemic of cholera prevailed in severe form. During 1914 to 1935 (for 20 years) there were no cholera cases. This is because in 1914 the water works in Bijapur was completed. People of Bijapur got safe and pure drinking water. The epidemic of cholera that broke out in 1935, 1950, 1951 and 1953-54 was never a city born disease. Cholera had spread in these year by the migration of the people from the cholera infected areas. For example in 1935 an out side marriage party brought infection. In the year 1950 and 1953-54 the outbreak of cholera was also due to the infection from outside.

PREVENTIVE AND CURATIVE MEASURES :

On the occasion of outbreak of cholera municipality was prompt in taking anti cholera measures. In the year 1909 the municipality spend Rs. 10,400/- for anti cholera

measures.¹⁷ When the Cholera broke out in 1935 in an epidemic form, Bijapur municipality appointed a temporary medical officer and 20,465 anti cholera inoculations were done.¹⁸

Whenever the epidemic broke out Bijapur municipality had taken effective measures to check it. It had undertaken the scheme of anti cholera inoculation throughout the city. All the dirty places which cause the disease were disinfected thoroughly by cleaning up and spreading with disinfecting pow^ders. Effective measures were taken to keep the city clean. It also appointed market inspectors and supervisory staff, to have effective check on the fruit markets, mutton markets and fish markets, for keeping them in hygienic conditions. Hotels were frequently inspected by public Health Department personel for keeping them clean and hygienic. Due to all these preventive measures after 1914 cholera ceased to be a city born disease. At the same time complection of water work in that year is also an important factor that contributed to this.

3. OTHER EPIDEMICS :

Bijapur has been free from the epidemic of small pox when there were 242 attacks and 62 deaths.¹⁹

Mention must also be made of influenza which raged in a terrible epidemic form during the months of September and October 1918.²⁰ On certain days the death rate was as

high as 50 and more than 1233 deaths are recorded due to influenza during those two months.

But small pox and influenza never caused a disaster in the city like other diseases. Bijapur municipality had taken due care to check influenza and small pox epidemics whenever they occurred. The municipal hospitals also treated the patients by appointing some additional staff. Bijapur municipality, it can be said, had always checked the epidemics.

VACCINATION :

Bijapur municipality did not satisfied by taking only curative measures. As a care taker of public health, it was also interested in preventive measures. It is said that prevention is better than cure and municipality belived in it.

Bijapur municipality maintained vaccination establishment and to supervise the working of this establishment the municipal Medical Officer of Health was appointed. In the year 1926 one vaccinator was appointed for the first time.²¹ To cope with the increasing demand of the vaccination work in the town, the municipality appointed one more vaccinator in the year 1949.²²

The vaccination work done by the municipal establishment can be determined by the following table.

T A B L E N O. 3.

Vaccination work done during 1926 to 1954.²³

Year	Primary Vaccination	Revaccination
1926	1141	554
1927	1081	721
1928	1131	614
1929	2143	5906
1930	1138	609
1931	1148	484
1932	1173	540
1933	1362	2167
1934	1629	1305
1935	1846	5081
1936	1507	253
1937	1459	596
1938	1403	406
1939	1549	585
1940	1559	336
1941	1731	728
1942	2631	11215
1943	2497	11793
1944	1487	1359
1945	1536	1973
1946	2506	2916
1947	1634	2137

1948	2213	1782
1949	2222	4801
1950	2463	16965
1951	2193	665
1952	2485	2283
1953	2619	615
1954	2435	7882

In above table the figures of revaccination show the Bijapur municipality's efforts in fighting small pox when ever it has broken out in an epidemic form. The figures of revaccination in the years 1929, 1942, 1943 and 1950 are worth noticing. In those years more people were revaccinated because small pox in an epidemic form broke out in those years. But in the year 1929 it was in a very devastating form.

II) MEDICAL AID : DISPENSARIES :

The civil hospital maintained by the government was the only organization that gave free medical aid to the general public. But on account of its situation in the western suburb of Jorapur full advantage of medical aid at the civil hospital could not be taken by a large section of the public of Bijapur. Poor and middle class people

living in the far off place could not conveniently attend the Civil Hospital for medical aid. The municipality, therefore, thought of opening hospitals to meet the medical needs of the people,

On 3/10/1935 the municipality opened an Ayurvedic Dispensary on the Rama Temple Road,²⁴ which was inaugurated by Lilavati Munshi. The fact that 3,259 cases were registered in the dispensary during the first six months²⁵ shows that it had fulfilled a long felt need of the general public for medical aid in addition to the aid available at the civil hospital.

The following table shows total cases treated at the hospital every year from 1935-36 to 1953-54.

TABLE NO. 4

Total Cases treated at Ayurvedic Hospital during 1935-36 to 1953-54.²⁶

Y e a r.	Total No. of cases treated.	Year.	Total No. of cases treated.
1935-36	12,964	1945-46	45,394
1936-37	27,118	1946-47	51,730
1937-38	24,546	1947-48	43,556
1938-39	50,858	1948-49	42,541
1939-40	75,380	1949-50	41,562

1940-41	73,582	1950-51	45,137
1941-42	77,222	1951-52	50,926
1942-43	79,194	1952-53	56,088
1943-44	83,295	1953-54	68,252
1944-45	49,043		

The above table brings out the fact that dispensary has become very popular and that the facilities it provided have been taken advantage by the public.

To provide the public with genuine Ayurvedic medicines, Ayurvedic drugs have been prepared in the dispensaries according to standard Ayurvedic formula.

The staff of this hospital in the year 1950 was consisted of One Vaidya, One Compounder, One Assistant Compounder and One Peon.

To provide free medical aid to the general public living in the eastern half of Bijapur city, the municipality opened on 15/10/1935 an Allopathic Dispensary near Badi-Kaman,²⁷ A maternity home is also attached to it.

TABLE NO. 5

Table giving particulars about the cases treated in the
Municipal Allopathic Dispensary from 1935 to 1954.²⁸

Y e a r.	Total No. of cases treated.	Y e a r.	Total No. of cases treated.
1935	34,389	1945	65,372
1936	42,668	1946	67,041
1937	51,616	1947	64,810
1938	64,661	1948	66,400
1939	67,751	1949	66,168
1940	68,561	1950	65,075
1941	68,821	1951	66,112
1942	66,761	1952	66,866
1943	71,891	1953	65,966
1944	68,440	1954	73,643

The above table shows how popular and serviceable the Allopathic Dispensary and the Maternity Home have been and how efficiently they have met the needs of medical aid of half of the town which was largely populated by middle and lower class.

A Maternity Home attached to it also ably attended the maternity service. The following table which shows the number of cases treated by the Maternity Home staff of the dispensary speaks for it.

TABLE NO. 6

Table showing number of cases treated by the Maternity Home staff of the Dispensary between 1935 and 1954.²⁹

Y e a r.	Total.	Year.	Total
1935	70	1945	125
1936	116	1946	104
1937	98	1947	127
1938	110	1948	118
1939	117	1949	171
1940	110	1950	138
1941	112	1951	138
1942	119	1952	116
1943	120	1953	78
1944	121	1954	126

The establishment of this hospital was consisted of one medical officer, (M.B.B.S. or L.C.P.S.), one compounder, one midwife, two dais, one dresser and one peon.

The following table shows the yearly expenditure incurred by the municipality for running the two dispensaries since their establishment.

TABLE NO.7

Expenditure of Hospitals from 1935-36 to 1954.³⁰

Year	Expenditure	Year	Expenditure
1935-36	6,095	1945-46	7,581
1936-37	6,081	1946-47	11,148
1937-38	4,961	1947-48	13,850
1938-39	6,531	1948-49	19,425
1939-40	7,359	1949-50	15,748
1940-41	7,767	1950-51	24,968
1941-42	8,448	1951-52	22,052
1942-43	9,237	1952-53	23,797
1943-44	8,134	1953-54	18,912
1944-45	12,018	1954-54	19,713

The above table shows that expenditure of the dispensaries increased from Rs. 6,095 in the year 1935-36 to Rs. 19,713 in the year 1954-55. In the year 1950-51 municipality incurred expenditure of 24,968 on these dispensaries which is the highest since 1935-36.

Apart from these two hospitals Bijapur municipality opened a new Ayurvedic Hospital in 1955³¹ looking to the needs of the rate payers residing in the southern part of the town. The new dispensary had an indoor accomodation of about 20 beds.

The staff of this dispensary was consisted of a Medical Officer, a Compounder, a Clerk, a Nurse, a Dai and a Ward Boy. The municipality spent about Rs. 20,000 for running this hospital in the year 1955-56.³²

ANTI LEPROSY WORK :

The Bijapur Municipality had made not only a substantial contribution to the field of anti leprosy work but has also done pioneering work in this field. Anti leprosy work was started in the year 1928 by the District Anti Leprosy Committee, Bijapur with the Municipal Officer of Health as its Honorary Secretary.

The growing popularity of anti leprosy work and the increasing number of lepers requiring attention emphasized the need for a well equipped new building for a leper asylum. Accordingly a leper clinic was constructed in 1933³³ on the Badi-Kaman road. A Leper Asylum was also built. Till 1944 municipality Medical Officer for Health was solely responsible to the anti leprosy work. This leper asylum has done valuable work in the field of anti leprosy operation.

DEATH RATE :

The death rate in the municipal area, can be laid down as one of the criteria, to determine the efficiency of the work of the municipal health department. It is believed that the higher the death rate, the lower is the efficiency of municipal administration in the field of public health and vice-versa. If we judge the efficiency of municipal health department by this criteria then the efficiency of Bijapur municipality cannot be doubted in the field of public health. The following table of vital statistics for 30 years from 1923-24 shows how the death rate has been gradually decreasing.

TABLE NO.8

Percentage of the death rate to the birth rate per 1000³⁴

Year	No. of births regd. during the year.	Birth rate per 1000 population	No. of deaths regd. during the year	Death rate per 1000 population
1923-24	1074	33.06	796	24.50
1924-25	993	24.54	1048	32.27
1925-26	932	28.70	601	18.50
1926-27	866	26.27	812	25.00
1927-28	919	28.30	593	18.26
1928-29	1055	32.42	793	24.11
1929-30	992	30.55	923	28.42

1930-31	1199	36.92	844	25.99
1931-32	1251	31.47	713	17.94
1932-33	1066	26.83	956	24.06
1933-34	1065	27.04	932	23.44
1934-35	1041	26.19	660	16.60
1935-36	1080	27.02	968	24.37
1936-37	1513	38.06	820	20.63
1937-38	1588	39.95	788	19.82
1938-39	1381	34.74	831	20.91
1939-40	1603	40.33	815	20.64
1940-41	1440	29.39	747	15.24
1941-42	1581	32.34	721	14.72
1942-43	1602	32.70	720	14.72
1943-44	1518	30.98	777	15.96
1944-45	1214	24.76	724	14.73
1945-46	1200	24.49	719	14.67
1946-47	1956	40.74	1143	23.33
1947-48	1662	33.92	1135	23.18
1948-49	1768	36.46	943	16.74
1949-50	1986	40.54	900	15.88
1950-51	1783	30.74	884	15.24
1951-52	2399	36.34	926	14.03
1952-53	2158	32.82	789	12.00
1953-54	1884	26.53	841	12.27

Table No.8 shows the percentage of death rate to the birth rate per thousand varies from 32.27 in the year 1924-25 to 12.00 in the year 1952-53. It shows high percentage death rate during 1924-25 i.e. 32.27 per cent. The reason being that in that year epidemic of plague took the toll of 276. In the year 1929-30 the death rate was also high i.e. 28.42. This is because of the violent outbreak of the small pox. But the death rate after that subsequently gone down. The reason being the preventive measures like vaccination taken by the municipality and subsequently in the year 1935 to meet the increasing medical need of the people two municipal hospitals were opened and curative measures were undertaken in those hospitals. Due to the above efforts of the municipality the death rate had comparatively gone down during 1925 to 1954. The spread of education and the awakening of the people through mass media also have played their own part. These made the people aware of modern methods and medicines for the cure of diseases.

To conclude we can say that Bijapur Municipality has always made sincere efforts for lowering down the death rate by opening hospitals, providing free medicines, performing vaccinations and supplying safe and pure drinking water. As a result the percentage of death rate has gone down from 32 per cent per thousand in 1924-25 to 12.00 per cent per thousand in the year 1952-53.

2) SANITATION :

a) COLLECTION OF REFUSE :

From the municipal records it appears that the Bijapur municipality had made proper arrangements for the collection of refuse. To maintain the hygienic condition the municipality kept big dust-bins at different places in the city. Municipality had permanent staff of sweepers who use to sweep and collect the refuse on the public streets. In every municipal wards a Mukadam (Supervisor) was appointed to supervise the work of sweepers and work completion report had to be submitted to the higher - authorities in the municipal office daily. The municipality attended to the complaints of the citizens in prompt manner. Due to this municipality succeeded in keeping the city clean to greater extent.

b) DISPOSAL OF REFUSE :

The Bijapur municipality had made proper arrangement for removal and disposal of refuse. For this municipality maintained carts and trucks. In 1894-95 there were 4 carts for carrying the sweeping from the roads and road side. By 1935 the number rose to 12. But with the increasing demands of saintary service and the necessity of more speedily and efficiently attending to the removal of refuse, the - municipality thought of mechanising these services. In the year 1947-48 the municipality purchased 3 military

trucks.³⁵ Later on one more was added to it. ^WTo bullock carts were also used for this purpose.

The refuse collected from the roads, road sides and dustbins was taken in these trucks and bullock carts to the 'Kachara Depot'. The municipality purchased 10 acres of land for Rs.1,100/- in 1955³⁶ for depositing the refuse. Bigger Kachara depots were also opened by municipality both inside and outside the fort wall to supply dry manure to the agriculturist.

c) REMOVAL OF NIGHT SOIL :

As for as maintainance of health is concerned removal of night soil is one of the important functions of the - municipality. The night soil of the city was collected in baskets in its crude form by men and women sweepers and carried to the night soil depots in trucks. Three trucks were used for this purpose by municipality. The night soil from 1894-95 onwards was carried out of town and deposited in a depot by the side of Indi road away from the city.

The night soil deposited was sold to the agriculturist at a cheap rate in order to popularize its use and - encourage its disposal. Prior to 1930 the municipality was getting about Rs. 200/- to Rs. 600/- by the sale of manure prepared from 'Kachara' and night[†]soil. In 1930 8 acres of land was purchased about four furlongs away from the town

on the Hubli-Sholapur road³⁷ for the purpose of night soil depot. In 1946 municipality thought of introducing better methods of preparing compost manure devised by C. N. Acharya, which was called by the name Bangalore process.³⁸ The result was the municipality derived an average income of Rs. 3,000/- every year from this - Bangalore process.

DRAINS :

There were very few drains in Bijapur before 1884. Since then the municipality has year by year constructed gutters in different localities. By the year 1954-55 Bijapur municipality constructed more than 11 miles of drains in different parts of the town at the cost of Rs. 2,15,660/-.³⁹ But all the drains constructed up till 1954-55 were not part of well designed drainage scheme. Municipality in that year was thinking of a comprehensive and properly designed drainage scheme. As a result of the correspondence between the municipality and the Public Health Engineer to the Government of Bombay a comprehensive drainage scheme was prepared for the municipality by the Public Health Engineer in the year 1955 which was estimated to the cost at that time about Rs. 5,00,000/-.⁴⁰

It is interesting to note that Bijapur municipality in the year 1955 itself was thinking of utilizing the discharge of sullage water for irrigation. It was estimated that for irrigation. It was estimated that it will irrigate an area of about 250 acres. The survey conducted for this purpose revealed that such an area is available for this purpose beyond the fort wall in the north.

LATRINES :

It is interesting to note that Bijapur since the days of Adil Shahis (1489-1686) was provided with sanitary conveniences of high order. In the annual report for 1893 to the government of Bombay, the provincial sanitary commissioner has, in his inspection note on the sanitation of Bijapur made an appreciatory reference to the latrines that were built during the days of Adil-Shahis "Curiously enough" he observes "are in use in present day".

Till 1881-82 there were no latrines. In that year municipality undertook the construction of two sets of latrines of 5 seats each. The administrative report for 1982-83 says, "New privies appear to be the only work worthy of note done by the municipality since it was established in 1854".⁴¹ But it may be noted that for the first 30 years the municipality was manned by the officials and those nominated by government. The elected element

entered the municipality after the passing of the District Municipal Act, 1884.⁴² After that municipality went on constructing, from time to time a number of public - latrines. By 1901 there were 109 sets of public latrines. In 1907-08 there were 129 sets of public latrines. By about 1930 the sets of public latrines rose up to 200. In 1939-40 the municipality constructed 10 sets of latrines at Khudanpur. Similarly in 1940-41 latrines were constructed by the side of Jumnal Road for females. In 1951-52 the Bijapur municipality constructed latrines in Sakaf Roza, near Civil Hospital and in Divatageri. In 1955-56 municipality constructed 95 more latrines at a cost of Rs. 63,000/-.⁴³

URINALS :

The increase of population and conditions in the Bazar created need for urinals for the use of citizens. In 1939-40 the municipality constructed urinals of 3 seats each in Bazar area at the cost of Rs. 900/-.⁴⁴ From that year onwards Bijapur municipality constructed urinals in different parts of the city looking to the needs of the people and hygienic conditions. By 1954-55 there were 48 sets of urinals in the town.⁴⁵

EXPENDITURE ON PUBLIC HEALTH & SANITATION :

TABLE NO. 9

Expenditure on Public Health and Sanitation
from 1891 to 1954⁴⁶

Y e a r.	Expenditure.	Y e a r.	Expenditure.
1891-92	10,522	1908-09	14,619
1892-93	9,502	1913-14	29,852
1893-94	9,125	1923-24	38,601
1895-96	12,584	1928-29	40,985
1896-97	19,403	1933-34	56,068
1897-98	16,737	1938-39	56,509
1898-99	15,892	1943-44	58,378
1899-1900	14,172	1948-49	2,91,572
1903-04	8,642	1953-54	2,26,823

Table 9 shows that expenditure on public health and sanitation gradually increased. This expenditure was 16.2% of the total expenditure of the municipality for the year 1953-54. This indicates that the municipality was conscious of its responsibilities in the matter of public health and sanitation and had, therefore, spent large amount for this purpose.

From the study of the Bijapur municipal records it seems that Bijapur municipality had efficiently performed the function of public health and sanitation. It had efficiently checked the epidemics like plague and cholera by taking both preventive and curative measures. The Bijapur municipality was the first in the whole of Bombay Presidency to undertake the new method of cyno gas fumigation as an anti plague measure. This speaks highly for the municipalities' efforts in fighting - epidemics.

The fact that Bijapur municipality was running two hospitals as far back as 1935 speaks for the municipalities efforts to meet the medical needs of the public.

The death-rate in the municipal area, can be laid down as one of the criteria, to determine the efficiency of the work of the municipal health department. It is believed that the higher the death rate the lower is the efficiency of municipal administration in the field of public health and sanitation. If we judge the efficiency of municipal health and sanitation department by this criteria, then the efficiency of Bijapur Municipality cannot be doubted. Because vital statistics for thirty years from 1923-24 (in Table No. 8) shows how the death

rate has been gradually decreased. The fact that Bijapur municipality has spent Rs. 5,36,683/- for public health and sanitation in the year 1954-55 out of the total expenditure of Rs. 14,09,543/- indicates that the municipality was conscious of its responsibilities in the matter of public health and sanitation.

To conclude we can say that Bijapur Municipality has always made sincere efforts for lowering down the death rate by opening hospitals, providing free medicines, performing vaccinations and supplying pure drinking water. As a result the percentage of death rate has gone down from 32 per cent per thousand in 1924-25 to 12.00 per cent per thousand in the year 1952-53.

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45. Ibid.
46. Source : Compiled by the author from Bijapur Municipal Records.

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