

## CHAPTER VI

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In the previous chapters we have acquainted with the role and functioning of STMC in health sector. By analysing data the following inferences and conclusions emerged. Following are the main findings.

1. Secularism is an important feature of this town. Sankeshwar is one of the luckiest town that has remained free from any kind of violence. Major communities are lingayats followed by marathas, muslims, shepherds. Christian community form the least proportion. Scheduled caste population constitutes about 13% in the total population. Shri. Durudundeshwar Vidya Samvardhaka Sangh Sankeshwar is a well organised body providing education from pre-primary to the higher levels as well as technical education.
2. Sankeshwar town has produced a number of political leaders and the most eminent among them were Shri. M.P. Patil, Shri. Appanagouda patil. Now Shri. M.S.Patil is taking active interest. The dominant party in the municipal area is congress I supported by Lingayat community and Janata dal gets its support from Muslims, Marathas and Backward classes.

3. Sankeshwar is an important business centre in Hukeri Taluka of the Belgaum District of the Karnataka State. Business transactions like, Tobacco, Chillies, Jawar, Groundnut, take place in major way and rice, wheat in least proportion. The town is famous for Shri. Hiranyakeshi Sahakari Sakkare Kharkhane Niyamit Sankeshwar. The town is located on the bank of the river Hiranyakeshi. The river supplies drinking water to the town. The town is well served by the net work of roads connecting it with the other towns in all directions. It is a growing town having a population of 27,237.
4. In 1939 a village Panchayat was established in Sankeshwar and the village Panchayat was upgraded to Town Panchayat in 1959. The present status of Sankeshwar Town Municipality was conferred in 1973. The Town Municipal Council has been reconstituted on the basis of population by 1971 Census under Section 13 of the Karnataka Municipalities Act 1964.
5. The town has been divided into 5 Wards with 15 Councillors. All the members of the Council constitute its General Body which discusses and decides all questions of policy and important details of Municipal Administration. Town

municipal council has constituted following committees to perform their respective functions. (1) The Finance Committee (2) The Health Committee (3) Social Justice Committee. The Health Committee consists of Five Councillors. This committee performs the functions relating to health and sanitation.

6. The Sankeshwar Town Municipality Council performs some of the obligatory and optional functions in health sector which are prescribed by the Karnataka Municipality Act of 1964. There is a Chief Officer who carries on day-to-day administration of Municipality. There is also a Sanitary Inspector who is responsible for all activities pertaining to the health and sanitation department of Municipality.
7. The Sankeshwar Municipality has maintained the hospital from 1973 to 1981. Due to weak financial position of Municipality, it handed over the Municipal hospital to the District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Belgaum with effect from 31-7-1981. Thus the Municipal hospital became Government hospital in Sankeshwar. At present the Government hospital is equipped with One Medical Officer, 2 Nurses, 1 Compounder and 4 workers.

8. Though Sankeshwar is a small town it is served by large number of qualified doctors and visiting specialists. All modern Medical facilities are available in the town and all kinds of patients are also treated in the private hospitals. Though Government Hospital (PHC) is there the patients prefer to the private hospitals because of modern medical facilities.
  
9. The Sankeshwar town faces acute scarcity of drinking water from January to May every year. During summer water is supplied through tankers and trucks from private and P.W.D. departments. The Town Panchayat Committee took charge of the water supply scheme in 1963 and the Filter Unit was handed over to it by the PHE department in 1970. Every day 3 Lakh gallons of water is supplied to the town from the river Hiranyakeshi. In other wards 50 Liters of water is supplied per day to each Individual. The supply of water by the tankers during summer is not adequate and there is shortage of funds also. However the Municipality has made 12 borewells facilities for the supply of drinking water in different parts of the town in 1993-94. But they are inadequate to meet the needs of the residents. It is found that the expenditure incurred by Sankeshwar Municipality on

water supply has been higher than the income derived through water tax.

10. Sincere efforts have been made by the Sankeshwar Town Municipal Council to get Government assistance to solve water problem. Kurni water supply scheme and combined water supply scheme from Hidkal Dam are the outcome in this direction.
11. The working staff required for the sanitation section is as per the norm prescribed by the State Government. However, the equipments maintained by Town Municipal Council for sanitation are inadequate.
12. The number of public latrines and Urinals are not proportionate to the size of population. Provision of latrines and Urinals is an obligatory duty of the Municipality but adequate attention has not been paid. It is found that 65% people have their own private sanitation system and 35% people have no lavatory facilities.
13. Due to shortage of funds the Municipality has failed to construct gutters by the side of each roads. There is no under ground drainage system. These are the important needs which should be looked into by the STMC/State Government.

14. Though there are three slum areas, the State Government and KSCB have not paid much attention for slum clearance. This should be done for the sake of maintaining hygienic conditions in town area.
15. The Sankeshwar Municipality has constructed (15 kms) different kinds of roads and maintained them well. During the last five years Municipality has also made adequate lighting in Town Municipal limits. In spite of weak financial position, Sankeshwar Town Municipal Council has maintained a garden and park in its premises for the benefit of public on one hand and contributed towards ecological balance on the other.
16. Earlier to 1985 there was no systematic Development plan for the town. In the year 1985-86 systematic town development plan for Sankeshwar has been prepared and approved by the Town Planning Authorities Bangalore.
17. Regarding the functioning of Health Committee there are differences of opinion among the members of Health Committee. The Councillors (Lingayat and Maratha) of 4 Wards agreed that due to the financial problems the Municipality has failed to provide adequate health.

sanitary and drinking water facilities. But they expect that within the available resources of Municipality it has to work efficiently and concerned municipal authorities have to extract work from the existing staff and equipment. They suggested to impose tax on small businessmen and by that income Municipality should try to improve the health and sanitation facilities. These Councillors are satisfied with the working of Sanitary Inspector.

18. On the contrary, the Scheduled caste Councillor of V ward is not at all satisfied with the working of Municipality, Health Committee and Sanitary Inspector also regarding supply of water, cleanliness of gutters, roads, disposal of garbage, DDT. spray etc., He is of the opinion that his ward is completely neglected by the Municipality which is dominated by the upper caste leaders. He has also said that the workers of the Municipality do not even visit the Vth Ward therefore the health and sanitation conditions of the ward are deplorable.

19. As the Chief Officer is the Government appointee obviously he did not criticise the working of Municipal administration. When he was asked to express his views on

the functioning of Town Municipal Council relating to health and sanitation problems he said that the Municipality is working satisfactorily to meet the needs of the people. Though Municipality is facing acute financial problems it has been trying to serve the needs of the people within its limitations.

20. The Sanitary Inspector while expressing his opinion regarding the functioning of STMC observed that the Municipality is performing its functions satisfactorily. He acknowledged the public support in discharging his duties. But the opinions of these two officials are contradictory to the statements made by the Councillor of V ward. Hence it can be said that Government officials do not try to make adverse statements which may put them into trouble.
21. Regarding implementation of National Health Programmes in STMC area, it was found that earlier to 1981 the Municipality use to implement National Health Programmes. But during 1981 Municipal Hospital was handed over to the Government of Karnataka as Sankeshwar Municipality was unable to maintain hospital with its meagre source of income. Now Primary Health Centre of Sankeshwar is incharge



of the implementation of National Health Programme with the assistance of some voluntary organizations.

22. The Primary Health Centre, Sankeshwar conducting Family Planning Operations from 1990. Till 1995, the number of Tubectomy operations has shown continuous increase. The achievements are more than the target fixed. However, the number of vasectomy operations is always zero. With regard to copper 'T' the achievements are not encouraging except 1993-94 and 1994-95. Regarding Family Planning operations, the statistics showed that the targets are over fulfilled for all the years under study. The study makes it clear that vasectomy is not popular among the male citizens and copper 'T' is yet to be popularised among women folk. With regard to distribution of condoms and oral contraceptives the achievements are encouraging during the period under study.
23. The number of Family Planning Operations conducted after birth of two children has increased from 20% to 60%. This is due to increased awareness of the advantages of small family by the general public.

24. Free Eye Camps and Blood Donation Camps are not organised at regular intervals in Sankeshwar TMC area. Along with Family Planning Operations, mother and child programmes have been organised by Primary Health Centre in Sankeshwar TMC area.
25. As integral part of the preventive measures, immunisation and vaccination are undertaken at Primary Health Centre in Sankeshwar Town. The DPT, Polio, measles and DT Programmes have failed in achieving the target along with T. Toxid for the age group of 10 years and 16 years. But in respect of B.C.G. and ANC (T. Toxid) programmes the achievements are satisfactory during all the five years (1990-1995).
26. The Revenue of Sankeshwar Municipality has increased over the years due to the increased grants received from the State Government, increase in House-tax and Water tax including tax drive helped the STM to a small extent to meet the needs of the area.
27. Since 1990-91 to 1994-95 the percentage of amount spent for Health and sanitation increased from year to year. The average percentage of amount spent for Health during these five financial years is 64%.

28. All the Respondents are of the opinion that the Sankeshwar TMC has failed to provide Health and sanitation facilities to the extent of their satisfaction and they expect all the health and sanitary facilities from the TMC.
29. All the Councillors are opposed to hand over the hospital administration to Sankeshwar TMC. They admit that bed facilities and medicine are inadequate in the Government Hospital. But they are satisfied with the working of Health Committee, Chief Officer and Sanitary Inspector. They feel that the allotment of finance for Health and sanitation is sufficient in the budget and amount sanctioned for the very purpose is spent in full.
30. Overall picture that emerges regarding the STMC in health and sanitation sector point out that the STMC is trying it's best to manage the programme of providing clean drinking water to its citizens and providing sanitary facilities with its meagre resources. unfortunately due to lack of financial resources mainly it could not come upto the expectations of the people living in the Municipal area. Its efforts in obtaining funds from the State Government for providing sufficient drinking water facility to the

people is a praiseworthy one. The main defect in the working of STMC is that particularly in ward V it is not able to extract work regarding disposal of garbage, cleaning of gutters and roads by the sanitary workers (Paur-karmikas). This aspect should be taken care of.

Following recommendations have been proposed to improve the working of Sankeshwar Municipality in Health and sanitation Sector

1. Sankeshwar town is hit hard by the acute scarcity of water especially during summer months. There is a need to develop permanent solution to the drinking water problem. At present the borewells which were dug for 300 ft. (30) should be further deepened upto 600 ft. so that water facility may be increased. This also save unnecessary expenditure if new borewells are dug.
2. As the population of the town is increasing, there is a necessity to increase bed facility (30 beds) in Government Hospital. The staff should be increased proportionately. It should be well equipped with modern medical facilities like X-ray unit, Sonography, etc. Since Sankeshwar town is situated on the NH4 and the accidents are common. Hence there is necessity to open an emergency ward.

3. There is a need to construct proper under ground drainage system.
4. The number of dust bins to be increased in all the five wards and regular lifting of garbage by TMC authorities is essential.
5. The number of public latrines and urinals have to be increased and there maintenance should be effective.
6. Regular spray of phenoyal and DDT to control disease causing micro organisms is necessary by the STMC authorities.
7. The town planning is to be implemented effectively at least in the extension areas of the town.
8. Official correspondence is to be revitalised to cope with the changing situations. So that immediate funds may be obtained from the state government to solve the problems of acute shortage of water.
9. At present 64% of money is allocated to health and sanitation sector. Hence, there is a need to stabilise the allocation of funds for Health and sanitation sector. If

not there will be no fund available for other developmental activities.

10. There is a need of educating the public about health and hygienic conditions and their active participation in the programmes being implemented by the Town Municipality which would help in reducing contagious diseases.
11. The dedicated work of the Councillors, employees and the public should be recognised and suitably rewarded so that it will have the positive effect on others.
12. The Sanitary Inspector should be trained in the work of Health and sanitation as the present one has no training which is very essential for successful implementation of health and sanitary programmes in STMC area.
13. The working efficiency of the TMC needs to be improved in view of the dissatisfaction expressed by both the public and the Councillors. In this regard periodical evaluation of the performance of the TMC by an autonomous institutions is a must which will help the STMC to a greater extent to improve its performance. Recommendations of evaluation reports should be implemented.