CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION:

As a result of earnest individual enterprise and initiative actuated and assisted by the State's development effort, the district of Kolhapur, and particularly Kolhapur City, have achieved tremendous socio-economic and industrial growth in recent years. Local talent's natural inclination towards innovation being the primary drive behind sustaining the initial impetus, adoption of computers was but a natural corollary to this growth. Today, computerization has made inroads into every economic activity; Industry, of course, being at the vanguard of the computerization that is under way. The process is as yet in an incipient stage and it would be interesting and enlightening to ascertain discernible trends, if any, in it. The present exploratory research endeavour was undertaken with this primary consideration and has led to the following conclusions.

5.2 CONCLUSIONS:

(1) It was revaled that the computer installations operating in diverse sectors of industry, eduction, cooperatives, government and banking, have adopted/developed and implemented the requisite application systems depending on the nature and requirements of the functional activities of their parent organization. It was also found that in addition to sector-specific application systems, these installations had implemented Accounting/Financial Systems to take care of the routine accounting requirements of the organization.

(2) Majority of the installations were found to be working in PC, PC/XT, PC/AT-286, -386 and -486 hardware environment and the operating system were invariably of PC and MS-DOS type, signifying that both hardware and software requirements in the study area still are of elementary nature. COBOL (Common Business-Oriented Language, which is a computer language more suited for commercial and business-oriented applications) was found to be popular in the study; while 'Data Validation' was observed to be the widely followed control procedure for ensuring accurate input of data, for the simple reason that it can be designed through computer programming.

(3) It was revealed that, by and large, computerization was undertaken as a measure of time-saving through expeditious data processing and also to ensure accuracy and security of the data. It was observed that majority of the organizations had preferred to develop appropriate software through their own EDP staff instead of contracting out the work to software consultants or even buying readymade software from the market. Although no specific reasons were advanced for this preference, it is safe to surmise that the local talent is exhibiting its traditional enterprising and innovative spirit.

(4) 'FOXBASE' was found to be the highly popular software package, as it contains more access-menus, utilities as also higher file-handling and storage capacities. Moreover, proficiency in using this software could lead to more complex database management and relational database management tasks. Some of the surveyed units revealed in personal discussions that they preferred to use 'Foxbase software after assessing the relative merits of similar software packages - dBASE, CLIPPER and FOXPRO.

(5) It was observed that in the study universe, almost exclusively both the input data is generated within the organization as also the output is used for internal purposes only. In other words, computers are being used for speedy and efficient internal operation of the organization. It was found that cent percent organizations at regular intervals took the output in the form of printed forms. This hard copy is easy for referencing, transferring from one position to another and as a standby record.

(6) To ensure safety and security of the data and information, the measure being practised was the use of 'passwords', which are a code designed with alphabetic and alphanumeric characters and allowed to be known to authorized persons only for accessing the records stored at different levels in the computer system. As a further safeguard against data loss through accidental damage to hardware and software.

(7) Majority of the organizations have adopted editing and sorting procedure for producing standardized and consolidated output reports, as standardized reports are easily readable, flexible, concise and do not need to be modified frequently. Nonetheless, it was found that cent percent of the organizations also have designed O/P format procedure to effect changes in the headings, data items, data items description, totals and sub-totals, etc., whenever necessary.

(8) Random file organization was found to be popular with these installations, because such an organization offers highest flexibility for deletion, insertion and updation of the data, as compared to serial and sequential file organization.

(9)   Majority of the units were found to have adopted batch processing EDP subsystem software as it can easily be installed on a PC (Personal Computer), PC/XT (Personal Computer/Extended Technology) and PC/AT (Personal Computer/ Advanced Technology). Distributed data processing was also found to be adopted by all the units as the data could be processed at different work stations complete with storage tapes, discs and printer, which offers certain advantages over centralized data processing.

(10) All the organizations use the system flowcharts as a structured tool and technique for structured analysis which highlights overall flow of the data and stepwise indication of processes in transforming the data into information.

5.3 SUGGESTIONS:

As the final exercise of this endeavour, the researcher ventures to put forward the following suggestions, with an earnest hope that these would, in general, help to improve the functioning of the   EDP departments in the study area:

(1) The EDP Departments should audit their systems through 'audit-trail method', which allows the flow of items of data or documents to be traced through the entire information system included in the system design.

(2) The banking sector organizations need to adopt on-line EDP subsystem software for meeting the requirements of their   daily transactional activities and also to extend quick and better customer service.

(3)   As regards system analysis and design, it was found that majority of the units had paid only tentative attention to this aspect. System analysis and design is not really concerned with the designing of systems but means that the entire system must be translated to computer based working systems in the organization. In order to ensure that the system is viable, it is necessary to conduct a feasibility study prior to the development of a computer system; when the proposed system would be evaluated first from technical viewpoint and then for its economic and social feasibility.

(4)   The commercial EDP departments should design their application shoftware in COBOL language, which is primarily used for writing the programs for business data processing.

(5)   The technologically-advanced EDP departments should follow ORACLE, a 4GL software, for relational database management.

(6)   The large organizations would benefit by recruiting and training their in-house EDP staff, instead of giving contract to outside software consultants or purchasing readymade software from the market.

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