Chapter - 5

CONCLUSIONS
AND
SUGGESTIONS
CHAPTER – V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

From the on-going discussion, it can be concluded that the various efforts have been made by the government for the devolution of power to grassroots level. With regards to decentralized planning, it is found that the awareness of people’s representatives, especially at the village level was very poor. Even the representatives of the district and the block level were not able to clearly spell out the organization and working of DPC. Some of the representatives did not respond to the questions because they had no idea about the DPC. So many respondents were not aware about the DPC at block level and village level. DPC is only working at the district level.

No meetings were held at the level of gram panchyat and gram sabha level. It came to know that the working is not same as studied in all three districts Rohtak, Sirsa, and Hisar. Their way of working is also different. The proceedings of Rohtak DPC are available in English while Sirsa and Hisar in Hindi only. The member of Sirsa DPC said that they were not informed in time about the date, time and agenda of the meetings.

Despite the fact that the 74th Amendment Act and the rules framed by the government of Haryana provide that the panchayat samiti shall consolidate the annual plans prepared by the gram shabas or the gram panchayats and also prepare the same for the block.

However, the samiti has no role in the decentralized planning process as it has no representation in the District Planning Committee. In order to perform their duties the members of panchayat samiti have to depend on politicians and BDO.

Panchayats level plans are not being effectively integrated with state plan because of ineffective role of gram panchayat, panchayat samities as well as imbalanced plan priorities. All members do not participate in DPC meeting. Members are not aware of the annual plans for their districts.
Major Findings:

- Table 4.36 shows that only 40 percent respondents are aware of DPC working.
- 48.30 percent of them know about DPC organization. (table-4.37) However, 31.66 percent told that the D.P.C. works at district level only.
- On being asked whether the DPC existed in Haryana before the 73rd and 74th Amendment Acts, it was disheartening to note that nearly 73.33 percent of the representatives were not aware about it. (table-4.38)
- Whether the presence of representatives of PRIs and municipalities in DPC is useful for integrated plan of the district, 71.66 percent respondents gave a positive reply. (table-4.39)
- Cent percent respondents are aware about the DPC meeting. (table-4.40) They replied that DPC should review the progress of works / schemes under district plan in the quarterly meeting.
- Cent percent respondents told that notice of meeting is being sent to them well in time. (table-4.41)
- 43.33 percent respondents replied that they have participated in the meeting, (table-4.42) while 56.66 percent replied that they could not participated in the meeting due to some reasons.
- 51.6 percent respondents told that they explain their views in the meeting. Some of them told that they were not provided any chance to say anything. (table-4.43)
• Is there any discussion or arguments on your proposals? About 64 percent respondents gave negative reply. (table 4.44) They told that their opinion was not being heard in the meeting.

• Is there any district scheme sent to concerned departments? (table-4.45) 83.40 percent respondents told that they have no information in this regard.

• Is there any improvement in the working system of local administration due to the introduction of DPC? (table-4.46). 63.66 percent representatives gave a positive reply. They viewed when planning is done for a particular village or a block, we should be involved in the planning process, because we are aware of the problems faced by a particular village or a block.

• The meeting of Gram Sabha can be a good platform for the solution of various day to day problems pertaining to a village society. This platform can also be used for the initiation of community work and the basic rural problems. (table-4.47) On being asked is there any meeting held for making the plan of village, it is disheartening to note that 60.66 percent respondents gave negative reply. They told that they do not know about any plan discussed in the gram sabha.

• In response to the question, have you participated in the meeting? The researcher got a very discouraging reply when 63.33 percent respondents could not participate in the meetings. (table-4.48)

• On being asked about the agenda of DPC meeting, about 72 percent either said no or kept mum. (table-4.49)

• About the discussion on all items of the agenda, 64 percent respondents replied in negative or kept mum. They told that the agenda is not discussed. (table-4.50) The issues like construction of street, construction of cow ghat, health center, arrangements of lights, construction of community center, animal hospital, providing R.O. system for drinking water, construction of toilets, cleaning of streets, providing a water cooler in a school,
construction of school rooms, play ground, construction of SC chopal etc. were on the agenda.

- Approval of agenda, (table-4.51) about 70 percent respondents replied in negative or kept mum. They said that the items on the agenda are not discussed well as reported by those attended the meetings.

- Whether any meeting of DPC is held in the village? (table-4.52) Cent percent respondents gave a negative reply they said that DPC meeting is held only at the district level.

- Cent percent gram sabha members have no knowledge of DPC because no meeting of DPC is held in the village. (table-4.53)

- Whether all items on the agenda are passed? The cent percent respondents given negative reply. (table-4.54) They told that panchyat level meetings are held, while no meeting of DPC are held.

- Whether the items proposals related to planning were given to you? 56 percent replied positively. (table-4.55) They told that the proposal regardingernity hospital, schools, health care centres, anganwadi centres are given by them.

- 71.3 percent respondents said that the plan of gram panchayat is sent to panchayat samiti after being passed by the gram panchayat. (table-4.56)

- 84.4 percent respondents are aware about panchayat samiti working. (table-4.57) They told that agenda passed in the meeting of gram panchayat is considered in the block’s panchyat.

- 70 percent respondents of panchayat samiti told that discussion was held on the agenda at panchayat samiti level. (table-4.58) All the representatives put pressure on the plans of their village.

- Cent percent respondents told that the plans of panchayat samiti have been sent to zila parishad after being passed by it. (table-4.59)
• 72.22 percent respondents are aware of plans of panchayat samiti. (table-4.60)

• Is there any discussion in zila parishad meetings, (table-4.61) for this. 69.44 percent respondents gave positive reply.

• Have you presented the plan before DPC? (table-4.62) At this, 47 percent respondent told that they produce their plans in the DPC.

• Cent percent respondents gave negative reply saying that there is no meeting of DPC at municipal level. (table-4.63).

• Whether any agenda is provided by zila parishad for the DPC meeting. (table-4.64) Cent percent respondents gave negative reply.

• A meeting is held in a month at municipal committee level. 68.3 percent respondents told that a discussion is held on some items. They said all items on the agenda are not passed. In general, the agenda includes cleaning of street, arrangements of light, Arrangement of dispose of dirty water, sewerage arrangement purify water, hospitals, school etc. (table-4.65)

• 85 percent municipal committee members who are a part of DPC gave negative reply saying that they were not heard in the DPC meetings. They were not allowed to present their opinion in the DPC meetings. (table-4.66)

• Cent percent respondents told that they have not received any plan from the municipal committee. (table-4.67)

• Cent percent respondents told that no discussion was held in the DPC (table-4.68).

• Cent percent respondents said that they produce the city plans in the DPC at their own level (table-4.69).

• Cent percent respondents of municipal corporation told that they have not received any plan from the municipal councils. (table-4.70) Municipal Corporations make plans for their city at their own level.
• Is there any discussion on plan at municipal council level? (table-4.71) No plan came from the municipal council and no discussion is held on it as admitted by cent percent respondents.

• Cent percent respondents told that they produce the city plans in the DPC. The M.Cs. who are involved in the DPC forwarded their city plans. (table-4.72)

TESTING OF HYPOTHESES

• In Sirsa 40 percent, Hisar 21.66 percent and Rohtak 38.33 percent members are aware of the composition and working of DPC. Thus, the first hypothesis is proved that majority of respondents are not aware of the composition and working of DPC.

• Cent percent respondents admit that meetings of DPC are held quarterly, thus the second hypothesis is not proved that very few meetings are held.

• In Sirsa, Hisar and Rohtak, cent percent respondents told that there is no meeting of DPC at urban and rural local bodies level. Thus the third hypothesis stands proved that DPC meeting held only at district level.

• It is evident from the findings when 56.66 percent respondents told that they did not participate in the meeting due to some reasons. Thus the 4th hypothesis stands proved that majority of members do not participate in DPC meeting.

• About 65 percent respondents gave negative reply about the discussion and approval of their item in the meeting. They told that
their opinion is not being heard. Those respondents were elected representatives. Thus the fifth hypothesis stands proved that the opinion of elected representatives of formulation of district plan is not considered.

- In Sirsa, Hisar and Rohtak about 63.66 percent respondents said that they should be involved in the planning process, because they are aware of the problem faced by a particular village or a block. Thus the 5th hypothesis is not proved that there is no change in the working of local bodies even after the introduction of DPC.

SUGGESTIONS

In the first place, it was observed that the success of DPC depends on many related issues. It was found that the level of awareness and the right kind of perceptions about the decentralized governance and particularly participation were considered essential for achieving better development. The study reveals that there was no relationship between awareness perceptions and participation. The awareness and participation of villagers was very much disappointing in the study. Gram sabha and gram panchayat meetings were prime mechanism of obtaining inputs for planning and implementation. However, the study reveals that DPC meeting were not held at grassroots level. It was held only at district level under the control of D.C, M.P, MLA's etc. People participation at the grassroots level is totally ignored in gram sabha, gram panchayat, municipal committee, municipal council and municipal corporation meetings. The politicians took all the decisions on development in DPC meeting at the district level. DPC should act as an interface between the district political institutions and the state government. Zila parishad is required to keep the state government generally informed about
development needs and progress in the district including the working of the gram panchayat and panchayat samiti. Zila parishad is responsible for passing the budgets and accounts of the panchayat samiti and the gram panchayats. The development of the work of the whole district is undertaken by the zila parishad. According to the planning process, the gram panchayat prepares a plan, to be submitted to the panchayat and then panchayat samiti modifies it and submit to the zila parishad. Then the zila parishad forwards the plan to DPC because zila parishad members are elected members of DPC. DPC prepares a plan based on all the block plans and forwards it to the district planning and co-ordinating council for final approval.

DPCs have not been able to effectively coordinate the rural-urban interests and no joint project planning has resulted an integrated project implementation. Rural and urban local bodies are not working together on a common platform during the planning process to identify common projects/resource requirements. Urban local bodies have traditionally been oriented towards the State Directorate of Urban Development – hence plans are submitted at the state level rather than DPCs – the vertical line of accountability still persists in spite of the revised planning process.

Several concrete steps need to be taken to strengthen and decentralise the institution of DPCs. In order to give them a truly representative and participatory shape, it is necessary that practices such as appointing chairpersons, or nominating all members of DPC, be abolished. Certain constructive measures that need to be taken in order to strengthen DPCs are following:

- The officials and the panchayati raj representatives as the members of the DPC should be given training in the field of finance, accounts and statistics. Such training will enable the members (both people’s representatives and officials) to learn about their duties and responsibilities and create awareness of the structure and functions of the DPC.

- Since prioritization is one of the important aspects of planning, based on the requirements of the particular ward of gram panchayat and panchayat samiti.
municipalities, therefore, shelf of the project may be maintained at all the three levels i.e. gram panchayat, panchayat samiti and zila parishad respectively.

- The DPC needs, adequate financial support as well as staff strength in order to enable it to perform its tasks effectively. Converting DPCs into permanent institutions with offices and secretariat will perhaps address this issue to a large extent.

- Capacity building needs are pressing to understand the true role of the DPC and what it seeks to achieve; the need for members as well as experts to understand the nuances of integrated planning for social and economic development and the difference between perspective plans, five year plans and annual plans; the need for sectoral and department heads to understand the significance of integrated planning under district planning framework. Clarity of roles and responsibilities is required to bring vitality to the DPC as an institution, wherever functioning.

- The rural and urban local bodies also need to adopt an integrated approach to planning. While preparing the annual plans they have to keep in mind the medium and long term vision and goals for the districts.

- The Eleventh Schedule provides 29 functions for PRIs but they have not been transferred to the panchayats. Hence it is suggested that the stated functions should be immediately transferred to the PRIs for effective implementation.

- Despite the fact that the 74th Amendment Act and the rules framed by the government of Haryana provide that the panchayat samiti shall consolidate the annual plans prepared by the gram sabhas, gram panchayats and also prepare the same for the block, actually the samiti has no role in the decentralized planning process as it has no representation in the District Planning Committee. Therefore they be made the members of DPC.
• Elected members are disillusioned because they do not have any say in deciding beneficiaries of various schemes and the official wing dominates in the process. So, the elected members be given power to identify the beneficiaries.
• Working list of the DPC meeting should be sent to the members with the notice. Notice of the DPC meeting should be sent to the members before 10 days.
• Working list of the DPC meeting should be sent to the members in regional dialect/ Hindi. Working data of DPC meeting should be in proper way and in Hindi.
• The meeting of DPC should be held at grassroots level also. More rights should be provided to the panchayats.
• Deputy Commissioner should be a member of DPC and the president of the zila parishad be as its chairman.
• There should be flexibility in the plans as per local needs. The plans should be made at grassroots level.
• All the DPC members should be present in the DPC meeting, otherwise action should be taken against them.
• Plans should be made by village panchayat, block samiti and zila parishad. There should be a separate DPC for rural and urban areas.
• The proposals should be passed in the DPC by the consent of 50 percent members.
• The zila parishad members should also be heard in the DPC meeting and their demands should be accepted.
• The amount spent and works executed under the scheme in a village/town/city should be displayed at the site of the work through notice board for the awareness of local people.