

ABSTRACT

District is the important unit of administration in India headed by District Collector. Out of the various functions performed by the District Collector and its field organisations (known as revenue offices) land revenue administration is the oldest and important function. It determines the relations between the land the people and realise the revenue from the land.

Land is intimately connected with the life of the people and it has first priority in their affections. As land is the main source of livelihood of majority of the people from India, no development can take off without an efficient and co-operative revenue administration. Due to 'in human' pressure of our population on the land to eke out a living, the land revenue administration has become an important function.

Several scholars have studied the District Administration from different angles but no study is available on the land revenue administration in Maharashtra. In order to fill in the gap, the present study has been conducted.

The objective of the study was to present the general pattern of administration of District Collectorate in Maharashtra and to study the effectiveness of land revenue functions performed by it with the help of field agencies. From Nashik District two sub-divisions were selected and from each sub-division two talukas were selected. Further, from each taluka two circle offices and from each circle two sazas were selected.

Official records of the Collectorate and its line agencies form the original sources of data. In addition to this, manuals, circulars, notifications of the Government, reports of the Central and State Government concerning district and land revenue administrations, periodicals, interview of the respondents from the category of officers, field staff and people were the tools used for data collection.

The first chapter explains the coverage of the study and methodology adopted for the purpose of research. To have a feel of the multifarious functions performed by the Collector the third chapter describes the organisation of the Collector. The land revenue administration is mainly field administration. The organisation, powers and duties of the field agencies of the Collectorate have been highlighted in the fourth chapter.

Chapter fifth and sixth explore the thirty one different functions of land revenue administration which are grouped into six broad categories viz. collection of land revenue, land management, maintenance of land records, quasi-judicial functions, control and implementation of Acts concerning land.

The seventh chapter highlights the issues which affect the effectiveness of land revenue administration. The issue of delay political interference, transfer, training and proposal of 'District Government' as proposed by Mr.P.B. Patil Committee have been discussed in this chapter.

Eighth chapter on conclusion presents the concluding observations and suggests methods to improve the land revenue administration. An important conclusion arrived at is in the present structure of district revenue administration, the land revenue functions have become secondary functions and matters concerning land revenue are not disposed of effectively. Delay at all levels and corruption at the lower levels are the grievances of the people. The wide gap between norms and practice has resulted into loosing the control and credibility of the administration.

Delegation of powers, training of staff, stern supervision of superior officers on subordinates through inspections and visits, modernisation of administration with the help of computers are some of the remedies to improve land revenue administration which forms the backbone of administration in India.

The analysis made about land revenue administration of Nashik District, by and large, could be extended and applied to other districts in Maharashtra as well. The study thus makes a significant contribution to the scarce research literature available on the land revenue administration in Maharashtra.