CHAPTER XII
CONCLUSION

The present study consists of twelve chapters, each highlighting the various phases of Panchayati Raj leadership and its development with related to Scheduled Castes leadership in Latur district of Marathwada region.

The scheme of Panchayati Raj was introduced in 1962 in Maharashtra. There were various types of development and changes in the structure and law of the Panchayati Raj in Maharashtra. There were various committees appointed by Government of Maharashtra to evaluate the working of Panchayati Raj institutions in Maharashtra. On the recommendation of these committees changes were brought in the Panchayati Raj Act.

There were various research conducted by individual researcher and the institutions about the structure administration and political leadership, and developmental functions carried by Panchayati Raj institutions but there is not a single study which has attempted to study the Scheduled Castes problem relating to Panchayati
Raj. In this study an humble attempt is made to study the various problems affecting the Scheduled Caste leadership.

This study consists of one thirty four leaders who were elected to Gram Panchayat bodies. All the members belongs to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Therefore in this study the socio-economic background of the Scheduled Castes leaders was analysed properly. In this study an attempt was made to find out inter-caste relationship and the impact of local leaders. The role of Scheduled Caste leaders vis-a-vis the developmental functions of the Panchayati Raj. In this study the various problems closely connected with the Scheduled Caste leadership was examined.

The Chapter II is related with theories, types and functions of leadership. The various definitions of leaderships were given and analysed. There were various approaches to the leadership pattern each of them was analysed and examined. There are some qualities which are regarded essential to become a leader. There are various functions which are necessary for retaining the leadership. These functions were analysed.
Chapter III relates to historical account of the development of the Village Panchayats in India. In this chapter the structure of the Indian society right from the Vedic period to the present period was discussed. The role of village panchayat in ancient India, its relationship with the village headman and with the king were examined. How these institutions have developed in Mauryan period, Buddhist period, Muslim and Mughal period and in British period was examined. The structure of village panchayat has changed a lot after independence. It was given a constitutional status after the Balwant Ray Mehta Committee's recommendations. With the efforts of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar the political representation to Scheduled Caste people was given in the panchayat Raj institutions.

The chapter IV related to the position of Panchayati Raj in Maharashtra. The Community Development Programme was started in Maharashtra in 1952 in some of the selected areas. After the Mehta Committee's recommendation and re-organisation of states, from 1st May, 1962, the Panchayati Ras was started in Maharashtra. Panchayati Raj in Maharashtra is result of recommen-
The Chapter V deals with Scheduled Castes in Maharashtra. In this chapter, characteristics of the caste and the position of the Scheduled Caste in Ancient India is discussed. The origin of the caste system and the various theories of origin of the caste put forth by the various sociologist is also discussed. The emergence of Scheduled Castes in India and the viewpoint of Dr. Ambedkar is discussed. The role of Scheduled Castes in Maharashtra and the treatment given to them along with the Balutedari System was also discussed in this chapter. In this chapter a brief sketch of the Mahars, Mang, Chambhar and Dhor was also discussed with their origin, traditional occupation, literacy and other social customs.

The Chapter VI deals with the socio-economic setting of Maharashtra, Marathwada and Latur District. Generally the socio-economic background of the place and the politics of the region shape the leadership of the individual.
In this chapter history, population, administrative divisions, social compositions, caste structure and their economy is discussed. A brief review about the Latur district and the working of Panchayati Raj in Latur district is also discussed.

The Chapter VII deals with the political reservations in Panchayat Raj institutions and Scheduled Caste leadership. In this chapter history of reservation policy in India before and after independence, aims of reservation policy, representation in Vidhan Sabha and Lok Sabha and Panchayati Raj institutions is discussed. Many leaders expressed that the present reservation system in the Gram Panchayat is not sufficient and therefore it should be extended. The leaders also expressed that the financial assistance should be provided to the contents because the Scheduled Caste leaders are not in a position to bear the expenditure of the elections. Very few candidates were elected from the general ward. Many of them were elected only one time, there were few people who were elected for second and third time.

In whole of the study it was found that only two members became the Sarpanch and 18 members became the
Upsarpanch and remaining 114 remained as member of the Gram Panchayat only. Due to above position it can be concluded that the people of Gram Panchayat did not desired to select a Scheduled Caste leader as a Sarpanch of the Village Panchayat. It was suggested that for the betterment of the Scheduled Caste people the post of Sarpanch and Upsarpanch be made reserved on rotating basis by village-wise. This will create confidence among the Scheduled Caste and they will be trained to become leaders for upper institutions.

The Chapter VIII deals with the rural power structure and Scheduled Caste leadership. In this chapter the nature of old leadership and impact of Panchayati Raj is discussed. The traditional leadership which included Village Patil, Zamindar and Sawaker are the villages and they exercised the influence in the beginning of the Gram Panchayats but, slowly they are also loosing their influence. But the Scheduled Caste leadership due to their poverty found to be under the influence of these traditional leaders. Because these traditional leaders brought handles in the progress of Scheduled Caste leadership. With the passage of time it was
found that the traditional leaders are also changing their attitude. Many leaders expressed that the panchayat Raj provided them an opportunity to participate in the decision-making process.

Chapter IX deals with the Panchayat election and Scheduled Caste leadership. The introduction of Panchayati Raj has increased the political awareness of the people in general and Scheduled Caste in particular. The Panchayat Raj also has increased the functions in the village panchayat. Due to Panchayati Raj a new type of leadership based on adult franchise has emerged. The traditional leadership based on caste, has lost its importance due to regular system of election. In the new election process, it provided the representative voice of the community.

To know views of the leaders about the panchayat elections they were asked whether the Gram Panchayat elections were held regularly and by which method. All 134 respondent said that the elections were held regularly and by direct method. A close examination of the caste influence showed that it has helped the inner group
of the caste. Though the role of caste not found at the time of general election but it is more looked at the time of panchayat elections. The caste system provides an instrumental basis provided tolerance. The leaders were asked whether the elections were held on caste basis. 93 leaders gave answer affirmative and 41 leaders gave in negative form. The leaders were asked which are the factors which influenced the election process. 67 leaders said caste is very important factor in the election process, whereas 33 leaders gave importance to money, 20 leaders said political parties are also important factor. Leaders were asked whether other Scheduled Caste leaders helped them in the elections. 132 leaders said that they are helped by other Scheduled Caste leaders also.

There is a controversy that whether the Gram Panchayat elections should be contested on the party lines. 26 leaders said that it should be contested on party lines, while 90 leaders said that it should not be contested on the party lines, while 18 respondents did not gave answer.
Chapter X deals with the socio-economic background of the Scheduled Caste leaders. The study of characteristics of panchayat leadership is important for three reasons. Firstly, the performance of panchayat has a human group depends much upon the experience, outlook and attitude of the members upon which it must draw while it makes decisions. Secondly, leadership development is a very important responsibility of the community development agency. The achievement in this respect can be very tight by the references to the changing characteristics of panchayat leadership. Thirdly, the functioning of panchayat as a democratic organisation of the community depends upon the nature of relationship between the voters and office-bearers of panchayats. In this chapter caste, sex, age, religion, education, occupation income, house-ownership, field of work etc. were taken for examination and they were analysed properly.

Chapter XI deals with the welfare programmes and Scheduled Caste leadership. Welfare state irrespective of social system offers equality of opportunity and a basic standard of living in keeping with human dignity to all. In this chapter knowledge about the existence
of panchayati raj, the purpose of the institutions, whether these institutions worked well, did the participants attend the meeting regularly, whether they take part in discussion, etc. It was found that the Scheduled Caste leaders were active in the discussion and they took decisions whenever their opinion was sought.

The twelfth chapter dealt with conclusion and at the end a detailed bibliography was given for the use of readers.