CHAPTER 2
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND RESEARCH AREA

2.1 Research Methodology :

The research methodology which is adopted for this work is divided as follows :

(a) Research & Scientific Social Research.

(b) the tools and techniques used for the research -
   (i) data collection,
   (ii) the interview method,
   (iii) statistical analysis,
   (iv) observations,
   (v) conclusions.

a) Research & Scientific Social Research :

Research is an endeavour to discover intellectual and practical answers to problems through the applications of scientific methods to know the universe. It is a careful critical inquiry or examine seeking facts or principles, diligent investigation in order to ascertain something (Wilkinson and Bhandarkar, P.8,9.). Research is an organised inquiry or examination to discover new information for solving a problem (Thanuligom.N., P.3).

The present research work is related to social science. The research in social sciences has its own limitations. The social sciences are based on behavioural and psychological factors. The behaviour of human beings is not static but is always a dynamic
one. The behaviour is affected by diverse influences such as environmental, temporal, biological, psychological and socio-cultural - all these affecting contemporaneously. In the social sciences, the society is the laboratory and the objects are conscious and active human beings. However, with the advancement of scientific study in social sciences, empirical generalisations are possible to derive. The important task of social science research is that it is directly related to achieve welfare of the whole community (Wilkinson and Bhandarkar, P.21).

b) The tools & the techniques used for the Research:

The present research aims at finding out the political realities on the basis of empirical analysis. The social, economic and political situation of Bombay is first considered as a background. Bombay has been a ground for various socio-political movements from 19th century onwards. It has been a main centre for various movements of women. This research work tries to find out whether any change has taken place in the participation of women during the decade in the political field. The research is based on the following tools and techniques:

(i) interviews on the basis of Questionaire, (ii) Observations, (iii) quantification and analysis; (iv) conclusions.

The data collected for the research purpose consists of interviews based on questionnaire, reference of journals, diaries, Govt. records and reports, legislative proceeding documents, annual reports, census, statistical records etc.
(i) Interview is the chief means of collecting the data. Interviews of women elites with a questionnaire was taken as the main source material for this research work. A questionnaire consisting of a number of questions in a definite order is made. The information collected by this method has become a source of data. The data analysis has given empirical conclusions.

(ii) Observation is the basic method of obtaining information about the world around. To fill in the gaps between set questionnaire and interviews, observation is of utmost importance. In the present case, observations regarding the behavioural traits of women elites, have been found extremely useful to understand the dimensions of their personalities.

(iii) Quantification and analysis - Analysis of data involves a number of closely related operations that are performed with the purpose of summarizing the collected data and organising these in such a manner that they will yield answers to the research questions (Wilkinson and Bhandarkar, P.283). Here Quantification is done in a tabulated form and the information is interpreted to bring out the observations and conclusions.
(iv) Conclusions and suggestions:
Research work ends with findings and conclusions. The analysis has brought some bare realities of women's participation in politics during the decade and also reflected socio-economic traits of women elites.

Based on the above mentioned methodology, Bombay City & the effects of the decade on the political participation of women from Bombay is made the area of research work. The aims and objectives of the decade and the development of Bombay city are mentioned in the sub-topics 2.2 and 2.3. This basic information is useful for the further observation of the participation of women in politics, particularly in Bombay Municipal Corporation, Maharashtra State Legislature and Parliament of India from Bombay.

2.2 Research Area: U.N. Decade (1975-85) for women.
This part consists of (i) brief summary of the purpose and aims, (ii) U.N. declaration of 1975 as Women's Year Declaration of 1976-85 as 'Women's Decade' Aims, objectives and purpose of the decade. (iii) the decade and the movement in India, (iv) Review of the decade.

(i) The purpose and aims of U.N.

After the Second World War, U.N. was established in 1945. After the First World War, the League of Nations, which was established to save mankind from Global War and its destruction failed miserably. On similar principles of the league of Nation's
organisation, U.N. was established to prevent war and to promote peace. The basic aims of U.N.O. are: (i) to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war; (ii) To reaffirm fundamental human rights; (iii) To establish justice & respect for international obligation. (iv) To promote social progress and better standards of life. (Kapoor. A. C., P.249)

ii) U.N. Declaration of the Decade & aims & objectives of the Decade:

U.N. Organisation paid attention to women's issues specifically in 1975. In order to review women's problems all over the world, the year 1975 was declared as 'International Women's Year'. A scheme was immediately launched when a world conference was held in Mexico City in 1975. It adopted a world Plan of Action, for the United Nations Decade for women. Equality, development and peace were the goals. U.N. General Assembly Resolution No.3520(XXX) of 15-12-75, in which General Assembly, decided that in 1980, at the mid point of the decade, a World conference would be convened to review and evaluate the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the World Conference of the International Women's Year held in 1975 and to readjust programmes for the second half of the decade in the light of the data and research. (Report of the World Conference on International Women's Year P.5).

The World Plan of Action, in paragraph 46 sets forth the following objectives to uplift women, as the minimum to be achieved by each nation.
1) Marked increase in literacy & civic education, co-education, technical and vocational training & basic skills in agricultural sectors. Establishment of compulsory primary schools, & prevention of school drop out.

2) Increase in employment & elimination of sex discrimination in employment.

3) Equality in terms of voting, eligibility for election & legal capacity & participation in the policy making decisions.

4) To make an increase in provisions of health, sanitation, nutrition & welfare services.

5) Recognition of the economic value of women's work in home, in domestic food production, development of technology to reduce the workload.

6) To promote women's organisation.

The objectives briefly mentioned above are divided in six basic foci (1) education, (2) employment, (3) promotion of political & civic rights , (4) personal rights, (5) health care & nutrition , (6) promotion to their organisation. (Dr.Chitnis Suma., P.1,2)

In 1980 World Conference was held at Copenhagen in which the Programme of Action for the second half of the decade 1980-85 had been drawn up to promote the attainments of the three objectives of equality, development and peace with special emphasis on the subtheme - namely employment, health and
education - as significant components of development taking into account that human resources cannot achieve their full potential without integrated socio-economic development. The World Plan of Action for the implementation of the objectives of the International Women's Year gives a comprehensive list of measures necessary to achieve those objectives. (Report of the World Conference on International Women's Year P.5)

Accordingly in many countries special measures have been taken to promote equal opportunities for women, especially in the fields of education and employment. In many countries the percentage of women in position of policy formulations has increased significantly. In many developing countries efforts have been made in the public sector to increase the participation of women and representation at the decision making levels. There has been an increase in the enrolment of girls in educational institutions at different levels, an increase in the availability of health care to women and efforts have been made to improve the work conditions and the employment need of women. (Report of the World Conference on International Women's Year, P.9)

There have been some significant achievements in the implementations of the World Plan of Action both at the regional and at the global levels in the first half of the Decade. Of particular significance was the establishment of Voluntary Fund for the decade for women and a preparatory work for the establishment of the International Research and Training Institute

The World Conference of UN Decade for Women, Equality, Development & Peace had emphasised national strategies for accelerating the full participation of women in economic & social development. It had also emphasised national development plans & polices which the governments should undertake. It had also suggested to pass legislative measures to remove sex discrimination. (Report of the World conference on International Women's Year P.16,18,19).

It was also recommended in the conference that if these objectives cannot be achieved in such a short span of time then a second decade could be envisaged for the period 1985-1995. However this was not practiced.

iii) 'Decade and its Movement in India.

The decade was thus a world wide effort to uplift women. No wonder India has also launched a few movements to uplift women by taking various programmes. The programmes were to be at the national level, by the Govt. agencies, at state level and by individuals. The Government of India has set forth the fourteen
objectives of the decade, in response to the objectives of the World Plan of Action, as the minimum to be achieved by each nation.

The stage for government action on the situation of women was already set when the International Women's Year was launched in India. In 1971, the Government of India had appointed a National Committee to investigate into the status and the situation of women, and to make suggestions for realising the Constitutional commitment to equality of the sexes. The submission of the report of this committee on the 1st January 1975, coincided with the commencement of the International Women's Year. Thus in a sense the Government of India initiated the International Women's Year with the release of a highly informative, detailed, sensitive and comprehensive report on the status of women and their progress in the report entitled 'Towards Equality'.

Apart from this the Government of India responded to the U.N.Declaration of the International Women's Year with the prompt appointment of a National Committee, with Smt. Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, as President, to implement the programmes for the year. Further, a special officer was appointed to the Department of Social Welfare, to co-ordinate matters relating to the welfare and the development of women.

Soon afterwards, the two Houses of Parliament responded, both to the International Women's Year, and to the report
submitted by the National Committee on the Status of Women, by
taking up the issue of improving the status of women in the
country. The Lok Sabha discussed it in April, 1975 and the Rajya
Sabha in May 1975. As a consequence of these discussions the
following resolution was passed: "This House urges upon the
Prime Minister to initiate a comprehensive programme of special
legislative and administrative measures aimed at removing as far
as possible, the economic and social injustices disabilities and
discriminations to which Indian Women continue to be subjected".
(Dr.Chitnis Suma., P.15,16)

The National Committee headed by Mrs. Gandhi functioned
through State level committees responsible for promoting a variety
of programmes to celebrate the I.W.Y. in the States. Most of the
programmes were in the nature of meetings, conferences, seminars
etc. aimed at communicating the objectives of the I.W.Y. and the
Women's Decade. Practically every State Government had a major
state-level seminar.

Towards the end of the year the National Committee
formulated a Draft of National Plan of Action. At its valedictory
meeting held in February 1976, the Committee proposed the
appointment of another National Committee for continued action
towards the objectives of the Women's Decade. This Committee was
appointed towards the last quarter of 1976. However, the political
emergency, which existed at the time, inhibited the new committee
from effective action. Soon after the formation of the Janata
Government, this Committee was reconstituted with the new Prime
Minister as its President and the Minister of Education, Social
Welfare and Culture as its Vice-President / & Working President.
With the reconstitution of the Committee some other bodies were
also set up. As a result, the following national machinery now
exists for the intensification of the efforts and measures for
women's development.

1. A National Committee.
2. A Steering Committee of the National Committee
3. An Inter-Departmental Co-Ordination Committee
4. A Women's Welfare and Development Bureau in the
   Department of Social Welfare.

In view of the federal structure of the country and of the
well defined roles and responsibilities of the Central and State
Governments under the Constitution, the establishment of a
machinery, at the State level, for co-ordinated measures for
women's development, was felt, by the Central Government, to be
a critical need. The Central Government urged the States to
consider this need. As a consequence many States/Union Territories
of India (including Maharashtra) have set up State Committees, and
Women's Economic Development Corporation. (Dr. Chitnis Suma.,
P.19, 20).

The most significant implication of the establishment of
these bodies in the Planning Commission, in the several
Ministries, and of the establishment of linkages with financial institutions and bodies, is that the earlier notion of action for women's welfare has made way for the idea of involving women in development. The idea of placing a special focus on the needs of women and on designing specifically for their development has been decisively mooted. There was a positive move for efforts and initiatives for women's development in all sectors. (Dr. Chitnis Suma., P. 17 to 21).

On this background, Bombay is made the area of this research work. The next part, 2.3, reveals the overall picture of Bombay & its development in brief & then political participation of women elites from Bombay during the decade.

2.3 BOMBAY: ITS GROWTH & ENVIRONMENT:

V.T. Station is a gateway to 'Mumbai' where thousands of people come everyday from different parts of India. Once Mumbai was the main Centre for India's independence struggle. Today it is recognised as the Capital of India for Industries and trade in view of its mammoth industrial complex & innumerable monetary transactions. (Census of India, Series 12, Maharashtra, P. 30).

Bombay's all sided development began when Elphinston became the Governor of Bombay Presidency. Educational and social reforms started during this period. Post and Telegraph, Railway followed soon. Bombay University was established in 1857. The system of Indian Civil Service
Examination was introduced. Newspapers in English, Marathi, and Gujarathi languages appeared on the Bombay's intellectual life which helped a lot towards social, political, economic, cultural and educational development of Bombay. Books and periodicals were also published. A number of associations were established and the famous amongst them are Sarvajanik Sabha of Pune and Bombay Presidency Association at Bombay. At its initiative stage the first session of the "Indian National Congress" was held in Bombay on 28th Dec.,1885. From this time onwards, Bombay has taken the lead in all freedom movements, in India, such as Boycott, Swadeshi Satyagraha, non-co-operation movement and the last one being the 'Quit India' movement on 8th Aug.,1942.

Economic and Industrial development of Bombay started from eighteenth century onwards. With the establishment of British East India Company, trade and commerce increased. Bombay was and is an excellent harbour with vast winterland. Industrial development was slow upto 1947 and after Indian Independence, it gained momentum. It is the 'Industrial Capital' of India and ranks eighth in the whole world. Bombay acquired a real cosmopolitan character, because of industrialisation.

Bombay city is very famous for its 'Film Industry' also. It is a leading city for Hindi Cinema. It has given rise to a number of film stars, actors and actresses. Bombay is also a major centre for different games, from Kabaddi to cricket. New fashions, new styles are born here and then are spread all over India. It has become a mega city now, ranking eighth in the whole World. Its population is so varied and so
representative of practically all states of the Indian Union and all religious groups, that it is rightly called 'epitome of India, a "miniature India". Bombay has become an international centre. Bombay has also its own problems like slums, law and order, communal riots, pollution, transport, smuggling etc. Bombay has supplied ample material for research work in different fields.

Bombay is a place where many important events from the national point of view, have taken place, since the last century. Bombay has also produced a number of outstanding individuals - both men and women in different fields. Men of rare political sagacity & social reformers of great vision like Jagannath Shankar Shet, Bhau Daji Lad, Jehangir, Readymoney, Naroji Furdunji, Framji Cowasiji, Mangaldas Nathubhai, Premchand Raichand, Gokuidas Tejpal, Muhammad Ibrahim, Mukba, Mahomed Ali Roghay, Mountstuart Ellphinstone, Viscount Falkland Behramji Maltari, Raghoba Janardan Ranade etc. were the principal makers of Bombay.

Thus Bombay is the record of historical and political movements, economic development, educational awakening, Municipal politics, labour movement, social movements, and industrial nucleaus. (Maharashtra Gazetters, Abstracts.)

It is considered as a centre of study because of its 'unique personality' identity. The present research work aims at finding out whether major political changes in terms of women's participation have taken place during the International Decade for
women. Bombay has provided women leaders of national status - before independence & after independence. The women, who flourished as elites during the decade, and their work is mentioned in the following chapters.

The next chapter attempts to review the status & position of women in India, with historical perspective, as the dissertation moves around 'women'.

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