CHAPTER - VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Overview
The inferences drawn in the body of the thesis are presented in this chapter.

Summary
The thesis is presented in six chapters. The introduction forms the first chapter. In this chapter an attempt has been made to explain the conceptual framework of the study, statement of the problem, review of literature, objectives of the study, methodology of the study and chapterization.

In the conceptual framework of the study the concept of Local Government, features of Local Government, role of Local Government, classification of Local Governments, rural Local Governments and Urban Local Governments in India have been explained.

Effective performance and attainment of the democratic and service objectives depend largely on the statutory structure and working of Municipal Council. The aim of the study is not to show whether or not democracy is good and effective, but to identify the characteristics and conditions, which make democracy good and effective. If the people cannot work democracy at the local level, the democracy
maintained through elections at the higher levels will remain formal and superficial lacking genuine democratic substance in it.

Research in Public Administration is a neglected field and this is especially true of research in administration of urban areas, in spite of several Municipal Corporations functioning in this country.

The various studies attempted on Municipal Administration have not analyzed in detail the structure and working of Coimbatore Municipal Corporation Council from the point of view of Councilors. Since the Corporation Council has to play an important role for the successful working of gross root democracy, it was considered appropriate to take up the present research study.

The present study is about the structure and working of Coimbatore Municipal Corporation Council. For proper understanding and analysis of the study, an understanding of the area in which it is set is quite necessary. Therefore, an attempt has been made to explain the setting of the study in the second chapter.

In this chapter an attempt has been made to explain the Coimbatore City profile, area and jurisdiction of Coimbatore City, geography of Coimbatore City, climate of Coimbatore City, legendary background of Coimbatore City, historical background of the City, textiles and industrial growth of the City, organisation and working of South Indian Textile Research Association (SITRA), organization and the role of Coimbatore District Small Scale Industries Association (CODISSIA), growth of Coimbatore Municipality and physical growth of the City, educational institutions such as Universities, Forest Training College, Medical colleges .Engineering Colleges, Arts & Science Colleges.
Tamil College, Law College, Schools, Electric Crematorium at Pappanaickenpalayam, Electric Crematorium at Athupalam, Electric Crematorium at Chockenpudur, execution of solid waste management scheme, details of urban health posts, dispensaries, public health laboratories, roads, buildings, street lights, water supply and drainage, under ground drainage, charges for services, and sewage farms. The details furnished in the profile of Coimbatore City reveal that the City has become the second largest industrial city next only to Chennai in Tamil Nadu. To cater to the needs of the growing industrialized city, a lot of facilities have been extended in Coimbatore City and Coimbatore has been elevated to the status of Corporation from 1981.

It is quite necessary to understand the development process of Municipal Administration in order to properly understand the structure and working of Coimbatore Municipal Corporation. Therefore, in the third chapter an attempt has been made to explain the development process of Municipal Administration in general and Coimbatore Municipal Corporation in particular.

In the development process of Coimbatore Municipal Corporation, the development process of Municipalities in general and Coimbatore Municipal Corporation in particular have been explained. During the course of discussion, the major events responsible for the development of Coimbatore Municipal Corporation have been traced. After independence a number of Committees and Commissions have been appointed to review and update the organization and the working of Municipalities including Municipal Corporations. Tamil Nadu Government on the basis of the recommendations of the Committees and Commissions have attempted to reorganize the organization and the
working of Coimbatore Municipal Corporation. The attempts made by the Central Government to revitalize the working of the Municipalities and Municipal Corporation could not work out successfully. In order to enable the Municipalities and Municipal Corporations to function more efficiently, the Government of India passed the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act. The important features of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act have been explained in this chapter. On the basis of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, Tamil Nadu Government has amended the Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act, 1920 into Tamil Nadu District Municipalities (Amendment) Act, during 1994. This Amendment Act has given effect to most of the recommendations of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act. On the basis of Tamil Nadu District Municipalities (Amendment) Act, 1994, the structure of Coimbatore Municipal Corporation Council has been reorganized.

The new structure of Coimbatore Municipal Corporation Council has been explained in the fourth chapter. In this chapter the structure of Municipal Corporation, main features of a Municipal Corporation, criteria for the creation of a Municipal Corporation, area and jurisdiction of Coimbatore City, structural pattern of Municipal Corporations, the Corporation Council, functions of the Council, duties and powers of individual Councilors, Council’s power to call for record, obligation of Executive Authority to carry out Council’s resolution, appointment of Committees, Taxation Appeals Committee, appointment of Special Committees, appointment of Joint Committee, Wards Committees, Coimbatore City Zones, Standing Committee, the powers, functions and duties of the Standing Committee, Subject Committees, rules and regulations for proceedings of Council, annual administration report,
obligations and privileges of the Councilors, removal of Councilors, reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Women, duration of the Corporation Council, finances of Municipal Corporation, Dissolution of Municipal Corporation, Committee for Metropolitan Planning, composition of the Committee, functions of the Committee, powers and functions of Mayor, presidency of the Council, Mayor and Councilors when to abstain from taking part in discussion and voting, power of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor or Councilor to resign, Acts of Municipal Council etc. not be invalidated by informality etc., Municipal Commissioner, appointment of the Commissioner, functions of the Commissioner, emergency powers of the Commissioner, power of the Commissioner to incur petty contingent expenditure, rights and duties of the Commissioner, functions of Municipal Corporations, General Administration Department, Revenue Department, revenue items, property tax, water charges, vacant land tax, Non-tax, professional tax, D&O Tax, PFA Trades, Accounts Department, New Accounting System, Engineering Department, Public Health Department Public Health, Birth and Death Request for Births & Deaths Certificates for the current year and for last 5years, Births &Deaths Certificates Request for More then Six Years, Births& Deaths Certificates through Posts, Dangerous and Offensive Trades, request for Dangerous & Offensive Trade License, Prevention of Food Adulteration License (PFA), Zoo, request for Sullage Lorry, Sanitary Certificate, Education Department and Town Planning Department have been explained.

In the fifth chapter the working of the Coimbatore Municipal Corporation Council has been analyzed from the point of view of the Councilors.
In order to analyze the working of the Coimbatore Municipal Corporation Council from the point of view of the Councilors, it is necessary to understand the background of the Councilors. In the following pages the background of the Councilors has been explained from the data collected through the schedule.

The background particulars of the Councilors of Coimbatore Municipal Corporation reveal that adequate representation has been provided to the people belonging to the different castes, religions, and political parties. There are widespread ethnic problems in almost all the countries of the world. India is not an exception to this problem. This problem is mainly found due to lack of proper representation to the people belonging to the different castes, religions, and political parties in the governance of the country and in administration. The experts on ethnic problems consider that decentralizing the power to the local governments could solve the ethnic problem. The decentralization of the powers to the local governments according to the experts could enable for the people belonging to the different castes, communities, religions, etc. to have adequate representation in the governance of the country. This factor has come true as far as the representation of the Councilors in the Coimbatore Municipal Corporation Council is concerned.

The background particulars of the Councilors farther indicate that young, energetic, matured, fairly educated with good family background have got representation in the Council. These factors have helped to have clean governance in the Coimbatore Municipal Corporation.
The factors responsible for getting elected as Councilors reveal that membership in the political party, membership in the association, support of the business people and accessibility to the people and attending to their problems are the main factors responsible for getting elected as Councilors. These factors make it clear that the Councilors have to make hue and cry in the Council in the support of their political party, associations, business people and the people of their locality. The disruptive proceedings of the Coimbatore Council in the recent years reveal these factors as true.

The type of relationship maintained with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and fellow Councilors reveal that majority of the Councilors don’t maintain cordial relationship. This is evident from the opposition shown by the Councilors during the Council meetings by frequent walkouts.

The type of relationship maintained with the officers and the staff of the Corporation reveal that the Councilors do not get enough assistance from them. This factor has not enabled the Councilors to be responsible to the people of their Ward and satisfy their demands. This is mainly because the officers and the staff are permanent whereas, the Councilors are elected for a fixed term. In the democratic setting, the Councilors cannot be appointed on the permanent basis. If the Officers and the staff are also elected for a fixed term like in America, they could become responsible to the Councilors and help them in the discharge of their functions and thereby they could be made responsible for the people.

The type of relationship maintained by the Councilors with the people of their locality reveal that the Councilors allow the people to
represent the grievances in their houses, attend the functions of the people of their Ward, maintain good relationship with friends of their Ward, maintain good relationship with relatives of their Ward, attend the religious functions arranged in their Ward, participate in emergencies like accidents in their Ward, attend the birthday parties arranged in their Ward, represent the problems of the people in the Corporation Council, attend the marriage functions of the people of their Ward, contact the people in their Ward to know about the problems, which could be solved by the Corporation and the people in their Ward are able to contact them for the problems which could be solved by the Corporation. Thus the Councilors maintain cordial relationship with the public. The responses of the Councilors about their ability to sort out the problems of the public reveal that they are not able to solve all the problems of their locality because of limited funds available in the Corporation. Therefore, in order to satisfy the people, they show their protest in the Council meetings by way of walk out from the Council.

The responses of the Councilors about their awareness of the basic features of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, the basic features of the Tamilnadu District Municipalities Amendment Act, 1994 and the functional items allocated to the urban local bodies reveal that majority of them are not aware of the above. In order to enable the Councilors to discharge their duties properly in the Corporation Council, the Government should take steps to create awareness among them about the basic features of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, basic features of the Tamilnadu District Municipalities Amendment Act, 1994 and the functional items allocated to the urban local bodies.
The responses of the Councilors about their participation in the Council reveal that all the Councilors attend the Council meetings regularly, participate in the discussions and represent the grievances of the people in the Council. The majority of the Councilors thinks that the Mayor shows partiality in the distribution of funds, and they are not able to get sufficient funds to carry out different functions in their ward and therefore, they have to show their protest in the form of walk out in the Council.

A number of new schemes are proposed every year for the development of Coimbatore Municipal Corporation. The new schemes proposed for the years 2001-2002 to 2004-2005 are explained elaborately in this chapter.

The responses of the Councilors about their awareness of the new schemes proposed in the budget estimates reveal that they knew about the various schemes proposed for the years 2001-2002 to 2004-2005.

The responses of the Councilors about the allocation of the new schemes reveal that majority the Councilors are not satisfied with the allocation of the new schemes. They think that the new schemes are allocated in favour of the ruling party of Coimbatore Municipal Corporation Council. As the ruling party has the support of the Government, it gets the approval for the implementation of new schemes. In order to satisfy the Councilors, the Mayor sanctions a number of minor schemes, which could cover almost the entire area of Coimbatore Municipal Corporation. The development of Coimbatore Municipal Corporation very much depends upon the allocation of funds on the basis of the priority of the problems that exist in Coimbatore.
Municipal Corporation. Therefore, in the interest of the development of Coimbatore Municipal Corporation, the Councilors irrespective of party affiliation should come forward to discuss the priority of the problems of Coimbatore Municipal Corporation and should come forward to allocate funds to set right the priority of the problems.

The Government of India is implementing a lot of programs for the benefit of the people living in urban local bodies.

The details of the benefits available through the above programs are explained in this chapter.

The responses of the Councillors about their awareness of the above programmes reveal that the majority of the Councillors are not aware of the various centrally sponsored programs such as Integrated Sanitation Program, Basic Amenities Program, National Maternity Benefit Scheme, Service Homes, Urban Employment Generation Programme, Mega City Programme, Urban Renewal Scheme, Participation Programme, the Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP) and the Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP) available for the benefit of the people living in urban areas. Therefore, they are unable to discuss about the centrally sponsored programs for the preparation of the project reports and to send them for the perusal of the Central Government. Thus lack of awareness of the centrally sponsored schemes has not enabled them to make use of the facilities available from the above schemes for the benefit of the people.

The responses of the Councillors about their role in getting the benefits from the above schemes for the benefit of the people indicate that majority of the Councillors have not helped the people to avail the
facilities from the schemes such as, Integrated Sanitation Programme, National Slum Development Programme, E-Governance in Urban Local Bodies, National Maternity Benefit Scheme, Service Homes, Urban Employment Generation Programme, Mega City Program, Urban Renewal Scheme, Participatory Programme, The Urban Self Employment Programme, the Urban Wage Employment Programme and Member of Parliament Local Area Development Programme because of lack of awareness about the schemes. If the Councilors have to play a useful role in the Council, they should have sufficient knowledge about the schemes available for the benefit of the people living in urban local bodies.

State Sponsored Schemes

State Governments are also implementing a lot of programmes for the welfare of the people living in urban areas.

The responses of the Councillors about the State sponsored scheme indicate that the Councillors are aware of the popular schemes such as Namakku Naame Thittam, Member of Legislative Assembly Local Area Development Scheme, Urban Rain Water Harvesting Scheme, National Slum Development Scheme and Slum Clearance Scheme. They are not aware of some of the programs such as New and Innovative Programmes, Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project -I and Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project -II through which Tamil Nadu Government sponsors a number of programmes for the development of urban areas. Lack of awareness of the Councilors about the above programmes has not enabled them to prepare projects for the
development of Coimbatore and to make use of the funds available through the above programs.

The responses of the Councilors about their role in getting the benefits from the above schemes for the benefits of the people indicate that they have helped to get the assistance from the State Finance Commission Grant, Slum Clearance Scheme, Urban Rain Harvesting Scheme and National Slum Development Scheme. Since the Councilors are not aware of some of the programs such as New and Innovative Programs, Mega City Program, Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project I and Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project II, they could not prepare projects under the above schemes and get assistance from the Government and help the people of their locality. Therefore, it is necessary that the Councilors should have sufficient knowledge about the various programs so that they could help the people of their locality by making use of the benefits available from the various schemes.

Sum-up

When the people begin to live together in a locality certain problems arise from communal living. The Local Government, with the knowledge of locality could play a vital role in finding solutions to these problems. The role played by the Local Government is well known by various functions carried out by it.

If the Local Governments have to fulfill their role properly, the Councilors elected by the people should have good background, maintain good relations with the people of their locality by solving their problems, should have sufficient knowledge about the various programmes available for the benefit of the people living in urban areas.
and make the benefits available to the people. A case study attempted with reference to the structure and working of Coimbatore Municipal Corporation Council reveals that majority of the Councilors have good background and maintain good relations with the public by providing necessary services to the people. The Councilors have participated effectively in the meetings of the Council and have represented the people’s problems properly in the Council. Due to lack of awareness of various Centrally and State sponsored schemes, they are unable to get the assistance from the above schemes and make it available to the people. The Government should take steps to create awareness about the various programs available for the benefit of the people living in urban areas so that the Councilors could discharge their functions properly and could enable the gross root democracy meaningful.