CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION, FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

- Conclusion
- Findings
- Testing of Hypothesis
- Suggestions
CONCLUSION:

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar once said, "They (the villages) have survived through all vicissitudes, may be a fact. But mere survival has no value. The question is on what plane they have survived. Surely, on a low, selfish level. I hold that these village republics have been the ruination of India. I am, therefore, surprised that those who condemn provincialism and communalism should come forward as champions of the village. What is the village but a stink of localism, a den of ignorance, narrow mindedness and communalism? I am glad that the Draft constitution has discarded the village and adopted the individual as its unit."  

Panchayat Raj System in Karnataka and Bijapur Zilla Panchayat in Particular have been functioning in accordance with the earlier 73rd constitutional Amendment 1992 and Karnataka Panchayat Raj Institutions Act 1993. Zilla Panchayat Bijapur functions in accordance with the above Act.

The migration of people from the rural to the urban areas is a known fact, and it is continuously taking place. This is so because of the absence of opportunities and infrastructure required for the meaningful employment for the rural folk. If this trend is to be reversed, it is quite essential that infrastructure should be developed in rural areas and opportunities for employment should be generated.

---

in rural areas to a large measure. This is exactly what our respected president of our country, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam states - “When he speaks of ‘PRAA’, that is, providing urban facilities to rural areas”, the Panchayat Raj System has been envisaged to take up this task.

Zilla Panchayat is able to provide services to the rural society in the desired manner. They are facing serious challenges and threats arising from the rural problems.

**FINDINGS:**

In views of the rural scenario the present study throws light on the process of management of rural body, that is, Bijapur Zilla Panchayat. The findings of the present study are as follows:

1) **Irrigational areas:**

Just as in the Punjab, here also in undivided Bijapur district five rivers flow, namely, the Bhima, the Krishna, the Don, the Ghataprabha, and the Malaprabha. Though five rivers flow, the district has not achieved the required progress in the field of irrigation. Though there is sufficient natural resources. But unfortunately, Bijapur district are known proverbially as a famine stricken district (Drought prone Area). The famine of Bijapur district has more than a hundred years history. Prior to independence an institute named ‘anti-famine’ was set up. Despite all this, the district has not yet got rid of the monster of famine, and still it remains a poorly irrigated district.

The leaders of the district, in our opinion, have not thrown their weight on Government to develop irrigational facilities. Concerted efforts seem to be totally absent or inadequate. One or two leaders might have done some thing in the matter but on the whole
it appears that the majority of them did not strive adequately for its development. We are of the opinion that the leaders should become aware of the irrigation potential and should throw their weight on the concerned authorities to utilize its irrigation potential to the fullest extent possible.

ii) Mulwad lift irrigation project

The Mulwad lift irrigation project and Gutti Basavanna lift irrigation project in Indi Taluk and Hipparagi barrage project, across the river Krishna, are some of the projects, if completed on right time, can irrigate vast agricultural lands of the district. Unfortunately our leaders are not able to press for the speedy completion of these projects. 'A' scheme of Mulwad lift irrigation project has not yet been fully completed and the 'B' scheme of the same project is yet to start.

Gutti Basavanna lift irrigation project has begun just now and no one knows when it is going to be completed. Though a barrage has been constructed across the river Krishna at Hippargi, the water stored in the barrage is yet to flow to the thirsty fields for want of feeder canals. This shows the apathy of the authorities concerned. Hence it is suggested that a proper time schedule, should be prepared for each and every project, and the works should be completed according to the time schedule prepared well in advance. If this is done, we hope that the district can become a granary of Karnataka.
Fig. 6.1. Mulwad Lift Irrigation project ‘A’ Scheme a view of “Jackwel”

Fig. 6.2 Mulwad lift Irrigation Project ‘A’ Scheme Pipelines taking water to the fields.
iii) Tank filling Project:

Recently, a novel idea has been mooted by the younger generation leaders. The idea is to fill the tanks spread throughout the length and breadth of the district by lifting waters from the major irrigation projects. Since the topographical structure of the district is such that the major irrigation projects of the district are at lower level whereas the tanks in the district are at a higher level as compared to the major irrigation projects. Hence it is quite essential to lift the waters from the major irrigation projects and fill the tanks. A detailed plan has been worked out and the same should be implemented speedily. The details of the scheme are as follows:

i) In Devar Gennur village at Bijapur taluk 16 tanks and five Bandars are to be filled with Almatti water.

ii) In Baluti village in Bijapur taluk, 32 tanks are to be filled with the water of the Almatti reservoir.

iii) In Mudoor village in Muddebihal taluk, 17 tanks are to be filled with the water from the Narayanpur reservoir.

iv) In Sankh village in Indi taluk, 4 tanks and 1 bandhar are to be filled with the water of river Bhima.

v) In Indi taluk near village Anabe, 8 tanks are to be filled by waters of river Bhima.

vi) In Indi taluk near village Bhuyyar, 7 tanks are to be filled with the water of the river Bhima.

vii) A lift irrigation project is going to be taken up in village Kadani in Sindgi taluk and 7 tanks are going to be filled with the water of the river Bhima.

viii) In Sindagi taluk at Balaganur village, 4 tanks are to be filled by the waters of river Bhima.
iv) Industrial Development:

Bijapur district is an undeveloped district. The absence of industries may be due to lack of infrastructure and lack of efforts on the part of the authorities to encourage investors to invest their funds in the districts. For opening industries, sufficient man power is available, and industrial raw materials are also available. There is sufficient scope for the setting up of agro-based industries. What is needed is educating the investing public to come forward to set up agro-based industries. Setting up of an aerodrome in Bijapur, conversion of the Bijapur-Gadag meter gauge Railway line into a broad gauge Railway line and improvement of roads throughout the district can go a long way in promoting industrial development in the district. Recently, a wine factory has been set up near Bhutnal tank to produce world class wine by utilizing local grapes. There was a distillery and a mineral water plant near Torvi in Bijapur Taluk. There are two sugar factories working in the district, one at Hirebevanur in Indi taluk and another one at Galagali in Bijapur taluk. If irrigation potential of the district is fully utilized many more industries can come up in future. The waste product of sugar industry can pave the way for setting up the distilleries and paper factories.
Fig. 6.6 A view of the Nandi Sugar Factory at Galagali at Bijapur Taluk
Testing of Hypothesis:

In this research work the first hypothesis which states that Zilla Panchayat brings the decision-making process nearer to the people, has been fulfilled in the majority of the cases. For, The Government allotment of houses for houseless people is going to be undertaken by the village Panchayat, and the names of the beneficiaries are going to be selected by the members of Zilla Panchayat. Members of Zilla Panchayat can take independent decisions in this matter.

In the event of spread of epidemics, the members of Zilla Panchayat can take the initiative in instructing the concerned medical departments to take preventive measures and also work properly to protect the live stocks effectively from the spread of diseases. If there is going to be a demand from villagers to establish public health centres their demand can be attended by members.

Even in the field of primary and secondary education, members of Zilla Panchayat can instruct the concerned authorities to work effectively with regard to providing facilities in respect of drinking waters to children and construction of more class rooms and construction of compound wall etc. With regard to providing drinking water to the needy villages, members can take an independent decision to dig a borewell and construct an overhead tank and thereby the drinking water problem can be solved instantly.

The Second Hypothesis is that Zilla Panchayat provides opportunities for grass root level leadership in implementing the programmes of development. In the Majority of the cases, all-round growth of villages has been an impossible task for all these days.
Because the problems of villages are not going to be understood by outsiders, Zilla Panchayat has given an opportunity for village people to come forward and express their grievances freely, and with the help of Government projects which are going to be implemented through Zilla Panchayat, the Zilla Panchayat can take up the matter for discussion and persuade the officials to implement them in their respective villages, and Zilla Panchayat will provide a common platform to educate the villagers to understand the government plans regarding the all-round improvement of villages. Zilla Panchayat will provide an opportunity for the grass root level leaders to come up. Even members can be elected from amongst the communities which come under the below poverty line.

The Third Hypothesis, which states that leadership in Zilla Panchayat is not going to be always dominated by leaders of upper caste, is not true because presidential tenure of president and vice-president is only for 20 months, and on the expiry of the tenure of the present incumbent new member will occupy the chair of the president and vice-president. This principle violates the principle of democracy which believes in the majority rule.

Regarding the fourth hypothesis which clearly states that the underprivileged people have to participate in the decision making process of Zilla Panchayat, with the adoption of the policy of reservation the people below poverty line and SC/ST/OBC have an opportunity to become the members of Zilla Panchayat. When once they are the members of Zilla Panchayat, they can participate in the decision making process. Since they represent the lowest rung of the ladder in the society, they have understood the problems of the poor
people better ose who come from the creamy layer of the society. Therefore, the hypothesis has nearly been fulfilled.

**SUGGESTIONS**

1) It is suggested that the state Government should delegate sufficient powers and provide adequate resources to the Zilla Panchayats to meet the natural calamities, to provide immediate assistance to the people suffering from floods and drought. They should be asked to distribute relief materials to the needy and deserving, and they should also be asked to exercise supervisory authority on relief operations. If this is done, the responsibility of state Government will be minimized to a large extent in such situations.

2) Zilla Panchayat Acts as a link between the state and rural areas. Zilla Panchayat being a local agency, it is quite aware of the local problems and needs, and acts to mitigate them. It also encourages people to evince greater interest in state level and national level politics and thereby tries to strengthen the roots of democracy.

Recently there has been a tendency to reduce the responsibilities of Zilla Panchayat and increase the responsibilities of Village Panchayats. Now it is pertinent to ask a question whether and to what extent is it advisable to weaken Zilla Panchayat.

In our view, there should not be any weakening of the Zilla Panchayat System. If Zilla Panchayats are weakened, the states will also be weakened. We feel that there should not be any curtailment of authority of an important institution like Zilla Panchayat.
3) Debate discussions have been going on in our country regarding national developments, state development and rural development. Much effort has been done in this direction. At the Zilla Panchayat level also discussions and debates have been going on in this direction, and many programmes have been put through to achieve development. The aim of development, in our view, is to eradicate poverty, particularly below the poverty line people. Inspite of the fact that poverty eradication programmes are being put through all these years, we don't find any qualitative change in the living conditions of the below the poverty line people.

This in our view, may be due to the fact that the below the poverty line people and the people who sympathise with the people below poverty line, such people don't have any say in the functioning of the Zilla Panchayats. Such people are unable to contest elections and voice their grievances. So we are of the opinion that there should be proper representation of the people below the poverty line, this can be done by nominating the social workers and literary people. If there can be nominations in Parliament, Assembly and in co-operative institutions, why there should not be such a practice of making nominations to the Zilla Panchayat?

4) It is observed that the women members of Zilla Panchayat have not been able to participate effectively in the proceedings of the Zilla Panchayats. This may be due to lack of education, the lack of self confidence, male dominated society, lack of training and traditional family background. We feel that women members of Zilla Panchayat may be made to participate effectively through training etc.
5) It is very important to find seasoned leaders from among the Zilla Panchayat members who are capable of taking independent decisions. A time what we find to day is that the elected Panchayats, more or less, are dependent on the recommendations made by M.L.As and M.Ps, of their respective constituencies. The decisions made by M.L.As and M.Ps, though not palatable to members of Zilla Panchayat, cannot be set aside by the members of Zilla Panchayats as they are heavily dependent on such M.L.As and M.Ps. So we feel that Zilla Panchayat members should be bold enough to take independent decisions and reject suggestions which may not be considered proper, even if they come from their political leaders.

6) Funds for various developmental projects and activities are sanctioned and released through both the central and state sectors. Real progress can be achieved if funds released are used for the purpose for which they are sanctioned and released. Unfortunately, during the interview many of the members of Zilla Panchayat have expressed the view that the funds released are not properly utilized and that there is too much of misuse of funds. So it is suggested that there should be an independent audit organization to prevent such misuse of funds.

7) The officials of various departments of Zilla Panchayat are required to carry out their functions according to the whims and fancies of the M.Ps. and M.L.A.s and other local political leaders. So, many a time, the officials find it very difficult to function and discharge their responsibility on the required
lines. our view that there should not be too much of political reference.

8) It is of there is a need to have a public forum consisting of public men, social workers, media representatives, people representing the below the poverty line section of the society. This public forum should focus its attention on various programmes of development and the funds allocated to each and every programme. It should also try to find out whether the funds have been utilized for the purpose for which they are sanctioned. They should also try to ascertain to what extent the progress has been achieved, and if the required degree of progress has not been achieved, why it is so? and who is responsible for it? Wide publicity should be given to the deliberations of such public forums so that the public in general can come to know what is going on in the Zilla Panchayats, and if there are any pitfalls, who are responsible for them.

9) One thing that has come to our notice in the study is the absence of well equipped library in the Bijapur Zilla Panchayat. Such a library is a must for officials and for elected members. Such a library will help members and officials in understanding and formulating suitable policies. So it is suggested that Bijapur Zilla Panchayat should take immediate steps to have a well equipped library with a qualified librarian.

Such a library will help the members to have a comparative view of the functioning of Bijapur Zilla Panchayat and functions of other Zilla Panchayats spread throughout the country. Such a library should work as friend philosopher and guide to all concerned. It is believed will go a long way in furnishing the required information to the research students.