

CONCLUSION

It is the evidence subsisting from ancient times in South India which offer a choice as to the system of Management that is necessary for the protection and development of irrigation works. Both the tank system and its Management are ancient, indigenous. An alternative system of Management was experiment by the British Colonial Government which failed in its objective. The post Independence experience proves that even with the best of intentions, this system does not produce results. The question is whether the government now is prepared to restore proprietorship of the tanks to village panchayats. While the Panchayats may not have today the solidity of the 'sabhas' of the middle ages, while the socio economic and political environment today belongs to a different age altogether. Yet, the Panchayats could not do worse than the P.W.D. and the Revenue Departments have done for the last 200 years.

There is no alternative to the recognition that the tank system belongs to the village Panchayats and must be returned to them.

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