INSTITUTIONAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK
FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNANCE TO
EMPOWER GCC

- Vasumathi S 2019803019

The objective of the Thesis is to empower the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) in the urban development process and Governance as envisaged in 74th Constitutional Amendment Act (CAA). In this context, the existing status of the institutional and regulatory framework for urban planning and governance within the jurisdiction of the Greater Chennai Corporation is examined and a new framework is proposed to empower the GCC. Greater Chennai, the urban prime of the State and the potential core of the Chennai Metropolitan Planning Area (CMPA) is very poorly represented in the constitution of the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA). The CMDA is the statutory nodal agency for the planning and development of the CMPA, in the existing scheme of things. The GCC has hardly any role in the preparation of the Master Plan, the Detailed Development Plan or any other plan or in the process of the implementation. The Study in the above context, reviews the relevant provisions of the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act, 1971 and proposes appropriate amendments to empower the GCC in the planning and development process. The urban governance in the GCC is marked by a dichotomy, a division of two mutually exclusive sets of institutions. The democratically elected GCC on the one side and the nominated Parastatal institutions such as the CMDA, CMWSSB, TNHB, TNSCB, TNEB, MTC, TNRDC and others. In the federal system of governance in India, the GCC is a Government by itself as per the Indian Constitution. It’s responsible for the provision and maintenance of all basic amenities and services. However, the parastatal organization cited above, plan and execute multiple development works on their own without any regard to
the authority of the GCC. Therefore, the Governance system lacks grass root level participation, accountability to the people and transparency. The Study proposes institutional and regulatory framework for the planning and the development process and governance in the GCC in consonance with the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992 and highlights the areas in which the GCC is proposed to be empowered, in the light of the existing flawed system.