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## Issues and challenges of urban municipal corporation: An overview

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### Abstract

Urbanization has become a common feature of Indian society. Millions of people are moving to cities in search of employment because cities are the primary factors of globalization hence the population of cities is growing rapidly. This indicates that Indian cities must be seen as the main forces behind the economy's structural change in country. The Directive Principles of State Policy and the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendments to our Constitution, which aim to establish an institutional framework for bringing in grassroots democracy through the use of truly self-governing local bodies in both urban and rural areas, clearly mandate democratic decentralization. The main focuses of the study are issues and challenges of the urban municipal corporation in India in general. The present study it is based on secondary sources of information.

**Keywords:** Urbanization, women's participation, political parties, issues, challenges, social factors

### Introduction

Urbanization has become a common feature of Indian society. Millions of people are moving to cities in search of employment because cities are the primary factor of globalization at the same time the population in cities is growing rapidly. This indicates that Indian cities must be seen as the main forces behind the economy's structural change in the country. It necessitates upgrading and improving infrastructure, which means both the federal government and the state governments must actively support this. The Directive Principles of State Policy and the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendments to our Constitution, which aim to establish an institutional framework for bringing in grassroots democracy through the use of truly self-governing local bodies in both urban and rural areas, clearly mandate democratic decentralization.

### Review of Literature

Unpublished thesis of Om Prie Srivastava's (1976), entitled Municipal government & administration in India, examined that the different kinds of state control & suggest remedial measures that need to be taken. The most explored field in municipal government apart from finance is that of municipal leaders & politics let us review some empirical studies carried out by different scholar in their fields also.

A study by Chetan Vaidya and Hitesh Vaidya (2002) [3], in their article entitled Recent Financial Initiatives among Urban Local Bodies: A Report, found that the urban Municipalities are just beginning to go to markets to raise funds, and in many ways to respond to the challenge of efficiency, responsibility, and involvement of citizens in the provision of services. The study also found that the author find out the list some of the more significant initiatives in recent years.

Amreshwar Avasthi, in his study entitled Municipal administration in India, reveals that the problems of urban government training in municipal administration in public control & assistance to the municipal bodies and public participation in local self government.

A study of S R Mahesh, entitled "Local government in India" along with rural local government delineates lucidly urban local government covering the import aspects such as personnel administrative urban finance and control & supervision while discussing political interference.

### Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study have been following below;

1. To identify the issues of urban municipal corporation in India in general
2. To study problems of urban municipal corporation in India

### Methodology

The present study it is based on secondary sources of information. The secondary sources of information gathered various sources like journal articles, volumes, reports, unpublished thesis, newspapers, websites etc.,

### Issues of urban municipal corporation

#### Participation in the Decision-making Process

The perceptions and opinions of municipal workers who regularly attend meetings of urban local governments—the elected representatives (mayor, president, council members) and the appointed authorities (executive officer, and other staff—are used to determine the degree of participation in the decision-making process. It has been observed that ex-officio and nominated members never attend municipal meetings.

#### Influence of Social and Economic Factors on Decision-making

Municipal meetings' decision-making process is strongly impacted by social and economic factors related to caste, religion, and socioeconomic standing. It has been observed that individuals or groups from higher castes who enjoy greater economic status hold a dominant position and frequently succeed in getting their judgments or resolutions approved. As a result, other members' complaints are typically ignored. It might be reasonable to suppose in this case that actions that are adopted only benefit a specific segment of the community.

#### Influence of Political Factors on Decision-making

Party politics exists at the municipal level. Decisions made at local government meetings are reportedly heavily influenced by members of the major political parties. It is also noted that the municipal members frequently put pressure on the designated authority to perform. Previously, a number of officials were moved to different regions due to their unwillingness to comply with the decisions made by the local political elite.

#### Ineffective Women's Participation in Decision-making

At least 1/3 of the members associated with urban local bodies belong to the women category. On the basis of discussions held with a select number of women members, it is learnt that this group is unable to make a meaningful contribution on municipal matters discussed in the meetings. It is recognized in this regard that women's members' ineffective participation is unable to be justified as illiteracy or ignorance.

#### Dissatisfaction among Members

It is understood that certain members generally feel unsatisfied with their involvement and performance in the community. In an attempt to make a meaningful contribution to their ward's growth, a few members decided to run for government in the municipal elections.

### Rule of Law in the Decision-making Process

It has been found that decisions are made during meetings hosted by urban local governments about every facet of the local development of urban services. Analyzing the way a small group of officials and members of the urban local governments feel about how often meetings are held and how decisions are accepted indicates that these are issues that need to be addressed. The following subsections provide the input that was provided by members and local authorities.

#### Delays in Convening Municipal Meetings

It should be mentioned that the frequency of municipal meetings is specified by the Municipal Acts that govern urban local governments. Following an investigation, it was discovered that there aren't any regular municipal meetings. Some elected members believe that the main reason for the postponement of meetings is the elected ward members' (councilors') lack of active participation in the majority of municipal affairs. Many members believe these meetings are useless because the majority of members' complaints about the advancement of their ward are not taken into account.

#### Low Level of Services

UBLs are unable to meet the basic needs service requirements of the population living in the selected urban cities. It is reported that a high proportion of the population remain uncovered by drinking water supply facility, underground drainage facility and solid waste management. It is further observed that the quality of drinking water supply, the condition of underground drainage, the disposal of drainage and solid waste are some of the aspects, which are in a critical state.

#### Inefficiency in Financial Management

The poor financial management practices of urban local governments have a negative impact on the effective provision of essential civic services. Important observations in this respect include the following: shortcomings in the process for estimating the cost of services; low cost recovery from taxes and non-taxes; high past-due amounts; heavy reliance on outside funding sources; etc.

#### Challenges of urban municipal corporation

**Financial rigidity:** At grassroots levels, the biggest barrier to good governance has become a lack of resources.

**Dependency on Intergovernmental Transfers:** In order to receive grants-in-aid from the state's consolidated fund, the urban local government is mostly dependent on the state governments.

**Insufficient Amount of Revenue:** Generally speaking, their revenue is insufficient as given their roles. The many forms of taxes are their main sources of income. Nevertheless, the taxes that civic organizations collect are insufficient to pay for the services that are rendered. The elected officials in these local bodies have the authority to impose new taxes, but they are hesitant to do so for fear of alienating their constituents.

**Unplanned Urbanization:** In the absence of effective planning, the Municipal Services struggle to meet the

population's growing needs on a qualitative and quantitative level. Local bodies' administrative framework is inadequate. There is an improper use of property, colonies are established without the necessary infrastructure, including parks, schools, and hospitals, the expansion of slums is unchecked, and there is traffic jams. In addition, this causes ecological deterioration, unemployment, and urban poverty.

**Oversight of State Government:** Instead of functioning as institutions of self-governance, the State Government subjugates urban municipal governments by taking control of their legislative, executive, judicial, and financial branches. Laws require municipalities to balance their budgets, and any borrowing by the municipality must be authorized.

**Multiplicity of Agencies:** Creation of institutions with a single goal, directly controlled by the state government, and not accountable to the local government in an urban area. Although lacking any authority over these entities, municipal governments are required to pay to their budget.

**Low level of Public Participation:** City people lack sufficient involvement in the everyday activities of the municipal authorities, despite having a comparatively greater level of literacy and educational attainment.

### Conclusion

It may conclude that purpose of this study is to identify the major issues and challenges of governance at the municipal/local level in India in general. The ULBs are effectively focused on pollution control, effective solid waste management, providing health and hygieness, constructing roads and foot paths and maintaining the public parks at well being. Let us for the best.

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