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CHALLENGES OF URBAN LOCAL BODIES IN HARYANA: A STUDY



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Introduction:

The functions of a state are carried out through Union, State, and Local level governments to provide services to the people. In spite of 62 years of Independence, we have not been able to provide good Governance to people. The main reason for this is that Union Government does not decentralize its functions to State Governments while the State Governments are hardly interested in giving the local government their due in spite of 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992. Urban local bodies were set-up to bring about development of cities in collaboration of the people so that people's participation becomes a reality if not at union and state levels but surely at local levels.

Haryana- A Profile:

The state of Haryana was carved out the erstwhile composite Punjab on 1st November, 1966. The physical features, Haryana is a small state as compared to many other states. In terms of the size of its area (44, 212 sq. kms.) The state is located at 27 39 ° to 30 35 ° north latitude to 74 27.8 ° to 77 36.5 ° last longitude as per census 2001 out of this population, at present there are 11,327,658 males and 9,755,331 females constituting 53.73 percent and 46.27 percent respectively. So far as the sex ratio is concerned, there were 867 females after 1000 males in 1991 which came down 861 in 2001. According to data of census 2001, in Haryana the total literates are 12,225,036 (68.59%). Among them 8,002,496 (63.82%) are living in rural areas.

Challenges of Urban Local Bodies:

Every state government amended their earlier municipal act and made new laws in consonance with the 74th amendment Act, 1992. The act created more hopes in the minds of people living in urban areas but were stifled by state government. The following challenges faced by the local bodies are given as follows:

Population Explosion in Urban areas:

Although urbanization brings about development in the social, economical and cultural spheres of life it disturbs ecological systems. The increase in urban population results in asymmetric patterns in

resource utilization. With the growing urbanization and industrialization, the environmental challenges facing our cities have also increased. Although the government has been undertaking several initiatives to solve the problem. The institutional arrangements for urban management and the quality of services are closely linked. Strengthening the decentralized ULB structure to cope with the demand for civic services, is identified as the priority task of the tenth plan.

Ineffective Planning:

It has been estimated by reputed agencies that India loses 1.3 percent economic growth annually as a result of disputed land titles, which inhibit supply of capital and credit for Urban uses like commercial industrial. There are gray areas in the emerging urban scenario. Cities exert strong pull on population that in most cases is growing rapidly without matching expansion in infrastructure that result in immense social and political problems. However, there is a great difference between theory and practice.

Lack of Effective Public Transport System:

The rich people in urban areas have their own transport while the poor people depend upon public transport system as they cannot afford any other means. Urban local bodies should concentrate on:

1. Improvement and widening of congested roads, bypass for state highways.
2. Provide adequate truck terminal and bus stand facilities.
3. Provide parking and pedestrian facilities.
4. Adequate infrastructure facilities are provided for pedestrians and cyclists and non-motorized transport (NMT) is encouraged.
5. An appropriate and suitable public system is developed.

Urban poverty:

Urban poverty is the cause of all evils in urban areas. The urban local bodies should help the poor people. Poverty and slums upgradation involves: (i) upgrading the physical environment by providing basic services such as water, sanitation, waste collection, storm drainage, access roads and street lighting etc. As well as institutional and knowledge/information assets.

Poor status of Urban Services:

The information available on the coverage and quality of urban services is limited and its reliabil-

ity is poor. Efforts at poverty reduction are affected by inadequate urban services and worsening urban environmental conditions. This transition to an urban society, however, has not been accompanied by a corresponding increase in the supply of basic urban services like water supply, sewerage and drainage network, garbage disposal facilities, citywide roads, and public safety systems like street lighting and pedestrian pathways.

Lake of Effective Leadership by Women Councilors: Need of Capacity Building:

One of the objectives of the Constitutional Amendment was to ensure that the urban women play their due role in decision-making of urban affairs. One third of the seats are reserved in favour of women. Though the number of women presents in the meetings very high but their actual participation in the proceedings of the meetings is not very encouraging. The reservation of seats in urban local bodies has ensured more number of women on such bodies but is has yet to ensure effective active participation. A supportive and enabling environment is to be created and they are encouraged to come forward and play effective role. No respect for Decentralization: Need of Following the Spirit of 74th Amendment Act, 1992:

The hall mark of the local governance in the Netherlands is the transparency and civic engagement in decision-making. The system is more enthusiastic partly in response to initiations from. The Hague and the European Union, in promoting, refining, encouraging, encouraging, finding and adopting innovative ways of fostering these critical elements of governance.

State Finance commission Haryana:

In pursuance of the article 243 I and 243 Y of

the constitution of India and Section 213 (Act No. II of 1994) and rule 3 of the Haryana State Finance Commission Rules 1994, The Commission would make recommendations relating to the principles governing the distribution between the State government and the urban local bodies and the panchayati raj institutions of taxes, duties, toll and fees livable by the State government.

Conclusions and Suggestions:

In addition, there are problems of finance, state control, and people's participation, etc. which would be discussed separately. Urban basic services provided by the government are considered necessary for raising the living standard of urban masses. These services initiated in the Draft Fifth Five Year Plan were reframed in the Sixth Plan. In view of the seriousness of the problem, the present study in conducted in Haryana state. The government has tried to provide all the basic services in the reach of every Urban areas. There is a very low percent of the population does not have proper sanitation facilities. No financial participation of beneficiaries in the programmes. Lack of the proper implementation of programmes in Haryana there was no special programme at the state level to streamline the water supply and sanitation. It is suggested that the government should lay down specific norms for standard material and there should be full involvement of the beneficiaries in the purchase of material. Each beneficiary should be satisfied with the quality of material. It is suggested that Public Health Engineering Department should organize awareness camps for the awareness of the general masses about the policies and programmes. Sufficient funds should be provided for generating awareness.