



ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN PROMOTING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION

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Abstract

In A Globalized World ,Not Only Information And Goods But Also People Are On The Move Across Cities, Provinces, And National Borders. Negative Social Conditions At The Local Level Creates Fertile Ground For The Exclusion Of Those Who Are Different From The Majority Of People Living In The Society Based On Their Social, Cultural, Religious, Ethnic Or Behavioral Characteristics .The Objectives Of These Paper Are To Study The Concept Of Social Inclusion, 1 To Study The Concept Of Social Inclusion 2 To Study The Concept Of Participation 3To Study Role Of Local Governments In Promoting Social Inclusion And Participation . Qualitative Analysis Method Was Used For The Present Study, The Data Collected Through The Secondary Resources Like Books, Journals, Magazines, Websites. The Problems Of Social Inclusion.

Keywords: *Local Governments, Social Inclusion, Social Participation*



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INTRODUCTION:

The interaction between negative social conditions at the local level creates fertile ground for the exclusion of those who are different from the majority of people living in the society based on their social, cultural, religious, ethnic or behavioral characteristics .

Definition:

Social Inclusion:

For part I of the publication, social inclusion is understood as a process by which efforts are made to ensure equal opportunities for all, regardless of their background, so that they can achieve their full potential in life. It is a multi-dimensional process aimed at creating conditions which enable full and active participation of every member of the society in all aspects of life, including civic, social, economic, and political activities, as well as participation in decision making processes. In part II of the publication, social inclusion is understood as the process by which societies combat poverty and social exclusion.

Social Participation-

Social participation is understood as the act of engaging in society's activities. It refers to the possibility to influence decisions and have access to decision-making processes. Social participation creates mutual trust among individuals, which forms the basis for shared responsibilities towards the community and society.

Objectives:

The study were taken up with following Objectives in mind.

1. To Study The Concept Of Social Inclusion .
2. To Study The Concept Of Local Government.
3. To Study The Role Of Local Governments In Promoting Social Inclusion And Participation

Study Method:

Qualitative Analysis Method Was Used For The Present Study.

Data Collection And Analysis:

The Data Collected Through The Secondary Sources Like Books, Journals, Magazines,

Websites Was Taken Subjected To Qualitative Analysis.

Role of Local Governments in promoting social inclusion and participation-

In a globalized world, not only information and goods but also people are on the move across cities, provinces, and national borders. An urban life characterized by living together with people with different backgrounds has become an increasingly complex reality of daily life for many ordinary people. How to manage diversity in a transformative manner has thus become a critical issue for local governments that aim to build a peaceful and prosperous society. While an ongoing degree of social transformation is inevitable and indeed ordinarily to be welcomed as part of a developing society, the sometimes rapid onset of such transformations in recent years has led to the experience of tension in many places. Confrontations stemming from cultural, ethnic, religious, and other differences sometimes give rise to irrational fears, prejudices, and can encourage the development of racism and practices of discrimination. During the past 25 years, there has been an international interest in the inclusion of children with special needs in regular schools (Ballard, 1998; Booth & Ainscow, 1998; Ainscow, 1999). The perception that education should be provided to all children regardless of their differences and needs has led to the development of inclusive education. The philosophy has been strengthened in the 1990s, e.g. UNESCO, 1994, and it promises to treat all children with special needs as individuals who have equal rights to education. Our government and various national and international organizations have accepted many

conventions, declarations and action plans related to human rights of the child. Some of the most significant ones are as follows:

Declaration of the Rights of Disabled Persons 1975 was articulated as guidelines. UNO declared the International Year of Disabled Person IYDP 1981. The theme of the program was "Full participation with Equality."

Within the next few years, more than half of the world's population will be living in and around cities.² The city is home of the socially excluded as well as the included and it is the place where the difference between the included and the excluded is painfully visible. Mayors and city councils take most of the decisions that have a practical bearing on people's lives. In a modern metropolis, what the city governors do and don't do, what they strive for and neglect, determines the level of social inclusion in their areas of responsibility. A metropolitan city is "a universe in itself, as complicated as a national scene, but more intense, since the subjects of your governing are only miles away and when there is roar of disgruntlement the sound cannot be ignored." (Martin Angeby, 2007.)

Negative social conditions at the local level creates fertile ground for the exclusion of those who are different from the majority of people living in the society based on their social, cultural, religious, ethnic or behavioral characteristics. The sense of impermanence created by exclusion discourages the excluded from investing themselves in the locales in which they live. Lack of attachment to the place of residence can have a negative effect, especially when experienced horizontally across a subset of the population. Excluded people with shared characteristics can react violently as a group against the experience of 'horizontal' inequality and disadvantage in society.

The activities of the local authority have an important economic and social impact. Increasingly, the authority is being asked to respond in a more coordinated manner to social and cultural issues. It is working closer with communities in addressing rising social exclusion, developing participatory planning models and in developing social capital." (Galway city Council, 2006.)

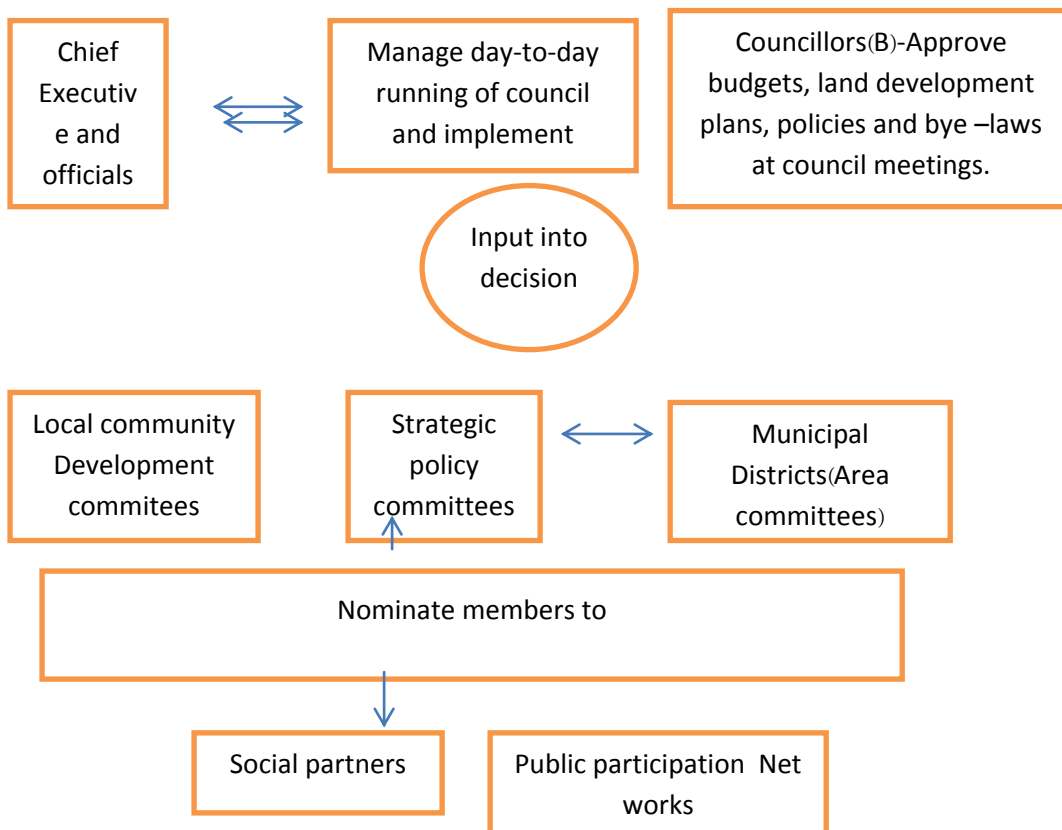
¹A fair globalization: Creating opportunities for all, ILO, 2004

²According to the third World Urban Forum (Vancouver, June 2006), most of the population growth is happening in cities, and most of them are in the poorest countries. It is projected that the number of people living in urban areas will, for the first time in history, outnumber those living in rural areas. In 1976, one-third of the world's inhabitants lived in cities. Thirty years later in 2006, cities are home to half the world's population, and data suggests this proportion will continue to grow to two-thirds of the world's population, and data suggests this

proportion will continue to grow to two –thirds of the world's population-or six billion people-by 2050

Digital technologies and social media platforms are changing civic expectation surrounding interaction with government, local governments hold key positions in the development of digital spaces for civic participation in the issues that directly impact cities' everyday lives. Such involvement allows citizens to develop a sense of connection with local government and facilitates increased civic engagement.

How Councils Formally Make Decision



Committee on Social inclusion, participatory Democracy and Human Rights (CSIPDHR)

1. The commission for Social inclusion and participatory Democracy arose from the organization of progressive sectors participating in the FAL- Forum of local Authorities from 2001, under the world Social Forum.

2. In 2005 the commission became institutionalized within the UCLG.

Conclusion:

Planners and policy- makers of local government have the clear responsibility to foster unity among diverse populations and create a vision for a common future that pivots on the acceptance of difference and animation of societies with a view to harnessing the strengths that are inherent in diverse societies. A key challenge will inevitably rest with the need to

ensure that all people are able to engage with society and benefit from the possibilities inherent in contemporary life and therefore that all people are included, irrespective of their social attributes. In this process 'the local matters'. Local governments have a critical role in promoting social inclusion, and program and policies need to be tailored to address specific local needs.

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