

NEED OF EXISTENCE OF LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT BODIES IN INDIA

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Abstract

All over the world, since ancient times the local government bodies have been in existence. In fact, after the development of the “family” institution on the earth, the next institution developed or evolved as the local government. It developed or evolved out of the necessity of managing the essential needs of many families living in a group, such as roads, water supply, cleanliness, internal and external protection, settling disputes, etc. The elders or the elected/appointed people by the group of families are used to managing these affairs. In course of time, the superior functions such as imposing taxes for the services rendered, imparting justice, and imposing and executing punishments and fines have been segregated from the routine and trial functions of local government and they were taken over by central or provincial governments, which in the olden times were not mostly democratic. In this paper, the author has attempted to discuss the constitutional amendments, functions, and social work intervention in the Local Self Government.

Keywords: Local Self Government, Social Work Intervention, Democratic Government, Needs Fulfillment.



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Introduction

All over the world, since ancient times the local government bodies have been in existence. In fact, after the development of the “family” institutions on the earth, the next institution developed or evolved as the local government. It developed or evolved out of the necessity of managing the essential needs of many families living in a group, such as roads, water supply, cleanliness, settling disputes, etc. The elders or the elected/appointed people by the group of families are used to managing these affairs. In course of time, the superior functions such as imposing taxes for the services rendered, assuring internal and external protection, imparting justice, and imposing and executing punishments and fines have been segregated from the routine and trial functions of local government and they were taken over by central or provincial governments, which in the olden times were not mostly democratic. In short, in the evolution of man on the earth, the man himself was the first ‘institution’, the family was the second institution, the local government was the third institution and the predecessors of today’s democratic government were the fourth institution. Thus Local Self Government

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fulfills the needs of the people to raise their standard of living. In Local Self Government, social workers play an important role in uplifting the standard of the weaker sections, women, children, physically challenged, mental health, etc. they act as a mediator, educator, etc between the Local Self Government. Thus for the well-functioning of Local Self Government social work intervention is necessary.

Review of Literature

India is a large country its principal units of local administration include 627 districts in 29 states and 6 Union Territories.

A. Indira (2010) has highlighted the working of an intermediary research organization in the area of local governance in India in Understanding Local Self Governance - An applied research perspective.

Vyasulu (2004) In the Southern State of Karnataka, where CBPS works, 29 departments covering both social and economic sectors have been transferred to the local self-government.

Dagar (2003) has discussed the budget and policies related to the local self-government in the center use local budgets as its primary instrument to understand policy initiatives.

Anisha Sahoo, Aditya Kumar Patra (2020) this article discussed the role of the urban local body in social sector expenditure as the leading item of expenditure of Local Self Government in reference to Baripada Municipality in the Role of Urban local Body in Social Sector Development: A case study of Baripada Municipality

These were the researchers' views to reflect on Local Self Governments. The researcher has taken cognizance of it for a better understanding of the concept. All the reviews of the literature show that Local Self Government has to be more effective result-oriented for objective achievement.

Objective:

1. To understand the urban local government in India, the existence and characteristics and effects of 74th Constitutional Amendments on Local Bodies.
2. To discuss the role of the social workers in Local self-government.
3. To suggest measures to meet the challenges faced by the Local Self Government.

Assumption:

Local Self Government has its role in nation development.

Research Methodology:

This paper is discussed with the help of data gathered and described from combination sources like secondary data, based on government reports, information available on the internet, books and research articles, etc. Objectives and assumption of these research paper is based on current ongoing scenario and observations regarding Local Self Government,

Urban local government in India:

The Local Self Government with the Mayor's Court was first established in British India in 1687. Again in 1726, the municipal corporation with the mayor's court was established in Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkatta. This Local Self Government did not last long. Real development in this respect took place after Lord Mayo's resolution of 1870 and of Lord Ripon of 1882. By the resolution of Lord Mayo and Lord Ripon provinces were given powers to make laws for constituting local bodies. In Bombay Province were accordingly enacted Bombay District Municipal Act 1902 and Bombay Barough Municipal Act 1925. Bombay Provincial Municipal Corporation Act 1949 was enforced and adopted by all Municipal Corporation.(Lord Mayo is founder of Local Self Government in India and Lord Ripon is Father of Local Self Government in India)

Need of existence of local self-government bodies In India-

As the population increased in the urban local body the demand of the people also increased to tackle the needs of people the need was to form a local body. Thus to fulfill the necessary needs of the growing population the tax was imposed on the people for raising the funds or revenue which was utilised for providing the basic needs and necessary demands of the people.

Characteristics of local Self-government:

A local body is elected by the local people and an elected representative decides politics and takes important decisions.

1. Allocation of functions to local bodies is essential of a local nature.
2. Local bodies possess the power of taxation and framing of by-laws.
3. Local bodies have local autonomy in the sense of freedom from the control of the higher authorities within a limited sphere.
4. Local bodies have limited power to levy taxes.
5. Local bodies have the power of spending their income, subject to some government control

6. The local body's functions are not limited and they go on increasing with the passage of time.

The 74th Constitutional Amendment mentions the following types of Local Bodies:

I. Metropolitan Areas: It means an area of the state has a population of ten lakh or more, comprised of one or more districts and consisting of two or more Municipalities (Urban Local Body or Nagar Panchayat or Municipal Council or Municipal Corporation), Panchayats (village, central or district or village bodies of any level) or other contiguous areas as specified by the Governor by public notification to be a Metropolitan area. This administrative institution was called Municipal Corporation in the whole of the country. The Governor was expected to keep in mind the following while issuing notification for the Metropolitan areas:

- A) Population of the area
- B) Density of the population
- C) Percentage of the people involved in non-agricultural activities
- D) Generation of revenue for local administration
- E) Economic significance of the area

The 74th Amendment prescribes reservation for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, and Women. A number of reserved seats shall bear the same proportion to the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in that Municipality as the population of the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes in the Local Self Government. As far as women are concerned, one-third of the total seats to be filled directly have been reserved for them in the local bodies.

Other Local Bodies resembling Municipal bodies like Cantonment Board and Industrial Township are found though they are not Municipalities.

The functions of Local Self Government For Community Development-

1. Urban planning includes town planning.
2. Regulation of land use and construction of buildings.
3. Planning for economic and social development.
4. Roads and bridges.
5. Water supply for domestic, industrial, and commercial purposes.
6. Public health, sanitation, conservancy, and solid waste management.
7. Fire services.
8. Promotion of urban forestry, environment protection, and ecological activities.
9. Safeguarding the interests of the weaker sections of the society, which also include physically challenged or Divyangs and the mentally challenged.
10. Slum improvements and up gradation.
11. Urban poverty

alleviation. 12. Provision of urban amenities and facilities like parks, gardens, and playgrounds. 13. Promotion of cultural, educational, and aesthetic aspects. 14. Burials and Burial grounds, cremations, cremation grounds, and electric crematoriums. 15. Cattle pounds; prevention of cruelty to animals. 16. Vital statistics include registration of births and deaths. 17. Public amenities include street lighting, parking lots, bus stops, and public conveniences. 18. Regulation of slaughterhouses and tanneries.

Social Work and Local Self Government-

The social worker plays an important role to educate people right from the grass-roots level. The trained and professional social worker while working with the community to fulfill the needs of beneficiaries; apply the principles such as individualization, purposeful expression of feelings, controlled emotional involvement, acceptance, non-judgmental attitude, client self-determination, and confidentiality. The main role of Social workers is to develop supportive, open, honest, and transparent relationships with people who are at risk, weaker sections of the society such as women, children physically challenged, and their families.

The Urban Local body is growing at a speed due to Industrialization concentrated, migration of the people from villages in search of employment, education, etc. The responsibilities of the social worker has increased day by day to tackle the needs; as the problem of unemployment, addiction, child marriage, child abuse, child labour, mentally challenged, exploitation of women, mental health and physical health issues have been increased tremendously. Human need gratification is the core domain of social work and local self-government functioning has to be empowered by so many initiatives which could be discussed under the framework of the social work profession.

Local self-Government fulfills the basic needs of the people such as water, electricity, house, sanitation etc. But with this, it also focuses on the weaker section and the needy people. Thus to tackle this problem the Social Development Department (Urban Community Development) came into existence. They work under the guidance of the Central Government and State Government. With the collaboration with NGO's and Local Self Government, the schemes and programs are reached to the grassroots level as outreach programs. The 74th Amendment to the Constitution has caused important changes in the duties of the Local Self Government, and hence the implementation of social, economic and poverty alleviation programs have become an integral part of the duties of the Local Self Government. The Social Development Department at Local Self Governments successfully implemented

schemes like Backward Class Welfare Scheme, Women & Child Welfare Scheme, Youth Welfare Scheme, Disabled Welfare Scheme, Central Government sponsored Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), Dr. Baba Amate Scheme for provision of educational financial assistance to the disabled, schemes providing monthly primary health care financial assistance for senior citizens and widows under Mata Jijau Swavalambi Jivan Yojana (women), Sharad Swavalambi Jivan Yojana (men) and Mata Ramai Bhimrao Ambedkar Yojana (widows).

Health-Related – COVID – 19, Awareness about HIV and Aids, Tie-up with NGO ‘s, Facility Integrated Counselling & Testing Centre, Shari Garib Yojana, Awareness about Tuberculosis, Women Health issue, Pregnant women and children etc.

As envisaged by 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, a very strong “Beneficiary-centric” approach has been adopted by the Social Development Department of Local Self Government. These welfare schemes are being implemented in accordance with the Central Government Welfare Policy.

The prominent features of these schemes are noted here below for Urban Community Development

- Promotion of self-employment.
- Promoting Self Independence and Self Determination for active decision making by building a sense of ‘Agency’ in the individual.
- Implementation of all these schemes is in accordance with the Central Government’s Policy of Poverty alleviation.
- All sections of the society benefit from the integration and streamlining of Central and State Government schemes with Local Self Government schemes and initiatives.
- Execution of schemes to provide benefits to the entire city under the jurisdiction of the Local Self Government
- Priority and predilection is given to the beneficiaries from poor and weaker sections of the communities
- Various centres for vocational training and livelihood generation like ‘The Lighthouse’, ‘City Livelihood Centre’ and ‘Service Centers’, self-help group product marketing centres such as ‘SMILE’, are being operated to ensure successful implementation of the main schemes

- Schemes are operated for strengthening of the poor section of the society instead of merely distribution of the financial assistance
- It is our aim to reach out to all possible beneficiaries in real need. We have chosen to progress towards this goal by creating networks of beneficiary peer groups to encourage enthusiasm and support from within the system and ensure the promotion of collective growth

Measures to meet the challenges faced by the Local Self Government in Urban Community Development:

The Local self-Government strives hard to uplift the standards of the people. There are certain challenges faced by the social worker while reaching out the schemes to the beneficiaries. Sometimes there are delays in releasing funds from the government. Poverty, health care, low literacy rate, overpopulation, unemployment is prevalent in Local self Government hampering progress.

If the new scheme is launched by the government then the local people are made aware of it but they do not accept the change so it takes time to change people. With the sudden increase in population due to migration it is difficult to fulfill the demands of the people in Local Self Government. The Social workers are professional social worker but require updating of skills, understanding participatory budgeting and social audit, citizen participation, and community mobilization for accountable and transparent governance. Timely exposure in form of workshops, seminars discussions, and visits will help to work more effectively. There are many NGOs working with the deprived groups it's difficult to collaborate with them; as the concept and context of Democratic Decentralization is not well understood by the community. Sometimes the decisions taken by higher authorities are delayed. Planning and recruitment of the professional social workers in local self-government for the outreach programs has to be on priority. Sometimes in local self-government, there is the influence of the local elected members; delays in Public Justice of weaker section has to be with zero tolerance level as the local self government is for the people by the people to the people.

Conclusion:

The local Self Government faces many challenges due to rapid and unregulated urbanization. Decentralization and Local Self Government are important for improving the responsiveness of policies and initiatives to the priorities and needs of citizens. The local Self Government should be empowered with sufficient resources and autonomy to meet their responsibilities.

Women and men must be equally represented, their needs and priorities equally addressed, in all Local Self Governments decision-making and resource allocation processes. Inclusive cities should promote everyone with equal access to appropriate standards of nutrition, education, employment and livelihood, health, care, shelter, safe drinking water, sanitation and other basic services. Local Self Government provides basic services such as water, sanitation, waste collection, sewage drainage, accessible roads and street lighting etc. in addition to all these, there are problems of finance, state control, and people's participation, etc. which should also be addressed adequately. Thus, to conclude it can be said that urban basic services provided by the local governments as well as by the Central governments are considered necessary for raising the living standards of urban masses. In the researcher's view the present research paper has focused on the existence and characteristics and effects of 74th Constitutional Amendments on Local Bodies and intervention of social work values in Local self-government. Thus, to conclude it could be said that decentralized, good Local Self Government would successfully provide a suitable framework and a healthy platform in promoting an effective intervention of social work knowledge.

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