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# A ROLE OF MUNICIPALITIES IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT - A CASE STUDY IN MEDAK DISTRICT



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### Introduction

India is one of the largest urban systems in the world, with 377 million people residing in urban areas in 2011. The transition, which will see India's urban population reach a figure close to 558.8 million by 2031, is not simply a demographic shift. It places cities and towns at the centre of India's development trajectory. In the coming decades, the urban sector will play a critical role in the structural transformation of the Indian economy and in sustaining the high economic growth rate. Accelerated job creation emerges as a key issue in planning for India's urbanization within the larger context of its growth and development.

India's urban population increased from 10.8% in 1901 to 31.16% by 2011 constituting one-tenth of the world's urban population. India's urbanization with over 31% in 2011 is slow compared to the world's urbanization level of more than 50% though in absolute numbers it is the world's second-largest. Eighteen states in India have higher levels of urbanization than the national average.

Telangana, the 29<sup>th</sup> state of India formed in 2014, is the thirteenth populous in the country and fifth most urbanized among the larger states in India with 38.67% urbanization after Tamil Nadu (48.45%), Kerala (47.72%), Maharashtra (45.23%) and Gujarat (42.58%). Its population growth and urbanization trends (table 1.6).

Hyderabad, the state's capital and primate city in the state, with an estimated population of ten million is ranked fifth in the country and has an estimated \$74 billion contribution to GDP. Population projections of Telangana indicate that the state's urban population will be 21.84 million by 2030 and reach 37 million by 2050.

With 38.9% of the population living in urban areas, the state stands seventh in terms of urbanization in the country. Telangana is also one of the fastest-urbanizing states in the country. The National Commission on Population estimates that by 2026, close to 50% of the state's population will live in cities (compared to 36% in the country). Within the state, Hyderabad accounts for the largest share of the urban population (28.9% of the state's urban population) but other cities such as Warangal, Nizamabad and Karimnagar are also growing rapidly. Population projections of Telangana indicate that the state's urban population will be 21.84 million by 2030 and reach 37 million by 2050.

### **Urban Government in Telangana**

As per the 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act 1992, several aspects of urban governance, such as urban planning, regulation of land use, water supply and sanitation are under the purview of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). There are currently 141 ULBs in the state — out of which 97 ULBs come under the purview of the Telangana Town Planning Act, 1920 while the remaining 44 ULBs come under the purview of Urban Development Authorities (UDAs).

To strengthen urban governance, the Government enacted the Telangana Municipalities Act 2019 which guides the administration of ULBs and municipal corporations across the state (except the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC)) which is guided by a separate GHMC Act (see the section below). Broadly, the new Act aims to make the administration in ULBs more transparent, time-bound, accountable, and citizen-centric. Salient features of the Act include:

1. Citizen-centric governance: Make urban governance more citizen-centric by establishing at least one Citizen Service Centre in each municipality that offers municipal services online
2. Promote greenery: Protect the environment through Green Action Plans in each municipality, prepared by District Level Committees which are headed by the District Collector
3. Save water: Municipal Councils are mandated to conduct regular water audits
4. Improve sanitation: Prepare City Sanitation Plans for all municipalities
5. Improve sewerage systems: Prepare town maps for drains and upgrade existing sewerage systems
6. Facilitate development: Issue building construction permissions instantly, based on self-certification; allow citizens to file one common application under

the Telangana State Building Permission Approval & Self Certificate System (TSbPASS), instead of approaching different departments for obtaining no-objection certificates. TS-bPASS has been introduced in all ULBs in the state and its main features include:

### **Statement of Problem**

Rapid urbanization has brought in its wake many social and economic as well as civic problems. The frustrated and angry citizens, the urban planners, the architects, sociologists, and the motley crowd, all concerned with the cities in one way or another have given different epithets to the phenomenon called cities: 'concrete jungle', 'urban nightmare', 'urban breakdown', 'urban blight'. Call it by any name; most of the cities and towns in India are teetering on the edge of an abyss with nobody being sure how to defuse the 'urban explosion'. To use the expression, 'defusing the urban explosion' might be an understatement, for many of the cities have already exploded and the harried citizens are coping with the ugly fallout. They cannot run away from the smoking 'havens' that give them the daily bread and a roof of sorts. Millions migrate to the metros, megacities, and towns for a living and like moths they prefer to be scorched by the blazing fire. Cities and towns might mean total dehumanization and brutalization and most of the urban poor and even the middle class might find themselves as "misfits"; all the same they know that they must accept the hard reality. The cities offer an abundance of opportunities to those prepared to labour hard and the alternative is vegetative existence.

All the same, the inevitable question arises: can't we make our cities and towns loveable? Can't we bridge the gap between the urban poor and the urban rich? Can't we make provisions for the burgeoning population of poor cities? Are slums inevitable? 75 years after Independence we have seen the march of our great cities and towns to steady decay, deterioration, and inescapable disaster. It is as if all of us have been sucked into the quagmire and none can escape from it. The litany of scourges is too long: a runaway population, proliferation of slums, pollution of the air, contamination of water sources and rivers, mountains of putrefying solid wastes un-cleared by civic staff, intolerable noise pollution, poor mobility owing to a disorganized and inadequate mass transport system, a creaking road infrastructure unable to cope with the proliferation of four-wheelers, three-wheelers and two-wheelers, pedestrians and cyclists mowed down by speeding vehicles, regular power breakdown making life miserable for households and small enterprises, broken sewers and overflowing sewage, officialdom that moves its fingers only when its palms are greased, mafia and crime syndicates in cities and towns in Telangana. Drinking water scarcity in most of the cities and towns atrocities on women, and hundreds upon thousands of street children roaming for victuals and leftovers, to make a living and support a poor home.

It is a never-ending list and both the planners and people seem to be resigned to the tired notion that they can do little to come out of the mess of their own making.

In this whole process, the small and medium towns in India have become the worst victims. Because of this urban explosion causing unchecked speculation in land and growth of new slums, towns and cities are experiencing chaotic growth and large-scale building activity on the peripheries. The unplanned location of industrial establishments in and around the cities also creates numerous problems. The inhuman conditions, arising out of the congestion and uncontrolled squatting, are further aggravated by the virtual absence of civic amenities. Even after more than 75 years of independence, a good number of Indian towns have no municipal supply of water and no proper sewer system. Not only our slums are filthiest in the world, but our towns are also the most unclean; most frequently people use street walls as urinals and children defecate in the open gutter. Deficiencies in playing grounds, parks, and gardens, even streets and roads and bazaars located near residential areas, our urban areas have been the breeding grounds of disease and social tensions. The existing machinery of municipal administration is unable to cope with these problems of rapid growth. The requirements of water supply, drainage, educational and recreational facilities, traffic, transport etc. all go up and the increasing congestion creates acute problems of transport and communication, public health, insanitation conservancy and above all pollution. The deterioration in the services and amenities is inevitable and the local authority has neither the necessary perspective nor the administrative machinery nor the resources to keep pace with rapid growth. Most city and town municipalities have little control over their affairs because states place tight legal restrictions on their freedom to act particularly concerning the types and amounts of taxes that can be levied on their citizens. Further, municipalities have come to rely on state grants, which often come with orders that specify how the money is to be spent. Thus, municipalities are beset by a variety of problems ranging from graft coemption to wasteful duplication of services.

141 Urban local bodies are working for the development of cities/towns in Telangana State. The study of Medak cities located in Telangana state. Medak town was constituted as a Municipality in the year 1952. At present, the status of the Municipality is 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Municipality Medak town is the District Head Quarter of Medak District. The town is located at 18°3' North latitude and 78°2'0' East longitude. At present Medak town population as per the 2011 census is 44110. Both towns are classified based on the population as Medak is Grade II.

The Medak Municipality in Telangana was selected for a details study of urban self-government and town development, according to purposive sampling, to derive maximum information to test the hypothesis of the study as enumerated above.

Medak municipality was formed in the year 1953. It is spread over an area of 22.00 km (8.49 sq mi). Medak urban agglomeration consists of Medak municipality and the outgrowth of Ausulapalle village. For administration, the municipality has divided into 32 wards.

As per the municipality's official website as of 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023, the municipality exists over an area of 22 sq. kms with 3 Revenue Wards and 27 Election Wards. At present Medak town population as per the 2011 census is 44110 and approximately the population is 70000. Out of the total population, 11.25% are Scheduled Castes and 3.54% are Scheduled Tribes. Regarding the voters, out of the total population, total voters constituted 33221, of which 16002 are male and 17219 are female. The total number of ward committee members was 1958, of which 485 are youth, 490 are senior citizens, 483 are women, and 500 are eminent persons.

### **Significance of the Study**

Many studies have been contributed by the authors on various themes of urbanization, urban problems and urban government and administration in different journals and periodicals. Many studies have been conducted in the last few decades on city and town government and planning to formulate policies in a radical direction of town administration and planning and creation of an environment, which suits human values. But no proper attempt has yet been undertaken to study the role of municipalities towards the development of individual towns on the micro level basis in a newly formed state like Telangana like Medak. Working on this subject on a micro-basis will enable us to enrich our idea of urbanization, urban problems, urban local government and administration, and Urban Development and Planning in Telangana.

### **Objectives of the Study**

1. To study urbanization in India and Telangana
2. To study the of Medak town.
3. To study the financial position of the Medak Municipalities.
4. To examine the role of the Medal Municipality in urban development.
5. To offer certain suggestions for the urban development of Medak town.

### **Hypothesis**

The present study attempts to test the following hypothesis:

1. The general feeling of the public is that the local government is not competently able to discharge the duties assigned to it and there are inadequate civic services or development services provided by the Medak Municipality.
2. The lack of financial resources of the Medak Municipality leads to its poor performance.
3. The Medak Municipality is playing an important role within its limitation for urban infrastructure development with special reference to Drinking Water Supply, Electrification, Sanitation and Sewage management, electrification, public health care, construction of Roads and public utility development.



### **Sample Selection**

The Medak Municipality in Telangana was selected for a details study of urban self-government and town development, according to purposive sampling, to derive maximum information to test the hypothesis of the study as enumerated above.

### **Research Methodology**

The study is an empirical investigation into the knowledge of the concerned discipline. To conclude problems, achievements and prospects of Urban Government and town development in Telangana with special reference to Medak Municipalities from the 2015-16 to 2020-21 financial year, the empirical research methods have been followed. To analyze the past achievements of urban self-government in the state of Telangana in general and Medak town in particular, historical references have also been highlighted.

### **Field Study Techniques and Sources of Data**

The important guiding factors in choosing the appropriate methods to collect data and analyze them depend upon the problems at hand. The nature of the work necessitated the collection of both Primary and Secondary data.

### **Primary Data**

For quantitative data collection, a survey will undertake to interview the town dwellers of different levels of society through an open-ended questionnaire. The interview will be personally conducted. The data collected from this source were supplemented by other sources. To interview the sample town dwellers, the respondents were selected with the help of a stratified random sample from the voter's list used for the Municipal election. The sample contains 300 respondents. The Primary Data forming the basis of the study was collected with the help of interview schedules.

### **Secondary Data**

There are ample sources of Secondary data available to gather information on urban self-government and town development of Telangana in general and Medak Municipalities in particular. The secondary materials will be collected from the Telangana Municipal Act, the 74<sup>th</sup> Constitution Amendment Act, municipal official records, files, census reports, news items published in both national and local dailies, local government journals, published and unpublished works on urban self-government, urban development, and planning, printed books on the Indian government and administrations, reports, circulars government publications etc.

### **Scope of the Study**

The study of the topic entitled "**A Role of Municipalities in Urban Development A Case Study in Medak District**" deals with the Municipality Medak in the context of the Telangana Municipal Act, 2019 and the 74<sup>th</sup> Constitution Amendment Act. 1992.

### **Period of the Study**

The study was confined from the period 2015-16 to 2020-21 only.

### **Limitations of the Study**

The study was limited infrastructure development consisting of drinking water, sanitation, sewage systems, electricity, transport, and health services. The study covered 300 sample respondents who have their own houses only.

The study was limited infrastructure development consisting of drinking water, sanitation, sewage systems, electricity, transport, and health services from the period 2015-16 to 2020-21 only. The study covered 300 sample respondents who have their own houses only.

### **Findings of the Study**

Considering the field study researcher has drawn few findings. They are presented in the following lines:

1. The study shows that most of the respondents belong to the age group 21-40 years (57%).
2. Most of the respondents are belonging to the female category (52%).
3. It is observed that among respondents 39% are having school-level education and 61% are having collegiate or higher education.
4. The study revealed most of the respondents belong to the Other Backward Castes (67%).
5. The study found that among the respondents, 83% of the respondents belong to the Hindu religion.
6. The study reveals that most of the respondents are married (90%).
7. Most of the respondents have Pucca Houses (63%).
8. Out of the total respondents, 142 (47%) are engaging in some work/occupation and 53% not engaging in any occupation.
9. The annual monthly income of the respondents shows, among the total respondent most of the respondent's income ranged between Rs. 125001 to 350000 (73%).

### **Role of the Municipality in Urban Development**

The study is confined to the infrastructure development which includes Drinking Water Development, Sanitation Management, Garbage Management, Electricity, Roads (main roads and connecting roads), Health Care Management, and Providing Utility Facilities. Considering these areas, the researcher has developed a close-ended

questionnaire and collected the perception of the local sample respondents and analyzed the role of the Medak Municipality in Urban Development. The findings of the study pertained below:

1. It is observed that out of the total budget, 46.50% was spent on urban development programs during the 2015-16 financial year; 34.60% during the 2016-17 financial year; 66.28% during the 2017-18 financial year; 68.15% during 2018-19 financial year; 11.56% during 2019-20 financial year; and 4.81% during 2020-21 financial year.
2. Nearly 88% of the respondents reported that they have a drinking water tap connection in their residence and the remaining are waiting for a new connection.
3. Most of the water tap connections are given in more than ten to fifteen days (50.93%) and one week (38%).
4. The study found that the Municipality provides safe drinking water to its citizens (90%).
5. The study found that the Municipality is providing sufficiently supplying drinking water to its citizens (83%).
6. It is also observed that the Municipality is providing drinking water daily (83%) with sufficient pressure (83%).
7. While in the summer season, the Municipality supplies drinking water daily (92%), and if necessary, the authorities are supplying through water tanks to its citizens.
8. It is found that on normal days the Municipality provides drinking water supply to citizens for 40 minutes to one hour (93%), while in summer it varies from 30 to 40 minutes (92%).
9. The average localities are supplied through overhead storage tanks.
10. Regarding Sanitation Management, 97% of respondents have a closed drainage system
11. The overall respondents have bathroom & latrine facilities at their homes.
12. The Municipal sewerage workers are cleaning the drainage canal once a week or twice (90%).
13. The drainage garbage was deposited at the designated dumping yard (83%).
14. It is found that the Municipality workers are regularly in the respondent's locality (92%), which means the Municipality authorities are dedicatedly making efforts to maintain a clean town.
15. Besides these, Swatch Bharath vehicles also collect dry and wet garbage regularly through two bins (Green and Blue).

16. The Swatch Bharath maintenance charges are collected including property tax.
17. Besides the above cleaner efforts, the Municipality authorities arranged garbage deposit posts/boxes in each locality.
18. Regarding electricity facilities, 99% of respondents have electricity in their homes.
19. The residential and main road areas are electrified with street lights with LED Bulbs.
20. Regarding Roads (locality and connecting roads), most areas are connecting with roads, of which 50% are CC Roads, 38% are Pucca Roads and 12% are Kutcha Roads.
21. While the roads are damaged, the authorities are responding within time to fill the ditches.
22. It is found the Municipality authorities are not designating the parking place for parking the vehicles.
23. Regarding Health care development, the Municipal authorities for properly maintain the public health issues through various strategies regarding water chlorination, proper drainage cleaning, proper solid wastage management, steps to control the insects - mosquitos - monkeys and dogs, filling the pits, graveyard maintenance, removing the animals' dead bodies, providing free medicine and treatment through the primary health centre, animal slut centre, properly inspecting the hotels - street food stalls and conducting health awareness camps to control the contagious disease as well as taking steps in this regard.
24. Regarding the utility facilities, the Municipal authorities are properly arranging and maintaining the Burial/Cemetery, public garden, RaithuBzar/ Vegetable Market, Play Ground/Stadium, community hall etc.
25. Regarding the redressal system, complaints were filed by the respondents for drinking water, roads, and garbage majority of them are approaching local Municipal employees/workers, and then they approached the local councillor and authorities. While regarding the electricity facility the respondents approached to electricity department. It is found that the concerned authorities are responding to the issue within the prescribed time.
26. Lastly satisfaction level of the respondents, an average of 242 (81%) respondents are satisfied with the infrastructure development under Urban Development implemented by the Medak Municipality.

The overall findings reveal that the Medak Municipality is putting maximum effort into urban development even though suffering a lack of financial resources and manpower.

## Testing of Hypothesis

The present study attempts to test the following hypothesis:

1. The general feeling of the public is that the local government is not competently able to discharge the duties assigned to it and there are inadequate civic services or development services provided by the Medak Municipality:

The study shows there are a few drawbacks to urban development, the municipality is not properly initiating urban beautification, Sulabh Complex, parking place, proper traffic signals, underground drainages, undertaking road widening programs, insufficient drainage canals, and increasing the water pipelines. **Hence the hypothesis is proved.**

2. The lack of financial resources of the Medak Municipality leads to its poor performance:

The main economic source of the Medak Municipality is Property tax including residential, non-residential, state government and central government assets. during the 2015-16 financial year total of 81.36%, 2016-17 financial year total of 10.68%, 2017-18 financial year total of 54.37%, during the 2018-19 financial year total of 37.88%, during the 2019-20 financial year total of 66.91%, and the 2020-21 financial year total of 68.56%. It is observed that the overall property tax of the Medak Municipality is not satisfactory. The number of assets is gradually increasing but as per this growth, the tax collection is not collecting. The municipality is also suffering from insufficient property collection. The study also shows that during the 2015-16 the Medak Municipality suffered with Rs. 141.81 Lakhs deficit, while during the 2016-17 financial year Rs. 380.07 lakhs surplus, during the 2017-18 financial year Rs. 52.22 Lakhs deficit, during the 2018-19 Rs. 160.94 deficit, during 2019-20 financial year Rs. 110.52 surplus, and 2020-21 financial year Rs. 603.27 Lakhs surplus amount. **Hence the hypothesis is proved**

3. The Medak Municipality is playing an important role within its limitation for urban infrastructure development with special reference to Drinking Water Supply, Electrification, Sanitation and Sewage management, electrification, public health care, construction of Roads and public utility development:

Out of the total budget, 46.50% was spent on urban development programs during the 2015-16 financial year; 34.60% during the 2016-17 financial year; 66.28% during the 2017-18 financial year; 68.15% during the 2018-19 financial year; 11.56% during 2019-20 financial year; and 4.81% during 2020-21 financial year.

The study reveals the role of the Medak Municipality in urban development, regarding drinking water, 88% have a drinking water tap connection. Regarding sanitation management, 97% of respondents have a closed drainage system. About Garbage management, 92% of Municipal workers

regularly clean the respondent's locality. Regarding electrification, 99% of the town is electrified. Referring to the roads in town, the overall town and respondent's locality relate to roads by the cc roads, pucca roads and kutcha roads. Regarding public health care management, the Municipality taking proper health care regarding its citizens. Regarding public utility, the Municipality well managing Burial/Cemetery, Public Garden, Raithu Bazar/ Vegetable Market, playground, and established community hall. **Hence the hypothesis is proved.**

### **Suggestions**

1. The Municipal Authorities should develop the junctions.
2. The Municipal Authorities should arrange the Sulabh Complex for the public in the main centres of the town.
3. The Municipal Authorities should arrange parking places in the main centres of the town.
4. The Municipal Authorities should arrange traffic signals in the main centres of the town.
5. The Municipal Authorities should construct the underground drainage in town.
6. The Municipal Authorities should widen the roads to improve transportation.
7. The Municipal Authorities should construct more overhead water storage tanks in town to provide sufficient drinking water to the public.
8. The Municipal Authorities should construct pucca interlinking roads in the town.
9. The Municipal Authorities should construct more drainage canals to improve the drainage system.
10. The Municipal Authorities should construct more water pipelines to provide drinking water to the public.
11. The State Government should enhance its share of the financial assistance to the municipality to enhance the performance of the Municipality.
12. The State Government should recruit manpower to enhance the performance of the Municipality
13. The State Government should give more tax power to strengthen the Municipality in financial aspects.

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