



A city is much bigger than a village and more spread out. A city has crowded markets, many buses and cars, water and electricity facilities, traffic control and hospitals.

Cities and towns, or urban areas, have problems and needs that are different from those of rural areas. To take care of these needs, urban areas in India have three categories of local governing bodies— **municipal corporations, municipal councils and Nagar Panchayats.**

Municipal Corporation

There is a big organization called the municipal corporation that takes care of street lights, garbage collection, water supply, keeping the streets and the market clean. The municipal corporation is also responsible for ensuring that diseases do not break out in the city. It also runs schools, hospitals and dispensaries.

The Ward Councilor and Administrative Staff:

- “Cities are usually quite large so the municipal corporation has to make a lot of decisions as well as do a lot of work to keep the city clean. The decisions like where a park or a new hospital should go are usually made by the ward councilors.” The city is divided into different wards and ward councilors get elected. The complicated decisions that affect the entire city are taken by group of councilors who form committees to decide and debate issues.

- When the problems are within a ward then the people who live in the ward can contact their councilors. While the councilor’s committees and the councilors decide on issues, the commissioner and the administrative staff implement these. The commissioner and the administrative staff are appointed.

- Councilors are elected. All of the ward councilors meet and they make a budget and the money is spent according to this. The ward councilors try and ensure that the particular demands of their wards are placed before the entire council. These decisions are then implemented by the administrative staff.

Function of the municipal corporation

COMPULSORY FUNCTIONS

1. Supply of drinking water.
2. Construction and maintenance of public streets and roads.....
3. Cleaning of streets sewers and public places.
4. Maintenance of public health and sanitation provision of vaccination and taking measure to control epidemics.
5. Maintenance of public hospitals.
6. Establishment and maintenance of primary schools.
7. Registration of births and deaths
8. Naming streets and numbering houses.
9. Ensuring public safety by removing obstructions and projections in public streets and maintaining fire engine to save life and property

How Does The Municipal Corporation Get Its Money?

- Providing and running so many services requires a lot of money. The municipal corporation collects this in different ways. A tax is a sum of money that people pay to be government for the services the government provides. People who own homes have to pay a property tax as well as taxes for water and other services. The larger the house the more the tax.





- Property taxes however from only 25-30 per cent of the money that a municipal corporation earns There are also taxes for education and other amenities. If you own a hotel or shop then you have to pay a tax for this as well. Also the next time you go to see a movie look carefully at your ticket because you pay a tax for this as well. Thus while rich people account for property taxes, a much wider populations pays more general taxes.

- The work in the city is divided into different departments. So there is the water department. So there is the water department, the garbage collection department, a department to look after gardens, another to look after roads.

What has changed since khala retired?

- The commissioners of several municipalities across the country had hired private contractors to collect and process garbage. This is called sub-contracting.

- This means that the work that was earlier being done by government workers is now being done by a private company. These contract workers get paid less and their jobs are temporary.

- Collecting garbage is also quite a dangerous job and often these contract workers do not have any access to safety measures and are not taken care of if they are injured while working.

OPTIONAL Functions (DISCRETIONARY)

1. Construction and maintenance of public parks gardens, libraries, museums, rest house, home for people with leprosy, orphanages and homes for women.

2. Planting and maintenance of roadside plants and trees.

3. Providing housing for low income groups

4. Providing a cheap and, efficient transport system

5. Conducting surveys, organising public receptions and exhibitions, and promoting welfare schemes for the municipal employees

The Municipal Council: The municipal council or municipality is the body that governs smaller cities and towns that have a population of more than 20,000 but less than 10 lakhs. The city is divided into a number of wards. The people of each ward elect and send a member to the municipality. One-third of the seats are reserved for women, and seats are reserved for the scheduled tribes and castes in proportion to their population in the city. Members of parliament and members of the state legislature elected from the area are also members of the municipal councils.

A municipal council is elected for a period of five years. It is headed by the municipal commissioner, who is appointed by the state government.

Functions of the municipal council

1. Provide safe drinking water to the people.

2. Build and maintain roads and ensure proper street lighting.

3. Ensure the proper supply of electricity.

4. Establish hospitals, dispensaries, health centres and family planning centers.

5. Build and maintain primary and secondary schools, adult education centres and night schools to impart education.

5. Make laws concerning housing, markets, and the supply of essential commodities like milk and water.

6. Keep a record of births and deaths in the municipal areas.

Sources of incomes





- a) Grants from the government.
- b) Taxes on land, property, etc.
- c) Electricity and water charges.

Nagar Panchayats: Nagar Panchayats govern areas which are in the process of changing from rural to urban. People in such places are in the process of moving away from agriculture, to service and industry based occupations. These places face problems that are a mix of those faced by rural areas and by urban areas. Nagar Panchayats have a term of five years and consist of members elected from the various wards of the town. They look after sanitation, water supply, electricity, primary education, housing, healthcare and the maintenance of public parks and buildings.

Advantages of Local Self-Government

- Local government ensures the best management of the local resources.
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- It also ensures the best management of local affairs as local people understand their own problems best.
- Local government takes the benefits of democracy down to the grass roots. It gives each villager and city dweller the power to make changes in his or her life.
- If the local bodies function efficiently, the areas they look after develop faster and in a more balanced manner.
- Administering an area locally is less expensive than managing the area from a distant capital.

