

# REVISITING URBAN GOVERNANCE UNDER THE “NEW NORMAL”

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**Abstract** - In this era of Covid -19 most cities are coping up with the disease and are beginning to accept the “New Normal”.

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced the world to change, which has its pros and cons. While the new normal will lead to some basic changes in our livelihoods such as Physical Distancing, Work from home, wearing mask when going out etc., it is important to understand how will the cities change during and post the Pandemic.

For sustainable development, our priority should be to understand the “New normal” and move towards a positive change.

Globally, countries such as Malaysia have allocated special funds to cope with the negative impact of Covid-19 on their economy. India has taken it as an opportunity to make structural changes in the economy through introduction of various policies and schemes. Now, it remains to be seen whether these policies and schemes reach the grassroot levels.

The interwoven network of physical fabric (which ensures functional flow) , social fabric (which constitutes of all the social groups in an urban center) and economic fabric (which leads to the development of city as “engines of economic growth in the country”) is the foundation for efficient working of not only these cities but the complete region. It is evident that urban centers have been majorly affected due to malfunctioning of this cycle during the Pandemic. For proper functioning of these cycles, urban centers should ensure inclusive urban governance and improved health quality index.

In India, apart from the government intervention in public well-being, community participation and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) have effectively helped the marginalized sectors. NGOs like Kudumbashree in Kerala have not only helped the migrants to fight the Pandemic but also averted Reverse Migration in the state.

This paper studies various strategies the Government has introduced for the people at grassroot level to fight the Pandemic. The paper also provides a comparative analysis of Governance of two states, Kerala and Odisha. The paper also highlights the role of NGOs and the reason for their success in fighting the pandemic.

**Key Words:** Covid-19, Pandemic, Urban governance, SDGs, NGOs, Kerala, Odisha, Migrants

## 1.INTRODUCTION

The Covid-19 Pandemic has drawn our attention to the deficit of urban systems all over the world. In the cities, the Pandemic has disturbed the functional flows of urban centers. The urban centers which were previously defined as “engines to economic growth” have lost their momentum.

While the Central and State level governments have played an important role to curb the effect of the pandemic through an integrated and systematic approach for effective resource mobilization, it is now up to the local level bodies of these urban centers to ensure proper implementation of the policies and measures taken by the central and state governments.

Post pandemic, there should be further emphasis on Urban governance for sustainable growth. With the development of new norms and guidelines under the “new normal”, the Governments all over the world should take steps to minimize the impact caused due to natural disasters such as earthquakes, cyclones, floods etc. and manmade disasters such as leakage of harmful gases etc. It is imperative to revisit and effectively modify the past planning principles for better urban governance.

Realignment of norms and guidelines of the past and ensure their sustainability in future as well as to prepare a vision while being responsive in the urban cities is a huge task for the urban government bodies at various levels.

Even though, the pandemic has exposed critical gaps in the urban systems, but now there lies an opportunity to steer up our attempts to bridge those gaps and move towards a more sustainable and inclusive development.

### 1.1 Framework to control the effect of Covid-19

Before you begin to format your paper, first write and save the content as a separate text file. Keep your text and graphic files separate until after the text has been formatted and styled. Do not use hard tabs, and limit use of hard returns to only one return at the end of a paragraph. Do not add any kind of pagination anywhere in the paper. Do not number text heads-the template will do that for you.

Finally, complete content and organizational editing before formatting. Please take note of the following items when proofreading spelling and grammar:

The figure demonstrates various levels of controls needed to be adopted during a disaster. All these measures can be adopted to ensure effective protection from Covid-19.

**Elimination:** This is the first level intervention adopted during a pandemic where in order to avoid the spread, Physical isolation is considered most effective measure.

**Substitution:** In case of Covid -19, substitution is not possible as is in the case of other natural and man-made hazards. Therefore, this makes this pandemic a more vulnerable hazard.

**Engineering Controls:** Pure air is one of the major ingredients to cope up with Covid-19. This third level intervention suggests the use of ventilation systems like (HVACs), air purifiers etc. to ensure availability of clean and pure air.

**Administrative Controls:** Administrative control lies at the second last intervention in prevention hierarchy from Covid-19 but is most sustainable form of intervention. Administrative control can be broadly divided into two categories:

Local level controls i.e. control at office, maintenance staff at neighborhood level etc. For example, many societies in Noida have benefited from formulation of Residents welfare associations (RWA). Such associations help in easy availability of essential resources within the society premises which in turn leads to minimum movement of residents for their purchases.

Governmental control i.e. controls at National, State and Local governance level. At national and state level, various policies, reforms and subsidies have been formulated by the government to support the vulnerable sections as well as support the economy.

**PPE (Personal Protective Equipment):** The last level intervention to prevent the spread of the pandemic is the use of PPE kits which are used by front line warriors in case of direct contact with those who are infected by the virus. It is considered least effective due to dependence availability of such kits and difficulty in proper and continuous use.

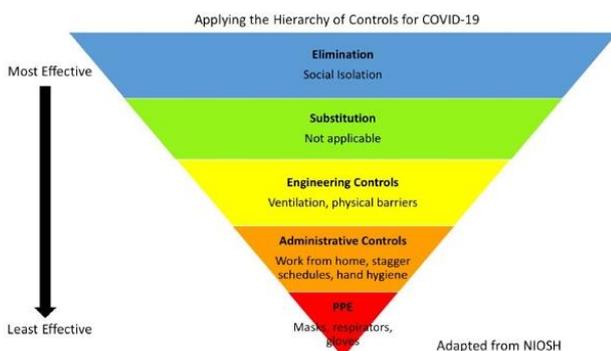


Fig -1: Framework to control the effect of Covid-19

## 2. STRATEGIES UNDER THE “NEW NORMAL”

The “new normal” includes terms such as physical distancing, usage of mask and sanitizers, digital contact tracing etc. It is still very uncertain whether physical distancing, usage of mask etc. would continue in the longer term. Now, the question which arises is, “How will the cities cope up with these practices and their consequences in the short-term?” Also, in order to manage the economic loss, urban centers can no longer remain under the lockdown mode for a long duration of time. The diversity of each urban center requires unique measures to respond to the current pandemic. Going forward, there should focus on some strategies under the “new normal.”

### 2.1 Accelerating climate action

Lockdown due to Covid-19 has brought impacted the rate of the climate change. Reduced traffic on roads, reduced industrial emission in the rivers and environment, etc. have reduced the pollution levels. To ensure the durability of such changes, urban governance worldwide should accelerate their efforts towards controlling climate change.

### 2.2 Transforming the economy

Economic models prior to Covid-19 were purely based on monetary gains. But in order to achieve sustainability, these models should strive to become eco-friendly. For instance, the “Make in India” initiative which promotes start-ups and entrepreneurs and provides them monetary assistance should focus on eco-friendly economic models in order to transform the Economy.

Also, there must be a shift from Linear Economy to Circular economy, which encourages the concept of re-use and recycle.

### 2.3 Inclusive Development

Many vulnerable groups in India such as Migrant workers are fighting for their basic human rights since ages. While the constitution of the country grants right of representation in the matter of governance to all sections of the society, their effects have not yet reached the grass root level. The pandemic has again brought to light the vulnerability of such groups and communities which are part of the unorganized sector. These groups are highly affected due to the pandemic and this has led to their reverse migration at many urban centers. Efforts should be made to ensure that these groups get equal and fair representation in the governance system.

### 3. CHALLENGES FACED BY UNDP SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS DUE TO COVID 19

In order to achieve the above defined strategies for positive paradigm change, we need to again revisit the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) defined by the United Nations organization. The 17 SDGs were adopted by all UN Member nations in the year as a universal call to end poverty, protect the earth and ensure that everyone enjoys peace and prosperity by the year 2030.

The following gives a brief overview of how the pandemic has affected the 17 SDGs and how urban governance worldwide can cope up with its impact:



Fig-2 Sustainable Development Goals

#### 3.1 No poverty

It was observed that there was a worldwide decline in the level of extreme poverty to 10% from 1990 to 2015. But the covid-19 pandemic has resulted into decelerating this progress, to eliminate poverty globally.

A report published by UNU World Institute for Development Economics Research says that pandemic has led to decline in the economy which could increase the poverty by 8% of total human population.

To support the vulnerable sections, the urban governance should actively work in order to:

- Ensure better health infrastructure
- Provide social protection and basic services to cope with the adverse effect of pandemic;
- Generate employment for the informal sector workers while protecting jobs of employees in micro enterprises through economic response and recovery programs
- Promote Community participation for resilient development.

#### 3.2 Zero hunger

According to the UN organisation for sustainable development, it is imperative to bring a paradigm change in Food Security and Agriculture worldwide.

After decades of decline in the people suffering from hunger, it was again observed that the level increased in 2015.

The statistics by World food programme, suggest that 20 million people suffer from hunger worldwide and with the

current surge in covid-19 cases the number is estimated to increase by 135 million people worldwide.

In order to address the risk of zero hunger, urban governance in the countries should:

- Assess the gaps in access to food of vulnerable sections and meet such requirements with immediate effect
- Not disturb the global export and import trade of food.
- Ensure continuous flow of supply chains to the domestic needs and
- Promote food production by supporting small farmers

#### 3.3 Good health and well being

Before the pandemic, governments worldwide have taken various measures to improve life expectancy level, but the pandemic has brought up light on the realization that to ensure secure future, health measures should be geared up and public services should be made more efficient for good health and well-being.

To achieve this goal, UNDP documented a framework to prepare a “strategic preparedness and response plan” which outlines various health measures. This plan should be adopted by the urban governance worldwide to cope up with the pandemic.

#### 3.4 Quality education

Education is one of the most important factors to address poverty worldwide. This goal focuses on quality of education especially in developing countries. Over the last decade there has been major progress in increasing access to schools where nearly one fifth of children of school going age group lacked access to schools in 2018 and about half of the population in this age group could not avail minimum proficiency level.

With the rise of covid-19, many schools worldwide declared temporary closure which impacted 91% students worldwide. 1.6 million children who were dependent on mid-day meals in schools had to look for new sources for daily nutrition.

With focus on quality education even under such an adverse condition, urban governance should:

- Look for innovative measure for remote education with the help of hi-tech solutions.
- Ensure universal access of IT infrastructure to remote areas such as villages for remote learning
- Prepare for reopening of schools and check for dropout rates

### 3.5 Gender equality

Gender equality is considered as the foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Before the pandemic, over the last decades, there was an increase in the level of girls going to school, negligible level of girl's force for early marriage, women serving at high position of representation. In addition to these changes, many reforms are being brought about and laws are being amended focusing on gender equality.

The outbreak of covid-19 pandemic, has resulted in increased discrimination of women. The disproportionate levels of women workers during the pandemic has also affected them economically. Due to closure of schools during the pandemic, female teachers had to take up household work as their primary responsibility coupled with loss of their employment thus causing financial distress and loss of social status.

Women working in the un-organized sector attributes to around 60% of total working women worldwide and the same is declining affecting the poverty levels worldwide.

To achieve this goal, urban governance should focus to:

- End of domestic violence
- Develop economic stimulus package to support young girls and women
- Encourage women participation in the decision-making process

### 3.6 Clean water and sanitation

The statistics given by the UN organization suggest that:

- 1 in 3 people lack access to clean drinking water.
- out of 5 people lack proper hand washing facility
- 673 million people use open defecation.

Covid-19 pandemic has brought into light the importance of sanitization, hygiene and access to clean water.

The urban governance should focus on facilitating access to running water and handwashing to all.

### 3.7 Affordable and Clean Energy

Many initiatives have been taken worldwide to improve the access of energy to all especially in the rural areas. While generation of electricity through various renewables is a success story now, but focus should be to increase the energy efficiency beyond the electricity sector.

To Cater to the needs of increasing Urban population it is imperative to look for solutions in the area of Renewable Energy.

During the pandemic, energy in the form of electricity is required by all sectors including Health Care, Public works department, IT and communication sector.

Urban government bodies should prioritize:

- To provide un-interrupted power to health sector

- To make energy reliable and sufficiently available to all.

### 3.8 Decent work and economic growth

According to the UN, before covid-19 pandemic, one in five countries experienced stagnation in per capita income. With the current scenario, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has estimated recession as was as in 2009.

Urban government bodies should ensure:

- Employment to all especially the vulnerable sections
- Economic growth is not affected by pandemic.

### 3.9 Industry, Innovation and infrastructure

With the advent of the 21st century, it is imperative to aim for inclusivity and sustainability of industrialization.

Before the pandemic, manufacturing rates had declined. Currently, there are high fluctuations in global supply and value chains.

The pandemic has led to the need of a more resilient supply chain infrastructure even at the local level.

Urban local bodies worldwide should increase investments in the infrastructure sector which will in turn accelerate the economy, generate employment and reduce poverty.

### 3.10 Reduced inequalities

There has been an increasing need to reduce inequalities worldwide. Social, economic and political inequalities have persisted in the world from a long time. With Covid-19, these inequalities have highly impacted those in the vulnerable marginalized sector.

On the economic front, pandemic has led to unemployment and disrupted income sources for workers globally.

On the social front, the pandemic has aggravated the need of social security and gender equality.

Urban government bodies should utilize this time of crisis as an opportunity and take bold step in formulating policies which were difficult to introduce before and gear up actions towards sustainable goals.

### 3.11 Sustainable cities and communities

Cities and metropolitan areas are entitled as powerhouse of economic growth as they contribute 60% to the global GDP.

But rapid urbanization has led to the development of densely populated areas which accompany negative impacts such as global carbon emission (70%) and extensive use of resources (60%).

Covid-19 pandemic has highly impacted such densely populated areas, especially those living in informal

settlements such as slums. It is difficult to follow important measures of the “new normal” in an organic development.

To ensure that cities become sustainable urban governance should:

- Promote community participation in decision making and thrive for community-driven solutions.
- Support local government bodies by not only funding them but also providing credible data, information and mapping.

### 3.12 Responsible consumption and production

According to a fact, the global population is expected to increase to 90 billion by 2050. To cater to the requirements of population with modern lifestyle, it is estimated that three planets could be required to cater to the needs of natural resources.

Covid-19 pandemic has enlightened us that in order to recover, it is imperative to reverse current trends and change our lifestyle and consumption and production pattern for a sustainable future.

Urban government bodies worldwide should ensure that there is no unnecessary use of nature to reduce its negative impact and promote its citizens to be responsible while producing and consuming.

For example: The Indian government should promote use of sustainable methods while promoting “ATMANIRBHAR” mission, where in manufacturing industries should use sustainable source of energy. The whole manufacturing cycle should aim to use green solutions for a sustainable environment.

### 3.13 Climate action

Climate change is a major concern in many countries worldwide. Increasing CO<sub>2</sub> levels and other greenhouse gases, depleting water resources, etc. has affected the economy of developed as well as developing countries.

Covid-19 pandemic has led to temporary improvement in the climate change wherein, there was 6% decline in greenhouse gases due to lockdowns and no transport mobility. However, it is important to look for sustainable methods.

To achieve this goal countries should cooperate among themselves as no one country can succeed the other in this aspect. Urban government bodies should together aim for:

Green transition: promote the firms and companies to invest in products with less carbon emissions from manufacturing to delivery.

Green economy: find solution for a more resilient environment to people and its society which is fair to all.

### 3.14 Life below water

Oceans, seas and rivers are some of the essential systems which ensures sustainability of humankind.

In the current times, there is deterioration in quality of coastal water which has led to acidification of oceans. This has in turn disrupted small-scale fisheries. Since a lot of countries share ocean, fishery is one of the most important economic activity worldwide to ensure its sustainability. Therefore, such activities must not come to a halt during the pandemic.

While this goal focus on ocean conversation it indeed an urgent requirement for all the urban bodies to ensure conservation of rivers and coastal sea lines. Innovative solutions to avoid contamination of these resources is an emergent need to ensure availability of safe drinking water to all.

### 3.15 Life on land

It is evident that human activity has led to encroachment of areas habituated by wildlife.

This deforestation and desertification have exaggerated the process of climate change and affected sustainability of resources.

On the other hand, there is emergences of diseases which are transferable from animals to humans. This is also the major cause of emergence of covid-19 pandemic too.

The urban government bodies must:

- Ensure safe disposal of waste generated due to the pandemic
- Promote citizens to transform their behavior with the nature and environment.

## 4. WHO IS THE MOST AFFECTED DUE TO THE PANDEMIC?

The pandemic has disturbed the balanced nature of our human ecosystem. Meeting with people, walking, going to work, leisure is some of the activities which makes the image of the cities and had become their sole identity.

In India, while the pandemic has disturbed the nature of human activities, it is evident that the most affected in the cities are those marginalized sectors who have been struggling since long to meet their basic requirement of food, shelter and home. However, the most affected due the pandemic are those who were dependent on these factors:

- 1.Transport
- 2.Food
- 3.Hygenic environment

**SLUM DWELLERS:** Such Communities which were bound to get minimum basic services due to informal settlements could still cope up with the pandemic due to being readily notified of habitation and population. Being densely populated they were affected due to unhygienic environment.

**REFUGEES:** Such communities lack habitation, but have international as well as national reforms in place which helped them cope up with the pandemic.

**MIGRANTS:** Such communities are formed as a result of Urbanization. The phenomenon of Urban migration can be rural to urban or vice-versa depending upon the employment and job opportunities available. These communities contribute a lot to the GDP of the country and yet lack identity.

When the government announced lockdown, migrant populations remained stranded in the cities for days without proper habitat and employment.

These settlements exist in the cities for not more than 10 years and a result of which cannot be notified of habitation. There is no data available with the government authority of migrant population at local level.

The current scenario made it impossible for government to provide support to such communities.

Therefore, the pandemic has brought to light, an emergence to support and analyze the conditions of migrant population. The need is to work at grassroot levels to improve the condition of such migrant population.

### 5. Government policies and schemes for migrants:

Even before the pandemic, migrant workers have been in the bottommost level of the pyramid of sustainable communities, yet their contribution to the gross domestic product of the country cannot be neglected. Therefore, government had adopted various measures to support these migrant workers and make them an equal representative of our Indian society. Some of the issues resolved by the governments and NGO's are as described in the table below. The table also highlights various reason for failures of various reforms formulated by the government for these people.

**Table-1:** Government initiatives for migrants

S. No.	ISSUES FACED BY MIGRANTS	GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES	REASON FOR FAILURE/ WAY FORWARD
1.	Lack of identity	Aadhar card: Address renewal policy  Aajeevika bureau	No defined period of stay at a place and illiteracy
2.	Lack of protection	Interstate Migrant workers act 1979	Obsolete and not enforced due to lack of credible data

3.	Lack of fundamental citizen Right: " Right to Vote"	Postal Ballot box 2018	Lack of representation
4	Lack skill development	Provision of Skill certification  Ex. Labournet in Bangalore	Lack of Awareness among the migrants.
5	Bonded labor	ILO collaborated with The Ministry of labor and employment and state governments to aim for decent work for the migrant workers especially in the brick kiln sector.	
6	Harassment of female migrants	The Criminal law (Amendment) Act strengthened the penalties for crime against women	There is an urgent need to promote safe migration of women.

### 6. EFFECT OF PANDEMIC ON THE URBAN CENTERS IN INDIA

The interwoven network of physical fabric (which ensures functional flow) , social fabric (which constitutes of all the social groups in an urban center) and economic fabric (which leads to the development of city as "engines of economic growth in the country") is the foundation for efficient working of not only these cities but the complete region. It is evident that urban centers have been majorly affected due to malfunctioning of this cycle during the Pandemic. For proper functioning of these cycles, urban centers should ensure inclusive urban governance and improved health quality index. The following gives a brief comment on some of the changes in planning pattern which can affect the function of administrative government body.

**6.1 The concept of Compact city** was considered as a positive approach in Urban planning which in turn leads to high densification of urban centers. This pandemic has threatened this very nature of the urban centers as it affected core densities in the urban centers.

**6.2 The rural urban migration** which was the foundation of workers profile and employment in the urban centers was highly impacted. There was a huge paradigm shift in migration from urban to rural areas since the pandemic led to lack of livelihood option and food security in urban centers.

**6.3** The pandemic emerged as a realization to the government on the **availability of credible data** in order to ensure access of basic facilities to the vulnerable sections.

### 7. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF KERALA AND ODISHA GOVERNANCE AND THEIR EFFECTIVENESS DURING COVID-19

In India, large agglomerations such as National capital region (N.C.R.) and Mumbai metropolitan region (M.M.R.) are highly affected by the pandemic due to high density, there are other states such as Kerala and Odisha which have emerged successful in elimination of this virus at initial stage. The following table gives comparative analysis of some attributes which are responsible for proper functioning of the administrative bodies in the two states.

**Table-2:** Comparative analysis of Urban Governance in two states.

	ATTRIBUTE	KERALA	ODISHA	Analysis
1	Nature of Governance	Decentralized /properly structured Government	Proactive Governance	Governance in Kerala proved to achieve a long-term success
2	Action during Pandemics	Dependence on Local bodies such as ward sabhas, NGO's such as Kudumbashree, people initiative policy, formation of community kitchen etc.	Proactive announcements  Proactive action plan	

3	Process of data collection at city level	Conventional method	Innovative use of GIS Technology	Though Odisha is a poor as well as an illiterate state, use of technology with proper interaction at community level, as well as considering the ground level situation helped to gather data relatively faster.
4	Community participation during Pandemic	'Sannadhasen a portal' was started by the Kudumbashree organization in order to increase volunteer support during Covid-19 pandemic.		
5	Effective tools for better Urban Governance	Structured governance	Use of GIS	

### 8. ROLE OF NGO'S DURING THE PANDEMIC

While decentralization is a necessary step to promote good governance, Non-Governmental Organization play a major role by coming in direct contact with those who suffer. NGOs are supposed to build local ownership and work to serve the citizens and understand their interests. They directly work as a partner state rather than a controlling state and provide support in all complicated scenarios.

During the pandemic, many NGO's have partnered with the local governance of various cities and states in order to serve the vulnerable sections. Following gives brief examples

of Kudumbashree (NGO) working in the favor for vulnerable sections during the pandemic.

### **Kudumbashree (Kerala):**

Launched on 17th may 1998 as Kerala poverty eradication mission under the leadership of local governance, aims to eradicate poverty in time frame of 10 years. The mission works on a process approach rather than a project approach which leads to a sustainable development in the sector.

It has a governing body chaired by the State Minister of LSG. There is a state mission with a field officer in each district. This organization structure of the foundation has helped in establishing better control on the vulnerable section in this helpless situation of Covid-19. Also, the availability of credible data of poor sections in every district has enhanced the functioning of this organization

The organization has taken several initiatives during this pandemic after conducting studies in organization and micro finance, local economic development, social development and women empowerment. Some initiatives are as follows:

- Implementation of free interest loan schemes, "Sahayashastham" declared by the Government of Kerala.
- Kudumbashree members volunteered with the Civil Supplies department of government of Kerala to prepare food kits in order to serve 83 lakhs families.
- The organization, also establishes 25 micro enterprises which are involved in manufacturing of cotton masks and face shields for the vulnerable section.
- The community kitchen set to prepare food kits not only feed the marginalized sector but also deliver food in corona care centers.
- Take away centers or budget hotels were established in the check post of Kerala to ensure food availability to the transport department delivering basic essentials to the region.
- 'Sannadhasena portal' was started by the organization in order to increase volunteer support during Covid-19 pandemic.

Therefore, it is imperative that decentralization of administration in the state of Kerala with the help of NGO's has drastically helped in eliminating the disease.

### **9. CONCLUSION: WAY FORWARD**

#### **• Mutual dependence of urban and rural governance for Resilient development**

It is quite evident, that during the pandemic there was a mutual dependence of urban region on rural hinterland for food security and rural region on urban centers for access to basic needs such as livelihoods, health and other essential amenities. This has in turn given rise to cyclic migration of

people in the country. For the preparation of a resilient framework for such region there is an immediate need for an integrated approach, effective and responsive governance. Though decentralization may help the government bodies to work at local levels it is important to develop integrity at various levels of governance.

Even when the 73rd and 74th amendment act enables the government for the preparation of plans of metropolitan and district levels, it still needs strengthening, better coordination and cooperation among various governance levels.

Major constraint for such an approach is the complex multi-level governance bodies involved in the functioning at each level.

#### **• Enhancement of Positive leadership qualities in urban local bodies**

During the difficult times of the pandemic, urban local bodies were directly responsive to the needs of the vulnerable groups as well as the local requirements. Therefore, it is necessary to adapt to such bottom-up approach.

However, it is also important to strengthen the leadership qualities at this level to ensure good governance. At local level, many government bodies in India appoint a Mayor. The mayor is appointed for an irregular time period ranging from one year to five years. Their election method or process is also very vague. To ensure positive and good quality governance there should be some provision in election guidelines for educational and professional qualification of those selected such as the commissioner.

This will not only strengthen urban local bodies but also enhance positive leadership at the bottom level.

#### **• Integrated development through technology**

Compilation of granular data through technology has further given impetus to local bodies for efficient urban governance. Such data should also be maintained and brought to access of these urban local bodies in fields of criminal social protection, shelter, mobility livelihoods and other areas also. Urban governance can deliver an integrated approach to enable efficient services of all such fields under one umbrella. This will in turn render effective mobilization of resources whether human, technical or financial.

#### **• Participation of various stakeholders for resource mobilization**

The liberal Geo-spatial data policy, introduced by the government amid the lockdown, enables start up entrepreneurs to access the remote sensing data of country's satellites and build applications especially in the field of agriculture.

More such Public-Private Participation enhancement may help the government bodies to work in an integrated manner.

To ensure a transparent, accountable and proper distribution of data among local urban government bodies, it is important that multiple stakeholders whether private, public, civil societies, NGOs and various government levels should work in an alliance. Such an initiative will also ensure basic amenities to those with low capacities. Such alliance can bridge the gap of capacity constraints of all stakeholders and provide with comprehensive strategies in times of crisis.

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