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Conclusions and Suggestions

In most of the developing countries the local government institutions have been recognized as the most important instrument for socio-economic development. These institutions can be effective partners in the all-round development only if they are manned by qualitative leadership. The leadership at the local level has been considered the most vital segment as it occupies a crucial position not only in the initiation of the socio-economic development programmers but also their implementation.

Good Government, whether national or local, requires competences in the art of organizing as well as setting the objectives coupled with a sense of purpose to achieve the targets. Therefore, the local government to be effective requires a vision, competence and participation. The key test of the success of the local government lies in the proper functioning of its various wings in an orderly way. Another indicator of success of the management lies in making the political process functional for the effective solution of the present and emerging challenges. The local government does not work in a vacuum and its performance is widely influenced by the political and social environment. The main findings of the study are :-
• Municipal Corporation Delhi has come into existence by the Act of 1957 having a uni-district state but at present it deals with a multi-districts state of Delhi. The total population served by the corporation is 13.78 million overran area of 578 square miles. Mainly it functions through the Commissioner wing, Deliberative wing and Committee, it has 272 wards.

• Educationally in an average about 89% councillors are educated both in Corporation thus, the hypothesis that the candidates with educational background are preferred by the electorates is approved.

• A large number of councillors belong to high middle class having income of Rs. 21,000 – 40,000 per month in both Corporations the number of councillors belonging to the income group of Rs. 5000 – 20,000 concede with those having income of Rs. 21,000 to 4000 per month. Therefore, the hypothesis that the richer section manipulations to make into the Corporation is also confirmed.

• The factor of caste plays an important role in the election of 2002 when the candidates belonging to constituencies comprising electorates of particular castes have been declared elected. But in 2007, the factor of caste has been overlooked by the voters. However, both the Corporations are dominated by the councillors belonging to Punjabi caste. The middle age group has the largest representatives in 2002 and 2007.

• Occupationally, businessmen are in majority in both the Corporations.
• Almost all the councillors are married.

• The maximum number of councillors have three – four children. Therefore, the two child- norms are not popular among them.

• Cent-percent councillors have political/administrative experience.

• Both the Corporations have the dominance of urban representatives.

• The councillors having nuclear families are in majority.

• A party-wise analysis age pattern shows that the Congress party respondents the highest number of councillors in the middle age group 64 (47.7%) in 2002, whereas as the Bhartiya Janata Party takes its place 127 (46.69%) in 2007.

Clearly, it would be advantageous to see the Municipalities Act prior to Municipal election in November 2006. This is perhaps unrealistic. But if government is considering moving forward with changes to the Municipalities Act, the advisory council on the status of women would certainly indicate public support for changes that would enhance women’s participation in elected Municipal politics.

Development of a strategy to increase the public profile of women councillors to ensure that women’s work is reported, valued and credited.
In conclusion, our coming together should include showcasing our achievements in the implementation of strategies that we ourselves have designed. I made reference to the positive environment that we enjoy in respect of improving the quality of life and status of women. These are commitments that have to be translated into strategies by none other than the likes of people in this hall. These are commitments that we have to raise awareness about and use to mobilize communities and resources.

**Suggestions**

After having discussed the various working procedure and the measures suggested for making an improvement in the municipal administration in this state, it is proved that local self-government in this democratic age can also be a training ground for the councillors to learn the art of administration

- Training on various aspects of the PRS should be provided to the women members. Provisions of the 74th Amendment, writing records, conducting meetings, understanding of bureaucratic structure, government schemes for the poor, unemployed, education public distribution system etc. are some of the areas in which training could be given.

- Family and government support. This was identified as an important area requiring attention. Encouragement by the families in the form of appreciation of their official work, their decisions and ensuring their
presence in the meetings would help and similarly the government officials need to be more patient towards them and cooperate with them in their work and enabling them to understand their work.

- A minimum educational qualification criterion should be laid down for the future contestants, particularly the women contesting for the municipalities elections. This will facilitate the aspiring. Contestants to take education seriously from an early age. The importance of education in better administration cannot be denied.

- Compulsory attendance in the meetings.

- Creation of a feminist consciousness, which makes the women identify with themselves and the characteristics so specific to them.

- Civil society organizations should be provided with adequate resources to intensity gender awareness and advocacy programmes, particularly at the grass roots level.

- Government should strive to build a system of coordinating the various innovations on gender.

- Affirmative actions in economic empowerment and education should be established and information shared all countries.
• It is important to identify those traditional values that support the enhancement of women's status, and discourage those that reinforce gender based stereotyping.

• It is critically important to have a strong political will towards gender equality if women's participation is to be developed. However, political will must be supported by strong gender advocacy and gender sensitization to achieve results.

• At the threshold of 21st century it is absolutely necessary that common people need to be sensitized about the prevailing atrocities against Dalit women. There is a growing need to capture violation of human rights of dalit women, so that talent and potential of Dalit women can be asked for development of nation. A nation does not prosper only on fertile soil, dense forests and ever-flowing rivers. It is the healthy people who make a nation. A society is made up of both men and women from all states. If women from whichever state is weak and exploited, it is not a healthy society and when a society is healthy, then the nation will march ahead. To fulfill these dreams women in general and particularly from weaker section need to be empowered for development of the nation.

• The councillors should serve on the local bodies being taken over the national.
• The participation of the greater number of councillors at the lower level would strengthen the democratic culture at the grass roots.

• In addition, these bodies help by supplying politically trained and experienced people to the higher level.

• To conclude it may be suggested that the councillors should be development/oriented.

• They should not be power motivated because on this aspect of the personality of the councillors the success of municipal administration in Delhi largely depends. It is based on the simple logic that who are concerned about the future of urban life and are committed to its survival must provide leadership and dedication.