

Severe lack of coordination among departments, Says Mayor

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Severe lack of synchronization among various departments such as JMC, JDA, PHED, PWD etc those are responsible for delivery of public services and amenities is a major reason for poor services, said Mayor of Jaipur city Ms. Jyoti Khandelwal. She also said that there is no lack of resources with these departments but the efficient use of resources is a major problem. She also said that Jaipur is very live city and Jaipurites always provide adequate support to any intervention with good intention. She was speaking today in the project inception meeting of the second phase of an innovative initiative 'MyCity' being executed by an international Civil Society Organization of Indian origin Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS – International) in Jaipur city of Rajasthan.

'MyCity' is an intervention towards improving quality of municipal services which is increasingly affecting the lives of citizens with fast pace urbanization. Urban local governments are unable to meet the expectations of the public as councilors have not been given adequate powers as per 74th amendment and there is low civic engagement in the urban areas. CUTS in partnership with The Asia Foundation is executing a project where activities of collecting citizen feedback, preparing the public service index with the help of citizens to do an interface with service providers and elected representatives are the main features. In the second phase of the intervention, 16 wards from Jaipur city are selected.

Justice V. S. Dave, chairman of the Supreme Court empowered committee expressed deep concern in the meeting about the deteriorating condition of the Jaipur city due to lack of accountability of the responsible elected representatives and public officials. He emphasised on the need of educating next generation people especially school children on the duties mentioned in Article 51 of the constitution to develop real citizens. He informed the audience that there are 5 settlements in the Jaipur city where more than 1000 plots were allotted to people but not a single house could be built in last 10 years. We need to question this, he said. He said that he himself has visited whole Jaipur city within 25 KM of radius, studied deeply and found that the city is established on the pattern of Europe and it can be developed like that if proper planning is done.

Jaipur is one of the fast growing cities and it will attain the status of 10th most populated city in India by 2025, said Mr. George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS International in his introductory remarks. He emphasized on the need of improving governance and expanding urban service delivery for citizens through civic engagement as the population in urban areas is increasing at the rate of 3.5% in comparison to 1.2% in the rural areas. Jaipur city is growing at a rate of 5.3%. Through My City intervention, CUTS is making an effort to connect citizens to the local government, Said Mr. Cheriyan.

Manish Pareek, Deputy Mayor of Jaipur expressed his deep concern on the poor performances of JMC. He pointed out that the work of JMC has been transferred to the JDA and the elected representatives who are a direct connect between citizens and JMC have not been given any power.

Ms. Reecha Upadhyay, Program officer, The Asia Foundation, expressed her pleasure on the implementation of activities in the phase I of the project and hoped best for the phase II.

Programme was participated by the JMC councilors and official representatives of civil society organisations, media and resident welfare societies from different areas of Jaipur city.

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