

Report of Inception Meeting
MyCity Year3
‘A Project for Improving Service Delivery by
Urban Local Government in the City of Jaipur
through Enhanced Civic Engagement’

December 16, 2014, Hotel Jaipur Palace

‘MyCity’ Project: An Overview

CUTS International in partnership with The Asia Foundation implemented ‘MyCity’ project in Jaipur city to improve governance and service delivery through enhanced civic engagement in city of Jaipur by using social accountability tools. Public Service Index (PSI) was used to generate ward level report cards of urban services provided by the JMC in 8 selected wards of Jaipur city. The essential municipal services provided by JMC include: roads, water supply, public health and sanitation, solid waste management, provision of urban amenities and facilities such as parks, gardens, playgrounds, street lighting, parking etc. were considered for developing PSI. A tool of Citizen Report Card (CRC) was also utilised for gathering feedback of citizens on the status of services and engaging them in demanding better delivery of services. Various community meetings and interface with service providers were organised for resolving specific issues in various service delivery. To advocate improving services emphasising the need for strengthening mechanisms of citizen participation and provisions of 74th amendment is essential.

Objectives of the Meeting

The main objective of the inception meeting was to discuss the goal and objectives of the project among more than 75 relevant stakeholders including ward Councillors, JMC officials, CSOs representatives from eight new and eight existing wards, as well as other CSOs working on issues from all of the eight zones of the JMC. The meeting also provided the opportunity to understand the proposed intervention and provide the participants an opportunity to ensure their active participation during execution of the project in a better way.

Participation

In the meeting, partner CSOs along with a few CAG members from all the sixteen wards, JMC officials, representatives from other CSOs working in Jaipur, media representatives from both print and electronic participated. More than 75 participants including Maneesh Pareek, Ex- Deputy Mayor, Jaipur, Justice V. S. Dave, Ex Chairman, Supreme Court Empowered Committee on Jaipur World Class City, officials from Jaipur Municipal Corporation (JMC) and ward councilors were present during the Launch Meeting and shared their valuable views.

Proceedings:

Project Intervention

Amar Deep Singh, Project Coordinator, CUTS provided a brief overview of the project. He mentioned that its objective is to improve the service delivery by urban local bodies (ULBs) in the city of Jaipur through enhanced civic engagement. Third phase of the project commenced successfully completing the first and second one. He shared that growing urbanisation and implementation of 74th Constitutional Amendment (CAA) are two important aspects behind initiating MyCity intervention in the city. Further, he

explained that country is growing and urbanisation is rapidly increasing. Rural to urban migration is major factor due to attraction of better employment opportunities, infrastructure, communication, and medical



facilities, etc. It is resulting in challenges, such as pollution, increasing slums, rising crimes, shortage of infrastructure and unequal distributions. Jaipur is also a victim of growing urbanisation. It is 24th fastest growing city of the world. By 2030 Jaipur's

population will be 5 million. He added that 74th CAA (1992) was a land mark amendment aimed at decentralisation in urban governance and providing political, functional and financial powers to ULBs. But, at present, the Act is poorly implemented at the ground due to absence of many provisions. One of the major factors is absence of ward committees. There is no space for citizens to engage themselves in the urban governance. While highlighting specific issues of ULBs, he mentioned that these are struggling to get powers for its proper execution of services. There are severe resource crunches. Parallel departments have been bestowed with development work. Management of revenue earning assets is given to ULBs. State government and elected members of the state assembly are involved in the local development work. He emphasised on the role of CSOs in present context of ULBs. MyCity has created space for CSOs to come forward to raise the issue of ULBs and to get involved in urban governance issues. Under the project local issues can be highlighted at different levels from wards to city. He also presented an overview of the project during the Phase I and II. He briefly mentioned about the intervention, project activities, area and findings that emerged out of the project. He also discussed in brief about the community and interface meetings, CRC and PSI findings that were conducted during Phase-II and of the project.

George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS International in the opening remarks said that Jaipur is a fast growing city having population of 33.5 Lacs in 2014. He pointed out that in accordance with the 74th constitutional amendment and article 54 of the Rajasthan Municipal Corporation Act of 2009, ward committees need to be constituted in the JMC; however that has not happened



resulting in low civic engagement which in turn results in poor service delivery. A first of its kind, Mayor's Conference, will be organised in Jaipur, Rajasthan where all the mayors will get a common platform to discuss problems of Municipal Corporations, they should decide further where to lead and how to achieve the objective of strengthening urban local bodies He also gave the reference of ward committees of Bangalore city and the powers held by the Mayor of New York during the 9/11 unfortunate incident. He spoke on the constitutional significance of urban local bodies and their unfortunate present conditions where they are dealing with the issues of funds, functions and functionaries.

Justice V. S. Dave in his speech shared that JDA have lots of power and income resource but JMC could not have sufficient power and income resource. Jaipur Municipal Corporation has been facing problem



with budget, infrastructure, man-power etc. further he said that citizens should also have a positive outlook towards JMC employees. Local community members should be aware about their social responsibilities. Further he brought the attention of the house towards the ever growing rate of crime in the city. With regard to the 74th constitutional amendment, he pointed out towards the loop holes of urban local bodies. They have to face the problem of unequal resource allocations. For budgetary

allocation they are completely dependent on state-finance commission. Youth should take part in the participatory development of their areas. For this, awareness programmes should be organized in various schools and colleges and they should be made aware of the 73rd & 74th constitutional provisions. In his speech he shared that resident welfare society can play impotent role in society and also they can monitor on the JMC ward level employ. He further said that on his recommendation to supreme- court for ward committee to make Jaipur world class city, Further supreme-court appreciated the report submitted by the committee and advised High Court to take the issue through PILs.

Ex- Deputy Mayor Manish Pareek: Ex- Deputy Mayor Manish Pareek appreciated the project implemented by CUTS and he shared that thousands of Crores are needed to solve and maintain the Civic

amenities in the city of Jaipur such as better roads, street lights etc. Only awareness will not make any difference until and unless there is no proper implementation of the policies and shortage of resources are not fulfilled. Acknowledging the condition of ULBs, he spoke on the issues of fund crunch and lack of staff within the Jaipur Municipal Corporation. There is a great confusion between the administrative and financial power holders. Although



various designations have been created but almost all of them are devoid of powers. He spoke in the favour of decentralisation within the ULBs. Further he shared that councilors should take advice from local community member and should do monitoring on JMC ward level employees.

The meeting was concluded by vote of thanks and by summarising the key points emerging in the discussion and all the participants and delegates were thanked for their valuable participation in the meeting