

Report

Second Rajasthan Mayors' Conference

Hotel Grand Chandiram

Kota, Rajasthan

September 22, 2015



30 CUTS
1989 2012 International

The Asia Foundation

Rajasthan Mayors' Conference

MyCity

'Improving quality of municipal services in the city of Jaipur through enhanced civic engagement'

September 22, 2015, Kota, India

Local Host



Context

Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) International in partnership with The Asia Foundation (TAF) is implementing urban governance intervention named MyCity in Jaipur city since August 2012. Its specific objective is *'Improving the Service Delivery by Urban Local Government through Enhanced Civic Engagement'* using social accountability approaches. The project is continuing its activities in 2015 also in selected wards of the city.

The project is appreciated among its stakeholders, including citizens, officials and public representatives of the targeted wards in the city and remained successful in reaching its outcomes. Citizens are benefited by the platform provided to them to resolve ward-level issues through elected representatives and concerned officials. Local problems are being resolved at the local level. The project is aimed to make Jaipur city more convenient and livable for its citizens through their active engagement. There are several other larger issues, which need to be addressed at higher level of decision makers.

Apart from other findings, one major finding of the intervention is lack of resources available with Urban Local Government (ULG) and delegation of powers from state to ULG. Coupled with this, there are policy-related issues which need to be taken forward through a collaborative effort of all stakeholders including heads of ULGs, i.e. Mayors. In this sequence, it has been realised that there is no formal platform where Mayors from Rajasthan can discuss urban governance-related issues and come out with a strategy.

In this context, CUTS took an initiative and created 'City Mayors' Learning Platform' for the Mayors of Rajasthan. A first ever Mayors' Conference was organised in Jaipur city on April 15, 2015. In the series of this initiative, second Rajasthan Mayors' Conference was held in Kota (known as education hub of the country) Rajasthan, on September 22, 2015.



Participation

Mahesh Vijay, Mayors of Kota; Sunita Vyas, Deputy Mayor of Kota; Sanchita Bishnoi, Additional Director, Department of Local Bodies, Government of Rajasthan; Yudhishter Chansi, Councilor-Kota, Vikram Singh, Councilor-Jaipur were representatives of Municipal Corporations. Soumya Chaturvedula, Programme Officer, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives and Sumit Singh, Regional Director, All India Institute of Local Self Government took part as resource persons to share best practices other than CUTS team members. Kota Municipal Corporation hosted the event as a local partner.

Proceedings

Amar Deep Singh, Project Coordinator, CUTS welcomed the delegates and introduced participants. He shared objectives of the conference which is second in the series and shared in detail the key findings and achievements of three-year MyCity project which was implemented in Jaipur city in collaboration with The Asia Foundation. He also outlined the brief outcome of the first Mayors Conference held in Jaipur.



George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS stated that this initiative is a humble beginning to bring Mayors and Deputy Mayors of Rajasthan on a common platform to share their ideas and experiences with each other. CUTS' role would be to facilitate the process. He spoke on the state of urbanisation within India and Rajasthan. He referred a recent study done by the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India under 'Swachh Bharat Mission' which says that positions of cities are not good in state including Kota and Jaipur. He also referred to the 74th Constitutional Amendment and inability of cities, such as Jaipur and Kota which are growing even faster than Jaipur to provide quality services. He said that devolution of powers to the ULBs and enhancing civic engagement are need of the hour; hence Mayors are empowered and Municipalities are strengthened.

Amar Deep Singh again joined and made a power point presentation on brief overview of the project. His presentation mainly highlighted the engagement of citizens in the project and improvement in services of Jaipur Municipal Corporation (JMC) through active engagement of citizens. He stated that project is helpful in solving problems by local solutions, but the same time there are several larger issues which need to be taken up at higher level and idea of Mayors' Conference was generated from there only.

Mahesh Vijay, Mayor, Kota Municipal Corporation first welcomed guest in the event applauded CUTS to organise this event in Kota city. He spoke about 74th Constitutional Amendment and said that Mayors must have sanction powers till Rs one crore of developmental works and tenders since they are kept in dark about the works done up to Rs one crore and in fact works



above Rs 1 crore are very less in number as well. Mayor can trust contractors and officials are always talk about the rules and guidelines about which they are always afraid of. In such a scenario it is urgent need

of the hour that all Mayors should be invited by the Department of Local Bodies (DLBs) from time to time and discuss about their issues and grievances so that development work is not hampered.

He also mentioned that DLBs must also share nearest best practice related to main campaigns and programmes with all Mayors so that they can adopt the same and enhance the quality of the public services. He also said that in Kota Municipal Corporation, resource crunch is a main problem and human resources are seriously lacking and at the place of electric engineers and other staff they are just solving the purpose with civil engineers and this must be taken at DLBs-level for solution.

Sunita Vyas, Deputy Mayor, Kota Municipal Corporation said that devolution of powers must happen till Councillors including deputy mayors as well since they are also public representatives and an important link in the service delivery process. She further added that there are so many problems but they are just talking about sanitation problems only.



Sumit Singh, Regional Director, All India Institute of Local Self Government, Jodhpur shared his experiences from the People's Campaign in Jodhpur city named '*Jodhpur Swachh*' (JoSH) which succeeded only because of strong will power of local administration including District Collector, Divisional Commissioner and Jodhpur Municipal Corporation. He added that this campaign is under implementation in 27 *mohallas* (colonies) which is spread into 21 wards. Crucial factor of this campaign is donation from the community and three-tier community participation which starts from *mohallas*, wards and up to the city-level. He shared a success story of Prem Nagar, Jodhpur under JoSH campaign that how people's participation contributed to the success of campaign and improved overall condition of the area.

Soumya Chaturvedula, Programme Coordinator of International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, New Delhi also shared her experience of working in Shakti Nagar in Kota regarding door-to-door collection of solid waste and said that local people are highly interested in the initiative but it needs institutionalisation of the same by the Kota Municipality for its greater success. She also shared some of the best practices regarding municipality services from India and South Asian countries. She also suggested to the DLB for setting up recycling based industry for effective utilisation.

Vikram Singh, Councillor, Jaipur city shared that local bodies have to deal with so many complicated issues on daily basis but comparatively these bodies are not empowered. As elected representative councillors neither gets any remuneration nor any secretarial support from the government.

Yudhisther Chansi, Councillor, Kota shared his views and said that *Sarpanches* of *gram*



panchayats are more empowered and resourceful than councillors of urban bodies. They are given office infrastructures, staff and other resources, but councillors are managing all work from their residents.

Sanchita Bishnoi, Additional Director, Department of Local Bodies, Government of Rajasthan also shared her experiences and responded to all concerns and queries. She assured of communicating the message of taking all concerns of Mayors into account by organising exclusive consultations with them. She also suggested Mayors to be courageous and take strong decisions in the board meetings having huge powers rather than looking at Head Office for all clarifications and guidance. She further added that the Department is going to appoint 1947 post of various functionaries which will fill accrue shortage of staff and further help ULBs in improving their functionalities.



She also mentioned that very soon DLB will have MoU with CUTS for capacity building of the ULB staff including Mayors and Deputy Mayors and hope that initiatives under this partnership will prove fruitful.

Madhu Sudan Sharma, Senior Project Coordinator, CUTS summarised the discussions and delivered the vote of thanks to all participants.

नेगम की समस्याओं को हल करने का तरीका बताया

जेटा| कंज्यूमर यूनिटी एण्ड ट्रस्ट सोसायटी की ओर से मंगलवार को जेटा में आयोजित मेयर काउंसिल की बैठक में कायों के सामने आने वाली समस्याओं व उन्हें दूर करने पर चर्चा ने गई। सबसे बड़ी समस्या शहर को ग्राफ सुथरा रखने की सामने आई। बैठक में कोटा के महापौर व उपमहापौर व अलावा अन्य निगमों के प्रतिनिधियों भी भाग लिया। कंपनी के प्रतिनिधि



मंगलवार को आयोजित कार्यशाला में बोलते महापौर महेश विजया

विदेशों के निकायों की जानकारी देने लगे तो महापौर ने कहा कि हम तो विदेशों की नहीं यहां के हालातों को मौजूदा स्थिति में कैसे बदलें, इस पर चर्चा करें। कंपनी के प्रोजेक्ट को ऑर्डिनेटर अमरदीपसिंह ने बताया कि शहर के समस्याओं को कैसे दूर किया जाए। महापौर ने बताया कि इस संस्था के माध्यम से शहर में डोर-टू-डोर कचरा संग्रहण का ट्रायल शुरू किया गया है।

Rajasthan Mayors' Conference

'MyCity'

'Improving the quality of municipal services in the city of Jaipur through enhanced civic engagement'

Hotel Grand Chandiram, Kota on Tuesday, 22nd September 2015

Programme Schedule

11:00 -11:30	Informal Discussion with Tea	
11:30-11:45	<p>Welcome of Dignitaries & Brief about MyCity Intervention: <i>Amar Deep Singh, Project Coordinator, CUTS</i></p> <p>Opening Remarks of Mayors' Conference: <i>George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS International</i></p>	
Opening Session	"Urban Local Governance: Challenges & Way Forward"	
11:45-12:00	<p>Opening address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sh. Mahesh Vijay, <i>Hon'ble Mayor of Kota Municipal Corporation</i> • Sanchita Bishnoi, <i>Additional Director, Directorate of Local Bodies, Govt. of Rajasthan</i> 	
12:00-12:40	Presentation of Best Practices/Innovative Approaches of ULBs	
12:00-12:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sumit Singh, <i>Regional Director, All India Institute of Local Self Government, Jodhpur</i> (Topic-Smart Mohall/Smart Ward: Participatory Approach) 	
12:20-12:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Soumya Chaturvedula, <i>Programme Coordinator, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, New Delhi</i> (Topic- Solid Waste Management Practices) 	
12:40-01:25	<p>Rajasthan Mayors' Conference-Way Forward</p> <p>Hon'ble Mayors & Deputy Mayors of Rajasthan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Discussion points emerged from the opening session</i> • <i>Sustainability of the Platform</i> 	<p>Chair :</p> <p>Sh. Mahesh Vijay, Hon 'ble Mayor of Kota</p>
01:25 - 01.30	<p>Summing up & Vote of Thanks: <i>Madhu Sudan Sharma, Sr. Project Coordinator, CUTS</i></p>	
01.30 onwards	Lunch	