

# Representation of Women in Urban Local Bodies -A Study of Municipal Corporations in Telangana

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## ABSTRACT

*The Municipal institutions were the first to be created by the rule of East India Company by the orders of the Court of Directors. The first Municipal corporation created in India was that of Madras set up in 1688. The presidency towns of Calcutta and Bombay had their own corporations in 1872 and 1773 respectively, other such urban local bodies were created after 1842. There are six types of urban local bodies in India, viz., Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, Nagar Panchayats, Notified Area Committees, Town Area committees, and Cantonment Boards. The following objectives are set-up for this study (a) to understand the concepts and constitutional framework of Urban Local Bodies in India (b) to describe the representation of women in Urban Local Bodies, (c) to explore the reservations for women in the five Municipal Corporations in Telangana. The methodology is adopted for this paper is a conceptual and analytical study, the data has been collected from the different secondary source; published and unpublished works and official web sites state also used. The scope of the is conferred to whichever elections conducted in 2014. for the office of Mayor and wards in the five Municipal Corporations viz., Karimnagar, Ramagundam and Nizamabad Municipal Corporations.*

**Key Words:** Urban Local Bodies, Municipal Corporations and Women Reservations.

## 1. Introduction

Local governments are infra-sovereign geographic units found within sovereign nation or quasi-sovereign state. Like other units of government, local government units possess a defined area, a population, an organization and also the authority to undertake and the power to perform public activities. Within its territory, a local government unit seeks to give opportunities to the people for the expression of their opinion in regard to local affairs. It enables them to choose their representatives to take care of local affairs on their behalf<sup>1</sup>.

In India, Local government widely known as local self-government. This term originated when the Country was under British administration and did not enjoy and self-government either at the central or state levels. When a decision was taken by the British government to associate Indians in administering local affairs it meant a slice of self-government for the people. But today the term self-government has lost its significance as the country enjoys self- government both at the central and state levels. In fact, in the Indian constitution the term used is local government<sup>2</sup>.

The Municipal institutions were the first to be created by the rule of East India Company by the orders of the Court of Directors. The first Municipal Corporation created in India was that of Madras set up in 1688. The presidency towns of Calcutta and Bombay had their own corporations in 1872 and 1773 respectively, other such urban local bodies were created after 1842. Relating to rural local self-

<sup>1</sup> Vishoo Bhagwan. Dr., and Vidya Bhushan. Dr., (2010), Public Administration, S. Chand & Company Ltd, New Delhi, p.606.

<sup>2</sup> S.R. Maheshwari (1970), Local Government in India, Lakshmi Narain Agarwal Educational Publishers, Agra, p.1

governments there were early attempts to organise them in Bombay and Madras presidency in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. But the district authorities did not encourage the in 1864. Lord Lawrence in a resolution admitted their own local affairs.

Lord Mayo in 1870 in a resolution adopted decentralisation with respect to sanitation and public works. In 1871 and 1874 new Municipal Acts were passed providing for elective municipal bodies. But the most important step was yet to come. In 1882 Lord Rippon issued his famous resolution of local self-government which continued to be the basis of local self-government till 1947. That is why Rippon is regarded as the father of Local Self-Government in India.

## 2. Types of Urban Local Bodies

There are six types of urban local bodies in India, viz., Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, Nagar Panchayats, Notified Area Committees, Town Area committees, and Cantonment Boards. It may not be out of place to point out that the Cantonment Boards are governed by the Cantonment Act, 1924 which is a Central Legislation. They are still controlled directly by the central Ministry of Defence. Each such Board consists of partly elected and nominated members. Its key officials are drawn from forces on an ex-officio basis

The Notified Area Committees exist in area which area fast developing as new urban areas but which are not yet for municipalization. At the moment the function in eight states and one Union Territory in the Country. The member of these committees is all nominated by the state governments which them with specific powers in accordance with the provisions of the prevailing Municipal Act. In some states and union territory, there are Town Area Committees, the members of which are usually nominated or partly nominated and partly elected. Generally, such committees are established in small towns and are entrusted with limited local functions.

The municipal corporations, which are usually found in the principal cities, enjoy wider power and more autonomy than other municipal councils. Their number has been gradually growing. A distinctive feature of an Indian Municipal corporation is the statutory distribution of powers among three co-ordinate authorities, the corporation council, the commissioner and the standing committees. the Council consists of popularly elected representatives. The Commissioner who heads the executive administration is appointed by the state government. The Standing committees derive their powers either from the Act itself or through delegation by the council. The Mayor is only the ceremonial had of the corporation, having no executive powers. The Commissioner who is the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation supervises the day-to-day administration of the Corporation.

The Municipal councils which are commonly found in urban areas possess an integrated structure. The Chairman who is the head of the deliberative wing – the council- is also the Chief Executive. The trend in all the states is towards making statutory provision for the appointment of Executive Officers who are made responsible for day-to-day administration

**3. Objectives of the Study:** This study has set-up the following objectives; (i) to understand the concepts and constitutional framework of urban local bodies in India (ii) to analyse the representation of women in urban local bodies, (c) to explore the reservations for women in urban local bodies in Telangana, particularly about the five Municipal Corporations, i.e., Karimnagar, Ramagundam and Nizamabad Municipal Corporations.

**4. Methodology:** This paper is prepared on the bases of conceptual and analytical work. The data has been collected from the different source, mainly secondary sources, published and unpublished works i.e., annual reports, notifications, circulars of State Election Commission, Government of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana state, other publications, academic books, and official web sites also used for the data collection. For this study, the three Municipal Corporations viz., Karimnagar, Ramagundam and Nizamabad Municipal Corporations and described the women reservations whichever allotted to Urban Local Bodies elections in 2014.

## 5. Urban Local Bodies - Constitutional Framework

The land mark in the evolution of Urban Local Government was the setting up of National Commission on Urbanisation by the Government of India in 1985 to make a comprehensive study of the rapidly growing phenomenon of urbanisation and of the problems caused by it and to suggest measure to combat them. The Commission submitted its seven-volume report in 1988. The government has since accepted most of its recommendations and incorporated them in the Constitution (73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment) bill, 1989 which was introduced as *Nagarpalika* bill in August, 1989. It was passed by the Lok Sabha, but was defeated in the Rajya Sabha by a narrow margin of Votes. Thereafter, P.V. Narasimha Rao government again introduced the bill in the form of Constitution (74<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Bill on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 1991, which was passed in December 1992.

Just as the 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment inserted Part IX which laid down the Constitutional framework for Local Government in rural India. The 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment by inducting Part IX-A has provided the basic framework for legislation to create local self-government institution for the urban India. Municipal Committees and Municipal Corporations were in existence even before this amendment. This Part IX-A envisages two types of bodies; i.e., (a) institutions to serve the local people (b) institutions for planning development<sup>3</sup>.

**Article 243Q** envisages three types of Municipalities. The Panchayats merge into each other so they constitute 3 tiers of one system in each district. Municipalities are separate units. They do not share functions with others. The Municipalities are three types, viz., (i) Nagar panchayat for an area in transition from a rural area to an urban area, generally with population between 10,000 to 20,000. (ii) Municipal Councils for a smaller urban area, generally with a population between 20,000 to 3 lacs. (iii) Municipal Corporation for a larger urban area, generally with a population exceeding 3 lacs.

**Article 243T** lays down that seats shall be reserved in every Municipality for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. One-third of the total number of seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes shall be reserved for women belonging to these communities. Of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election not less than one-third shall be reserved for women belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The seats reserved for women shall be rotated to different wards. Apart from reservation favouring the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes and Women a state legislative may provide for reservations in favour of Backward Classes of Citizens.

**Article 243-T.Reservation of Seats:-** (1) Seats shall be reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in every Municipality and the number of seats so reserved shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in that Municipality as the population of the Scheduled Castes in the Municipal area or of the Scheduled Tribes in the Municipal area bears to the total population of that area and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Municipality.

(2) Not less than one-third of the total number of seats reserved under clause (1) shall be reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes or, as the case may be, the Scheduled Tribes.

(3) Not less than one-third (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Municipality shall be reserved for women and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Municipality.

(4) The offices of Chairpersons in the Municipalities shall be reserved for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and Women in such manner as the Legislature of a State, may, by law, provide.

<sup>3</sup> Brij Kishore Sharma (2011), Introduction to the Constitution of India, PHI Learning Private Limited, New Delhi, p.279

(5) The reservation of seats under clauses (1) and (2) and the reservation of offices of Chairpersons (other than the reservation for women) under clause (4) shall cease to have effect on the expiration of the period specified in article 334.

(6) Nothing in this Part shall prevent the Legislature of a State from making any provision for reservation of seats in any Municipality or offices of Chairpersons in the Municipalities in favour of Backward Class of citizens.

**Article 243-ZA. Elections to the Municipalities.** (1) The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to the Municipalities shall be vested in the State Election Commission referred to in **Article 243-K.** 7(2) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Legislature of a State may, by law, make provision with respect to all matters relating to, or in connection with, elections to the Municipalities.

## 6. Reservations in ULBs

The reservations for the Offices of Mayor of 19 Municipal Corporations were notified in G.O.Ms.No.94, Municipal Administration & Urban Development (Elections -II) Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2014 and Chairpersons of 158 Municipalities/Nagar Panchayats were notified in G.O.Ms.No.93, Municipal Administration & Urban Development (Elections. II) Department, on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2014. The Ward members of 10 Municipal Corporations were notified in G.O.Ms.No.92, Municipal Administration & Urban Development (Elections-II) Department, on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2014 and Ward Members of 146 Municipalities/ Nagar Panchayats were fixed by the Commissioner & Director Municipal Administration in Proceedings No.16962/2013/Elections-I, on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2014 by the Government and other designated authorities before the issue of election notification.

## 7. Municipal Corporations

The Governor of Andhra Pradesh hereby specifies the number of offices of Mayors reserved for members belonging to Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes and Women as specified in Schedule-I and also determines and notifies the 19 Municipal Corporations in the State as specified in Schedule-II appended to this Notification as Municipal Corporations reserved for the members belonging to the Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes and Women for election to the offices of Mayor of the said Municipal Corporations. Of these 6 Municipal corporation, three Municipal corporations viz., Karimnagar, Ramagundam and Nizamabad Municipal corporation elections were held in 2014 and remaining corporations elections held in 2015 and 2016.

**Table-1: Reservation for the office of Mayor in Municipal Corporations in Telangana**

Sl.No.	Name of the Municipal Corporation	Office of Mayor Reserved for
1	Khammam Municipal Corporation	Scheduled Tribe (General)
2	Ramagundam Municipal Corporation	Scheduled Caste (Women)
3	Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation	Backward Classes (General)
4	Nizamabad Municipal Corporation	Un- Reserved (Women)
5	Warangal Municipal Corporation	Un-Reserved
6	Karimnagar Municipal Corporation	Un-Reserved

*Source: Annual Reports, State Election Commission, AP and Telangana*

Above table shows about reservations for the office of Mayor in 6 Municipal Corporations in Telangana. As per the study, the office of Mayors of 6 Municipal Corporations are reserved various categories viz., the office of the Mayor of Khammam Municipal Corporation was reserved for Scheduled Tribes (general), whereas, the Mayor of Ramagundam Municipal Corporation was reserved

for Scheduled castes, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation was reserved for Backward Classes ((general), Nizamabad Municipal Corporation was reserved for Women-general, and remaining Warangal and Karimnagar Municipal Corporations were allotted for General category (Un-Reserved). Therefore, this study clearly shows that, of the six Municipal Corporations, two Municipal Corporations' mayor posts have been reserved for Women in Telangana.

### 8. Karimnagar Municipal Corporation

Karimnagar is a Smart city and is one of the major urban agglomeration cities in the Telangana state. It is the headquarters of the Karimnagar district. It is situated on the banks of *Manair* River, which is a tributary of the Godavari River. It is the fourth largest and fastest growing urban settlement in the state, according to 2011 census. Karimnagar Municipal Corporation has consisted of 50 election wards and democratically elected members representing from these wards, and each corporation election ward has been reserved or allotted for a specified category by state government. The below table shows the particulars of wards reserved/allotted in the Municipal Corporation elections held in 2014.

**Table-2: Women Representation in Karimnagar Municipal Corporation**

category	General (Men/ Women)	Women	Total
Scheduled Tribes	01	00	01
Scheduled Castes	03	02	05
Backward Classes	09	08	17
Un-Reserved	12	15	27
Total	25	25	50

*Source: Annual Reports, State Election Commission, AP and Telangana*

Above table shows about the reservation of wards for various categories particularly women reservation in Karimnagar Municipal Corporation. As per the study, of the total 50 wards, 25 wards reserved for women in Karimnagar Municipal Corporation. Whereas, of the 50 election wards, one ward reserved for Scheduled Tribes (general), 5 wards reserved for Scheduled Castes, among the 5 wards of SCs, 2 wards reserved for SCs-women, 17 wards reserved for Backward Classes, of the 17 wards of BCs, 8 wards reserved for BCs-women. While there are 27 wards allotted for Un-reserved (General), of the 27 wards, 15 wards reserved for Women-general. Therefore, it is observed that overall 25 wards (50 per cent) reserved (2 for SCs-Women, 8 for BCs-Women and 15 wards for Women- general) for only women and the remaining 25 wards are allotted for unreserved (men and women) wards in Karimnagar Municipal Corporation.

### 9. Ramagundam Municipal Corporation

Ramagundam is a Municipal Corporation and city in the Peddapalli district of Telangana state. It is located on the banks of the Godavari River. According to the 2011 Census of India, the city had a population of 229,644, making it the 6<sup>th</sup> most populous in the state. Ramagundam Municipal Corporation has consisted of 50 election wards and democratically elected members, and each election ward has been reserved or allotted for specified category by the state government. The below table shows the particulars of wards reserved/allotted in the Municipal Corporation elections held in 2014.

**Table-3: Reservation for Women in Ramagundam Municipal Corporation**

category	Men/ Women	Women	Total
Scheduled Tribes	01	00	01
Scheduled Castes	06	05	11
Backward Classes	09	08	17
Un-Reserved	09	12	21
Total	25	25	50

Source: Annual Reports, State Election Commission, AP and Telangana

Above table shows about the reservation of wards for various categories particularly women reservation in Ramagundam Municipal Corporation. As per the study, of the total 50 wards, 25 wards reserved for women in Ramagundam Municipal Corporation. Of the 50 election wards, one ward was reserved for Scheduled Tribes (general), whereas 11 wards reserved for Scheduled Castes, among the 11 wards, 5 wards were reserved for SCs -Women, while 17 election wards reserved for Backward Classes, of the 17 wards, 8 wards were reserved for BCs- Women, and remaining 27 election wards have been allotted for Un-Reserved (General), of these 27 wards, 12 wards were reserved for general-women. Therefore, the study indicated that of the 50 election wards, 25 wards (50 per cent) reserved for only women (5 wards for SCs-women, 8 wards for BCs -Women and Un-reserved -Women) and the remaining 25 wards are allotted for Un-Reserved (general) wards in the Ramagundam Municipal Corporation.

#### 10. Nizamabad Municipal Corporation

Nizamabad Municipal Corporation is the third largest city in the state of Telangana, after Hyderabad and Warangal Cities. According to 2011 Census, the Municipal Corporation had a population of 310,467. The Municipal Corporation has consisted of 50 election wards and democratically elected members representing from the ward, and each election ward has been reserved or allotted for specified category by the state government. The below table shows the particulars of wards reserved/allotted in the Municipal Corporation elections held in 2014.

**Tables-4: Reservation for Women in Nizamabad Municipal Corporation**

Sl. No.	category	Men/ Women	Women	Total
1	Scheduled Tribes	01	00	01
2	Scheduled Castes	02	02	04
3	Backward Classes	09	08	17
4	Un-Reserved	13	15	28
5	Total	25	25	50

Source: Annual Reports, State Election Commission, AP and Telangana

Above table shows about the reservation of wards for various categories, particularly women reservation in Nizamabad Municipal Corporation in 2014 elections. As per the study, of the total 50 election wards, 25 wards (50 percent) reserved for women in the Nizamabad Municipal Corporation. Whereas, of these 50 wards, one ward was reserved for Scheduled Tribes (general), and 4 election wards reserved for Scheduled Castes, among the 4 wards, 2 wards reserved for SCs -Women, while 17 election wards reserved for Backward Classes, of the 17 wards, 8 wards reserved for BCs-Women, and remaining 28 election wards allotted for Un-Reserved (General), of the 28 wards, 15 wards reserved for

general women. Therefore, there are overall 25 election wards (50 percent) reserved (2 wards for SCS-Women, 8 wards for BCs-Women, and 15 Wards for Un-reserved -Women) for only women and the remaining 25 wards are reserved/allotted for Un-Reserved (general) wards in Nizamabad Municipal Corporation.

**11. Conclusion:** It is concluded that the office of Mayors of Khammam Municipal Corporation was reserved for Scheduled Tribes (general), the Mayor of Ramagundam Municipal Corporation was reserved for Scheduled Castes, and the Nizamabad Municipal Corporation was reserved for Women-general. Whereas the study found that overall 50 percent of the election wards have been reserved for Women in the three Municipal Corporations. While, of the 50 wards, 25 wards (50 per cent) reserved (2 for SCs-Women, 8 for BCs-Women and 15 wards for Women- general) for only women and the remaining 25 wards are allotted for Un-Reserved (men and women) wards in Karimnagar Municipal Corporation. Of the 50 election wards, 25 wards (50 per cent) reserved for only women (5 wards for SCs-women, 8 wards for BCs -Women and Un-reserved -Women) and the remaining 25 wards are allotted for Un-Reserved (general) wards in Ramagundam Municipal Corporation. Of the 50 election wards, overall 25 wards (50 percent) reserved for women (2 wards for SCS-Women, 8 wards for BCs-Women, and 15 Wards for Un-reserved -Women) and the remaining 25 wards are reserved/allotted for Un-Reserved (general) wards in Nizamabad Municipal Corporation.

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