



A STUDY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF SELECTED WELFARE SCHEMES IMPLEMENTED BY PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

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Abstract

The concept of the commune originated in Roman times, and its development into a legal entity is largely attributable to Roman practices. Many scholars have defined the term "corporation." According to the Encyclopaedia Americana, a municipal corporation is a legal entity that embodies the sovereign power to create a community in a designated area and continues to pursue succession and objectives while enhancing and managing regional affairs under the superior community.

The current study involved socio-economic impact of selected welfare schemes implemented by the Pune Municipal Corporation. It is concerning the execution of social development and welfare programs by the Pune Municipal Corporation and the organization and management of these initiatives. The researcher examined the close relation between social welfare schemes and socio-economic impact on the beneficiaries of the schemes. It assesses examples from various regions with different levels of urbanization, economic strength, and cultural diversity that have made significant progress in their urbanization contexts. The study reviews how these diverse cases have navigated their urban growth, particularly at both regional and local levels. The study highlights the importance of welfare schemes and cooperation among decision-makers, urban development professionals, and citizens to successfully manage urban growth. Additionally, the study recommends several elements that should be incorporated into strategic and spatial development plans, many of which relate to urban growth and management of social welfare schemes.

Keywords: Socio-economic impact, welfare schemes, Pune Municipal Corporation, organization and management, beneficiaries of the schemes, urban growth.

Introduction

A comparable instance in India is the Municipal Corporation of India. In England, the highest tier of organized local government for managing the administrative matters of major cities is the borough. The establishment of city governance in India dates back to 1726 in the municipalities of Calcutta and Bombay, since 1687. It saw enhancements in 1850. The Urban Act, passed by the Government of India, instituted the framework and granted them authority.

The term "municipality" holds various interpretations within our constitutions and charters. In certain instances, it is utilized in the titles of towns, villages, and incorporated cities, indicating its application to any sub-national administrative unit. Its usage can be either strict or flexible in nature. The term "municipal" pertains to the object

administered by a government representing the state. The concept of commercial autonomy has its roots in Roman history. The evolution into a legal entity is significantly influenced by Roman practices. As Rome expanded its influence globally, it learned how to govern effectively without facing complaints from local inhabitants. It addressed this challenge by transforming local cities into administrative representatives of the state. In regions influenced by Rome, cities where the primary city held considerable authority recognized the privileges of that city. The Romans assigned a societal status to their cities, and it is from them that we derived the notion of municipal society.

Significance of the Study

The study has initiated an examination on selected welfare schemes implemented by Pune Municipal Corporation." It is understood that municipal corporations implement a variety of welfare schemes aimed at enhancing the living standards of communities. However, some individuals do not avail themselves of these welfare schemes, while others wish to benefit but face obstacles, or the Municipal Corporation encounters challenges in executing these welfare initiatives. Occasionally, individuals apply for these schemes and receive only financial assistance.

This raises the question of how effective these welfare schemes truly are for society. The study aims to emphasize the impact analysis of specific welfare schemes carried out by the Pune Municipal Corporation.

Statement of Problem

The Pune municipal corporation has launched several welfare programs for the community; however, many residents are unaware and unable to take advantage of these initiatives. Furthermore, the effects of these welfare programs have been beneficial for their socio-economic growth and overall quality of life. The objective of the study is to investigate the execution of these welfare programs and their influence on people's socio-economic advancement.

Objectives of the Study

The study has the below mentioned objectives to achieve:

1. To study the brief overview of Pune Municipal Corporation.
2. To study the Welfare Schemes of Pune Municipal Corporation.
3. To study the impact of selected welfare schemes on the society.

Hypothesis of the Study

The hypotheses of the study is as follows:

Hypothesis

H₀: There is no direct relationship between welfare schemes and socio-economic development of beneficiaries.

H₁: There is direct relationship between welfare schemes and socio-economic development of beneficiaries.

Scope of the study

The Pune Municipal Corporation has rolled out welfare initiatives such as the backward class welfare scheme, youth welfare scheme, Gharta project, night shelter project, day-care center project, children's welfare laws, and disability welfare scheme. Through this research study, the researcher aims to understand the various factors that can influence the implementation of PMC's welfare schemes. Additionally, the researcher will identify the challenges that PMC encounters while executing these welfare initiatives. Consequently, the researcher can recommend that PMC address these issues or challenges to enhance the effective implementation of welfare schemes. The researcher has chosen the following schemes for the current welfare schemes. The researcher has chosen the following schemes for the current study.

- Backward Class Welfare Schemes
- Women and Child Welfare Schemes

Research Methodology

To achieve the full aims of the thesis, both research methodology and literature review are essential. The study incorporates both qualitative and quantitative data. The integration of these two methodologies will form the foundation of the entire thesis. The thesis has developed with the inclusion of both primary and secondary data.

Methods of Data Collection

Both primary and secondary sources are utilized for gathering data. Primary data is obtained through questionnaires and structured inquiries directed at the PMC officers and the beneficiaries of the programs.

a) Primary Data

The major primary source for the thesis is as following.

Questionnaire

In order to ensure this research study is thorough and impartial, additional information is gathered from participants chosen based on their occupation, education, and experience. A structured questionnaire is created for distribution to these participants, and their responses are compiled and analyzed for significant insights.

b) Secondary Data

The phrase "secondary data" describes information that has been gathered for different studies. This data is not obtained directly from the source like primary data. In simpler terms, secondary data consists of information that has already been assembled. Therefore, it may be somewhat less precise than primary data. Secondary data is typically utilized when the timeframe for research is limited, leading to some compromise on the accuracy of the inquiry. This type of data is gathered from various sources, which can be broadly categorized into two types. Secondary data is divided into two categories: official data and unpublished data.

Universe of the Study

The population of beneficiaries of the schemes is indefinite and it is very difficult to decide the sample size for the researcher:

Sampling and Sample Size

Table 1.1.: Respondents Sample Size

Name of the Sample	Universe	Sample Size	Percentage
Beneficiaries of the schemes	Indefinite	385	As Per Formula

Justification of Sample:

Cochran's sample size formula is used.

$$n = \frac{z^2 * \hat{p}(1 - \hat{p})}{\epsilon^2}$$

Where:

- n is the sample size
- z is the z-score
- \hat{p} is the population proportion
- ϵ is the margin of error (confidence interval)

Calculation-

$$n = \frac{1.96^2 * 0.50(1 - 0.50)}{0.05^2}$$

$$n = 385$$

Where:

- $z = 1.96$ (Based on a 5% margin of error. Data are assumed two-tailed (i.e., a margin of error of 2.5% on each end of a normal distribution curve), thus a value of 0.9750 will be looked up within the z-score table.)
- $\hat{p} = 50\%$ or 0.50 (This value is often pulled from previous research/ literature. If unsure, use 50%.)
- $\epsilon = 5\%$ or 0.05 (Same value used to get the z-score estimate but provided as a decimal/

percentage.)

Sampling Method: Convenient Random Sampling Method

The population of beneficiaries of the schemes is indefinite and it is very difficult to decide the sample size for the researcher.

Research Design

The research study involves analytical research that encompasses both quantitative and qualitative aspects. It includes comparisons, numerical data collection, and the gathering of opinions and perspectives from individuals. The research necessitates both primary and secondary data. For the collection of primary data, a structured questionnaire method is employed. The questionnaire has been crafted to align with the specific needs of the research domain throughout the process.

Classes of Respondents

The classes of respondents for the study are as follows:

- Beneficiaries of Welfare Schemes

Statistical Tools

A. Mean and Mean Rank and Median

Mean and Mean Rank and Median are statistical measure which determines specific association of two variables.

B. MANN-WHITNEY TEST: It shows correlation and association between two variables.

Limitations of the Study

The research focuses on a specific group of beneficiaries from certain welfare programs provided by the Pune Municipal Corporation. The researcher has not included every welfare scheme initiated by PMC. A five-year timeframe has been chosen for the study, spanning from the financial year 2019-20 to 2023-24. The research is limited to the Pune Municipal Corporation and the regions it encompasses.

Hypothesis Testing

Research Question: - Does significant association between implementation of schemes of beneficiaries and socio-economic development of beneficiaries.

Statistical Test: MANN-WHITNEY TEST

Variables and Measurement

Independent Variable: Respondent Type (1= Implementation of schemes of beneficiaries, 2= Socio-economic development of beneficiaries)

Dependent Variables: - Reasons for socio-economic development of beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries are offered the following reasons for understanding socio-economic development of beneficiaries. They were further asked to tell what extent they agree to these reasons using a five-point scale (1 = Strongly disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Neither agree nor disagree, 4= Agree and 5 = Strongly agree).

- 1 Information about the specific schemes
- 2 Orientation provided by PMC authority
- 3 Technical Assistance
- 4 Information regarding educational qualifications
- 5 Submission of application for the scheme
- 6 Documents along with the application
- 7 Eligibility for the scheme
- 8 Interview for the scheme
- 9 Opportunities after availing the scheme
- 10 Training time and convenience
- 11 Standard of the training of the scheme

12 Information about Entrepreneurship opportunities

13 Job guidance after training

H₀: Beneficiaries do not differ in perception regarding socio-economic development of beneficiaries.

H₁: Beneficiaries do differ in perception regarding socio-economic development of beneficiaries.

Level of Significance: $\alpha = 0.05$

Table 2. reveals the information about hypothesis testing of the variable. It also indicates that the median, mean rank and p value of the variables.

Table 2 : Hypothesis Testing

Variable	Group	Median	Mean Rank	Mann-Whitney U	Z	P Value	Remark
Information about the specific schemes	Implementati on of schemes of beneficiaries	1	12	63	-1.087	0.375	Do not differ
	Socio-economic development of beneficiaries	2	15				
Orientation provided by PMC authority	Implementati on of schemes of beneficiaries	1	11	54	-1.612	.176	Do not differ
	Socio-economic development of beneficiaries	2	15.50				
Technical Assistance	Implementati on of schemes of beneficiaries	5	14.50	76.50	-.305	.820	Do not differ
	Socio-economic development of beneficiaries	5	13.75				
Information regarding educational qualifications	Implementati on of schemes of beneficiaries	5	23.00	.000	-4.376	.000	Differ
	Socio-economic development	2	9.50				

	of beneficiaries						
Submission of application for the scheme	Implementati on of schemes of beneficiaries	4	23.00	.000	-4.362	.000	Differ
	Socio-economic development of beneficiaries	2	9.50				
Documents along with the application	Implementati on of schemes of beneficiaries	3	8.11	28	-3.026	.005	Differ
	Socio-economic development of beneficiaries	5	16.94				
Eligibility for the scheme	Implementati on of schemes of beneficiaries	2	16.00	63	-1.219	.375	Do not differ
	Socio-economic development of beneficiaries	2	13.00				
Interview for the scheme	Implementati on of schemes of beneficiaries	4	14.00	81	.000	1.000	Do not differ
	Socio-economic development of beneficiaries	4	14.00				
Opportunitie s after availing the scheme	Implementati on of schemes of beneficiaries	2	16.89	55	-1.520	.194	Do not differ
	Socio-economic development of beneficiaries	1	12.56				

Training time and convenience	Implementation of schemes of beneficiaries	2	11.00	54	-1.927	.176	Do not differ
	Socio-economic development of beneficiaries	2	15.50				
Standard of the training of the scheme	Implementation of schemes of beneficiaries	5	13.00	72	-.553	.668	Do not differ
	Socio-economic development of beneficiaries	5	14.50				
Information about Entrepreneurship opportunities	Implementation of schemes of beneficiaries	4	11.50	58.50	-1.359	.253	Do not differ
	Socio-economic development of beneficiaries	4.50	15.25				
Job guidance after training	Implementation of schemes of beneficiaries	5	19.00	36	-2.479	.020	Differ
	Socio-economic development of beneficiaries	4	11.50				

Since, P value is less than level of significance then the 'Null Hypothesis' is rejected hence, it is concluded that reasons for frequency of understanding social and economic impact significantly differ in magnitude.

Observations and Findings

1. Of those who applied for the schemes, 88.32% agreed that the PMC authority provided them with assistance regarding the submission of their application, while 11.68% disagreed, indicating that they did not receive assistance from the PMC authority regarding the submission of their application. Therefore, it can be said that the majority of recipients receive help from the PMC authority while submitting their application for the plan.
2. All beneficiaries (100%) agreed that they must submit supporting documentation with their application for the program. Thus, it can be inferred that all beneficiaries must include supporting documentation with their application for the plan.

3. While 35.06% of the beneficiaries disagreed that they were unaware of their eligibility for the schemes when they applied, 64.94% of the beneficiaries agreed that they were aware of their eligibility at the time of application. Therefore, it can be said that the majority of recipients are aware of their eligibility for the program when they apply for it.

4. While 41.56% of the beneficiaries argued that they were unaware of the scheme's interviews at the time of application, 58.44% of the beneficiaries agreed that they were aware of the interviews. Therefore, it may be inferred that the majority of recipients are aware of the scheme's interviews when they apply for it.

5. Of those who applied for the schemes, 93.50% of the beneficiaries agreed that they were aware of the opportunities after using the program, while 6.50% disputed that they were unaware of the opportunities after using the program. Therefore, it can be said that the majority of recipients are aware of opportunities after using the program when they applied for it.

6 While 48.31% of the beneficiaries disagreed that they were unaware of the training time and convenience when applying for the programs, 51.69% of the beneficiaries acknowledged that they were aware of these factors. Therefore, while applying for the schemes, the majority of the beneficiaries are aware of the training duration and convenience.

7. While 48.31% of the beneficiaries disagreed that they were unaware of the scheme's training standards, 51.69% of the beneficiaries agreed that they were aware of the program's training standards. Therefore, while applying for the schemes, the majority of the beneficiaries are aware of the training duration and convenience.

8. While 22.08% of the beneficiaries disagreed that they were unaware of the information on entrepreneurship potential for the schemes, 77.92% of the beneficiaries agreed that they were aware of the standard of the information. Therefore, it can be said that the majority of the recipients are aware of the schemes' information about entrepreneurship opportunities.

9. While 22.08% of the beneficiaries disagreed that they were unaware of the information on employment guidance following training, 77.92% of the beneficiaries agreed that they were aware of it. Therefore, it can be said that the majority of the recipients are aware of the job guidance that follows training.

Conclusion

As per the findings and suggestion of the study, researcher could derive the following conclusion: Much of the employees of Pune Municipal Corporation were suggested improvement in present social welfare schemes. For enhance the public services of Municipal Corporation, delegation of authority and responsibility should be made in proper way.

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