



Local Government Quarterly

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*A Journal of the
All India Institute of Local Self-Government*

- ★ Petroleum Industry Act of Nigeria: Challenges from a Sociological Theoretical Perspective
- ★ Importance of Good Governance in Indian Democracy
- ★ Assessing Extent of Implementation of the Constitution (Seventy-Fourth) Amendment Act, 1992 in Uttar Pradesh: An Empirical Study
- ★ Need and Significance of the Tools in Social Analysis

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Editorial

Earth overshoot day; a timely warning

'Earth Overshoot Day' occurred on 3rd August this year. This is the date by which humanity's demand for biological resources in a particular year exceeds the amount of resources that the earth is able to generate in that year. In other words, we on earth are consuming resources at a faster rate than what nature is able to generate. Another way of looking at it is that for the remaining of the year, after overshoot day, we are borrowing resources from the future, from future generations. This overshoot day is compiled, calculated and published each year, since early this century. Therefore it is good to see what the dates in earlier years were. Last year, in 2022, it was 28th July and in 2021, it was 29 July. In the pandemic year, 2020, it was 22 August. This is surprising because one had hoped that with the lockdown and much limited economic activity there should have been much less consumption of resources, emissions and so on; however, the situation in the pandemic year was not much better than in the other years. Overall, the overshoot day has remained steady since 2007.

The mechanism of the Earth Overshoot Day is a useful tool to highlight to mankind that its ways are not eco-friendly or sustainable. In fact it is a dire warning and urgent call for reformist action. Humankind has been appropriating to itself the resources of this planet at an alarming and unsustainable pace. Among the key resources that enable life on this planet are – the air we breathe, the soil that enable grow food, water that quenches our thirst and nurtures vegetation, the flora and fauna, and so much more. As a measure to heal the planet, we must strengthen steps all-round across all these areas. Some could be in the following areas:

Water: Given the precarious water situation in most parts of the country and indeed of the world, significant efforts are required in several areas. First and foremost is the need to protect natural water bodies, lakes, ponds and streams, especially those in our larger cities. These are under much danger given the encroachment along their banks, the dumping of all sorts of waste including

construction & demolition (C & D) waste, and rampant over extraction. This is not only very much detrimental to the availability of clean fresh water but also much worrisome since it is often the cause of flooding (due to loss of wetlands) and the resulting loss of lives and property. Water conservation efforts are necessary by all of us. Considering that agriculture accounts for nearly 80 percent of all fresh water use, most efforts are needed here. It is now well-known that improvement in irrigation methods and appropriate crop choice can help rationalize use of fresh water while also protecting farmers' livelihoods and incomes during rain deficient times. All in all, multi-dimensional efforts are required to shore up water security and well-being of future generations.

Food: As is well known, in spite of the remarkable progress made in the past decades by developing countries including India, some sections of the populations in the world remain hungry. Even when hunger is met, there are serious issues of malnutrition and under nutrition. While the journey to a balanced, nutritious diet for all is a long one, some steps could be initiated urgently. Some strategic choices could help across various dimensions. For example, the greater cultivation of millets can meet the nutrition needs of a cross-section of the population. At the same time it can serve to protect farmers from the vagaries of the monsoon since these are robust, resilient and suited for arid and semi-arid regions. Further these are known to prevent soil degradation.

While on the subject of food, it may be worthwhile to promote a more plant-based diet. Our current food systems and dietary choices are increasingly considered as unsustainable and need a relook. We must look for opportunities to foster food literacy and encourage healthy eating options among our populations especially the young. The food we choose to eat has a bearing not only on our own well-being and that of our families, but the well-being of the planet too. It is worthwhile to note that the global production of food is responsible for one-third of all planet heating emissions attributable to human activity. Further, the use of animals for producing meat causes twice the amount of emissions that production of plant-based foods causes. Estimates say that the majority of the cultivable land in the world is being used to feed livestock rather than humans. While food preference is a matter of personal choice, if people were aware of the full impact of an animal based diet versus a plant based one, they might calibrate their preferences in a more rational manner with concern for the environment.

Air: Unlike some other aspects, the matter of clean air (pollutions) is very much on the common man's agenda since the air quality reports of several cities are much in the news on a daily basis and are affecting the lives of citizens more visibly,

say in terms of school shutdowns and traffic restrictions due to poor air quality. Shift to renewable energy is happening at a noteworthy pace to reduce emissions from coal fired power plants and fossil fuel powered mobility in our cities. This transformation towards renewable powered energy will continue with even greater pace in future and will progressively clean up the air. On their part, citizens must take their own steps by preferring walking, cycling, and non-motorised transport options where possible. While curtailing emissions, these could also help ease congestion on streets and improve road safety.

Circular economy: We all need to progressively embrace the principles and practice of a circular economy. That means we must aim to fully use, reuse, repurpose and generally keep things in use for longer so that on the one hand there is less need for new material and on the other, we generate less waste. We in India have been for generations, used to these concepts due to our frugal approach which eschews waste in any case. Take the case of tissue paper, a common cultural baggage of the west – use and throw; versus the cotton handkerchief we prefer to use – use, wash, and reuse. Ditto for kitchen towels. Sadly, a very large number of trees need to be cut each day just to make tissue paper and toilet paper; seems like a phenomenal waste. Plastic use is being gradually curtailed with greater spread of awareness and the urgency of the issue. Several innovative measures are also being unveiled every day for recycling plastic into usable products so that the plastic ending up in landfills is reduced. But we have a long way to go. Considering the very unique and versatile nature of the material, while trying to curtail its use, we need robust mechanisms for proper collection, segregation, and recycling of used plastic. We must ensure that plastic remains in use in the economy for longer and is not leaked into the environment.

While the situation is currently grave, sustained actions by governments, civil society, and the common man can have a positive impact and we can make sure that we leave the planet as a better place for future generations.

Petroleum Industry Act of Nigeria: Challenges from a Sociological Theoretical Perspective

O. G. Igbinomwanhia

Background/Introduction

This paper looks at the potential and inherent challenges laid before the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) of Nigeria. The Act which was recently passed by the former President Mohammadu Buhari's administration, to many, has a lot of prospects and to others faced with potential detrimental constraints and barriers. The success of any national policy and project is often of concern to stake holders and citizens; hence, focus is necessarily given to it by this work.

Profiling the Oil Industry in Nigeria

Looking back at some important dates in inception in the exploration of oil in Nigeria is of significance. The commercial exploration of oil in Nigeria did not take off till after Shell D' Archy (a forerunner of Shell Petroleum Development Company) was licensed in 1938 (Igbinovia 2014). Shell D' Archy by 1956 had discovered the

maiden oil field at Oloibiri in present day Bayelsa state of Nigeria. This culminated in the first oil export that same year. It is also important to note that the first oil shipment was carried out by Shell D'Archy on the 17th of February 1958 (ibid;29). It was not until October 1965 Nigeria could commission its first Oil Refinery in Port Harcourt. This was with the support and efforts by Shell BP. Ever since, crude oil exploration and exportation has been on the increase with Nigeria currently about the sixth largest oil exporter in the world. Not only that, oil has pleasantly arguably come to the rescue of the Nigerian nation over the years spanning more than five decades. The common knowledge is that oil revenue accounts for a critical share of public revenue in Nigeria and that impacts accruing from oil revenue appear to have a significant ramification on national planning, public sector budgets, public sector interventions in the markets and most importantly in the country's socio-

economic performance (Taiwo, 2013). Coming to specifics, oil revenue has continued to be the main stay and backbone of the Nigeria economy contributing on the average about 20% of the country's GDP and 65% of the country's budgetary revenue (CIA, 2007). In fact, oil revenue donates about 95% of the country's export earnings and about 90% of its foreign exchange earnings. Even with the upheavals and fluctuations experienced in recent years within and outside the oil industry in Nigeria, oil still remains the major source of revenue for financing most of the Federal government's programmes, projects and sundry activities. This naturally partially informs the rational for the crafting/drafting of a much desired Petroleum Industry Bill by the government of Nigeria and was eventually signed into an Act just towards the twilight of the former President Mohammadu Buhari's administration. As hinted earlier, this paper presentation is primarily meant to deal with the issues regarding the new Petroleum Industry Act specifically focusing on the challenges that are envisaged in the course of its implementation and in terms of practice.

Petroleum Industry Act of Nigeria and its Attendant Challenges

The Petroleum Industry Act of Nigeria which was recently assented to

by former President Buhari in 2021 no doubt holds far reaching prospects for the country. It is seen by industry experts as a bill that will help turn around the Nigeria oil industry for good especially as the sector is more than ever before expected to perform better to fund the ever growing expenditure of the Federal government of Nigeria.

The Act which replaces the existing Petroleum Act of Nigeria, aims basically to provide legal governance, regulatory and fiscal framework for Nigerian Petroleum Industry. Key areas of the PIA includes – General overview and Implication; Energy transition and the future of energy; Upstream operations; Marginal field operations and local content development; Midstream operations (liquid oil/refining); Downstream and services; Implications for the gas sector; Host community relations, sustainability and the environment; Investment and competitiveness; Deals mergers and acquisition; Monetary and fiscal implications; Banking, finance and Insurance; Financial reporting, valuations and Audit; Transfer pricing; Transition and implementation; and Dispute resolution (Official Gazette of the PIA, 2021). It is projected to reform the industry while helping to boost the latent fortune accruable from the oil deposit in the country in the bid to surpass its current capacity. In fact, it

is the expectation of government and other state actors that if properly executed the PIA will help facilitate Nigeria's economic development more than before by attracting and creating investment opportunities for local and international investors. Nice and good as this seems, but the question need to be asked, how possible will it be for the PIA to achieve its set and projected aims seamlessly? There is the need for stakeholders and critical thinkers to look deep and excavate entrenched challenges that have the potential of constraining the good ideals of the Act in a contemporary world system. It will do us a lot of good to quickly point out and agree that the PIA Act faces some challenges so that stake holders should do well to be circumspect and be aware of what awaits all.

For the purpose of this paper, I choose to consider the envisaged challenges majorly from a sociological theoretical perspective. The reason for this is that most national problems that African and many third world countries suffer are rather sociological than economic as erroneously claimed. Though this is debatable, classical sociological thinkers of the grand theories like Herbert Spencer, Emily Durkheim, Max Weber, Karl Marx and others demonstrated in early post-industrial era that their sociological perspectives and ideas regarding the emerging problems of society like the

ones we have today were effective in proffering enduring solutions and understandings. I will however quickly mention too that post modernism theorists fairly disagree with the claims of the modernists regarding whether or not their ideas about society were perfect and conclusive enough in solving emerging social problems (see Obaro, 2019). But in all, there is a meeting point amongst both dominant theoretical sub-divide that sociological understandings and perspectives should be more basic in approaching most challenges that cause disquiet in society.

The dependency theory is majorly applied here in x-raying the issues at stake regarding the inherent problems anticipated. In this, we look at the problem that will emerge especially in the area of implementation, accomplishment and practice of the PIA 2021. Using this theory which is a strand of under development theories, the challenges identified are classified into three main types, that is, (i) internal (ii) external (iii) and other issues. As a hint, let us be informed that the foundation for most internal problems in third world countries like Nigeria as viewed by the perspective taken in this paper are triggered by external factors and antecedents as held by underdevelopment theories. This gives a fore knowledge why the internal factors that will be reviewed here are

considered to also fall under issues captured by most underdevelopment theories.

Theoretical framework - What is Dependency Theory?

The main exponent of this theory is Andre Frank Gulder. He did much of his work in South America, a once rich region of the world but had its economy frustrated by political manipulations and socio-economic dominance of the developed West as particularly led by the United States of America. Dependency theory suggests that resources flow from a periphery of poor and underdeveloped states to a core of wealthy states of the globe (Gunder Frank 1967) (see, Kay, 1975; Thompson, 2015; Webster, 1990). Gunder Frank (1967) argues existing global socio-economic relations entails a global system of capitalism in which core nations and continents like the USA, the United Kingdom, and Europe exploit what he calls the peripheral nations in Africa, South Asia, Latin America and others (see, Bergesen 2015). Regarding this theory, Leys (1996) stressed global market domination and division of labour favouring the developed North against the interest of developing nations. This sustains the dependency status of poor nations in the global economic relations (Bergesen, 2015).

In Dos Santos's (1970) review attempt, the dependency concept was

presented as reflecting a situation in which the economy of certain countries is conditioned by the development and expansion of another economy to which the former is subjected (see, Igbinomwanhia, 2021). That, the relation of inter-dependency between two or more economies, and between these and world trade, assumes the form of dependency when some countries (the dominant ones) can expand and can be self-sustaining, while other countries (the dependent ones) can do this only as a reflection of that expansion. Contemporary perspectives of dependency reveal the post-colonial forms of dominance among the states (Namkoong, 1999). The theory stressed that developing countries will hardly develop as long as they continue to be dependent on the first world countries many of which they still maintain master-servant relationship with, after years of independence. It summarises that the nature of global arrangement and relations is such that weaker nations of the third world are systematically positioned in a world system framework to be reliant on the rich countries of the world. This is believed by its exponents as posing great limitations to national attempt to grow economically by such developing countries. In essence there is that tendency for most internal national policies like the PIA to fail from the outset especially with the frustrating influence and activities of external

forces notably in the West. Quickly, what translation this has for the subject matter under discussion is that the PIA which is one of the most important Acts in Nigeria today with strategic implication for the country's national growth and development stands to succeed only to the extent which the Western dominant forces would want it to.

Looking Specifically at the Internal Issues/Challenges

The internal issues that may bedevil the PIA could be in the following areas (i) corruption of the political class and bureaucrats (ii) lack of political will on the part of the political class.

Corruption of the Political Class and Bureaucrats

The expectations of the Act which are great and positive may likely be cut short by the action and inaction of the country's political actors and bureaucrats who are argued to be corrupt (Ngwube, and Okoli, 2013; Olaleye-oruene, 1998) and often put their personal interest above that of entire country. The political class which is argued by some to have burgled budgetary, legislative and policy provisions in the past (Ajasafe, 2016; Chigbo 2011) may once again frustrate the Act as they appear to have done previously, when this is to be operationalized. Politicians are often

seen to preoccupy themselves with looting public funds and assets rather than commit to altruist and selfless service for the interest of the nation whenever they found themselves in public offices. Having an unfettered access to the oil money is argued to be the main target of many of them when they aspire to political offices, though this could be subjected to further debate as many see some politicians as truly selfless. Many have demonstrated their greed with the way and manner they have helped mismanage the oil revenue with billions of dollars accruing from oil often diverted into private pockets (Olufemi, 2015). The narrative of the trajectory of the oil industry in Nigeria is replete with lack of accountability with regards to the huge revenue that has accrued over the years.

Politicians in Nigeria are reportedly in the practice of allocating or appropriating oil wells to themselves (ref) even when they do not have the requisite technical and commercial capacity to drill the crude. The process of this allocation is also often argued to be shrouded in malpractices and dishonesty. As usual, corrupt politicians are ready to sacrifice the ideals of the PIA on the altar of greed, self-aggrandizement, and perpetual hold on their political office. This is easy for them to do because though they are responsible for initiating the bill/act, they also possess the powers to

manipulate it to serve their self-interest as the policy makers and implementers (ref). Therefore, it will be very easy for the political elite to rubbish and make a mess of the good intentions of the Act. One key area of the PIA is that which borders on community relations as noted above. But experience has shown that the political class which seems not to have changed in their attitude has burgled efforts to create a peaceful environment for oil investors and their activities to thrive in the past. We are still very much fresh with the memory of how the country's politicians hijacked the amnesty programme initiated by government (the same politicians) for the purpose of making the local people fill the impact of benefits from the crude oil drilled from their local environment (ref). The original intention was to create a peaceful and conducive atmosphere within the industry. It appears that because the politicians who were not supposed to benefit directly from the programme did not fully have their way, they have to abandon the successful implementation of the project thereby rubbing the inherent ideals of the programme as thought from the outset when it was proposed. The implication of this is that cases of youth restiveness and unfriendly community disposition leading to oil pipeline vandalism and bunkering remain a common place especially in the Niger Delta region where most of

the drilling activities are done (see, Adow, 2012; Igbinovia, 2014). This unfortunate incidence no doubt has largely affected the oil revenue expected by the Federal government of Nigeria, oil companies, oil bearing communities and other stake holders within and outside of Nigeria as we are all aware.

Lack of Political Will to Implement the PIA

The key areas of the PIA are critical aspects of the petroleum industry within and outside Nigeria that require strong political will from among the state actors as led by the federal government/presidency to be able to carry through. The inability for government in the past especially with successful implementation of the previous Nigerian petroleum Act is suggestive of the fact that this PIA 2021 may suffer the same fate. Nigeria's political leaders characteristically are lacking in the will to often translate well crafted and well-intended policies into concrete reality.

The ineffective implementation and eventual abandonment of the amnesty programme which was initiated by the late President Umaru Musa Y. Adia's administration by successive government (see, Dokpesi and Igbinomwanhia, 2010), is one clear demonstration of the lack of political will to start a programme/project and

carry it through to logical conclusion in Nigeria. Many poverty alleviation projects initiated in Niger Delta region to support local oil-bearing communities initiated by successive administrations have suffered neglects due to the lack of political will to complete them (ibid). The case of abandonment and neglect of the existing refineries in the country is another indication of the lack of political will by the political authorities to execute and implement fully national projects and policies that were originally well-thought out to achieve desirable success. The Nigeria oil industry suffers great setback in the downstream sector with the inability of authorities to make the country's refinery work. How the PIA intends to accommodate such national state owned refineries and make them relevant in the projected determination of using the Act to turn around the oil industry in the country is what is not yet too clear. Are we expecting a phasing out of the huge monuments or going to give them a revamping in such a way that the country will benefit considerably?

External Factors

For the external factors, the PIA Act 2021 and its tenets will suffer fundamental set-back as it will be frustrated by the vibrations and emissions from the unbalanced, unequal existing global relationship

which makes it difficult for countries of the third world to succeed with most of their national policies as held by the underdevelopment theories. Nigeria for example has some very well enacted policies but these suffer a great deal of implementation problems orchestrated by external forces of the West which makes them to fail. The dependency theory opines that countries that are dependent on other countries can only make economic progress within the permission of the parent countries. In essence, the definition of dependency indicates that the relations between dominant and dependent states are dynamic because the interactions between the two sets of states tend to not only reinforce but also intensify the unequal patterns. Simply put, Dependency Theory attempts to explain the present underdeveloped state of many nations in the world by examining the patterns of interactions among nations and by arguing that inequality among nations is an intrinsic part of those interactions. As suggested earlier, the argument put forward in this respect is:

...those who apply dependency in the analysis of underdevelopment of Third World countries emphasise foreign and political influences which affect local development and reinforce ruling elites at the expense of marginal classes. In essence, developing countries will hardly develop as far as they continue to be dependent on the

first world countries (Namkoong, 1999)

These concepts are basically equivalent to Wallerstein's (1974) concept of core and periphery. The flow of economic surplus in the world economy is from the satellite (or periphery) to the metropolis (or core), and the world-economy is organized to make this happen in this sense. The underdeveloped nations therefore have become and remain underdeveloped because they are economically dominated by developed capitalist nations that have continually been extracting wealth from them. Nigeria being a third world country that is dependent on foreign countries of the developed region in a world system framework, the petroleum industry Act 2021 will face a lot of constraints from external interferences and rejections especially when the interests of the first world are undermined by the tenets of the Act. The overall structure supported by the dependency arrangement in a world system is to serve the interest of the metropolis (rich western countries) first before that of the satellites (third world countries). The pattern often seen is that these developed countries will appear that they support best practices regarding for example, environmental sustainability (which is a key area in the PIA 2021), but when the chips are down they end up encouraging activities that will undermine its

successful implementation. This is especially so when it is for their national interest or the interest of investors from their country.

Other Issues

There is also the challenge of transition to sustainable energy with great preference for environmental friendly green energy. The world is shifting from the reliance on hydro carbon in view of its deadly emissions. Most countries of the world have set dates for the phasing out of the petroleum based energy to power automobiles and heavy industrial machines which is likely to result in lower demand for petroleum products gradually. The question one may ask here is that, how ready is Nigeria? When petroleum is phased out, what happens to its crude oil revenue? Again, how do the people cope with their local energy demands? It is easy for the industrialised advanced first world to say boldly that they are transiting from the use of petroleum energy to clean energy to power their automobiles and heavy duty machineries because they have access to the required technological know-how to accomplish this. But the same cannot be said of third world countries like Nigeria. Developed countries in the West are self-sufficient for example, in the area of electricity power generation and the production of automobile batteries that will be

needed for this transition. The transition process will be a major challenge to the local economy because Nigeria is heavily dependent on the same first world to access the technology. This could likely further impact the fate of the country especially as it relates to its foreign exchange and international relations.

Moreover, sourcing and securing the technology from the developed nations will not be a guaranty of a successful transition. The attitudes and actions of public officials could pose challenges. More than sixty years after independence, Nigeria does not have a stable supply of electricity for basic domestic use let alone for other purposes. Even if the country has to turn to the use of the less carbon-intensive liquefied natural gas (which it has in abundance), the country will still need a huge sum to be able to effect the transition. So, the key area of the PIA that relates to the issue of energy transition is another subject that potentially faces constraints and implementation challenges. Over and above what has been debated, the PIA 2021 itself ordinarily, appears to have created more problems than it hopes to solve. There is the argument that the fact that it provided for double taxation it may discourage further investment from genuine foreign investors. There is now the hydrocarbon tax and the company income tax. This can further shrink revenue sources rather than expand it as argued by state actors, who

asserted that the Act will help turn around the industry and generate improved economic gains from the sector. Secondly, since the Act supports the deregulation of the downstream sector allowing market forces to determine petroleum pump prices, there will be increased prices of petroleum products (as it has already been done) against the interest of low income earners. The implication of this is that the already poor low income earners will become poorer with their earnings unable to cover their bills. This is made worse as prices of petroleum especially automobile fuel, diesel and gas often determine prices of basic needs like foodstuff, housing rent, transportation and other daily needs of the citizenry. The recent jacking up of fuel (PMS, kerosene, diesel and domestic gas) prices has resulted in greater economic hardship for the people. Foodstuffs' prices have correspondingly also gone up, ditto other goods with many now out of the reach of the common man.

Other contentious provisions of the Act also appear to portend grievous backlashes that may hinder progress and could likely throw the country into some crises. The allocation of 3% to host/oil bearing communities (against the 10% that was requested by the people of the area) and 30% to frontal basin states of northern Nigeria is a reflection of what many called the enduring discrimination against host communities. The argument put

forward in this respect is that this may further escalate the already brewing tendencies towards youth restiveness and agitation for secession especially in the southern states of the country. This paper is of the corresponding opinion that this singular provision of the Act is counterproductive and that it represents a recipe for further disunity and animosity among the people of the country. Of course the consequence is that development and progress which the Act is argued to ensure may then become elusive.

The Act seems to have indirectly discouraged the federal government from looking at possibility for diversification of the Nigerian economy. Laying major and further emphasis on oil revenue as the major source of funding the country's expenditure will not promote prospecting into other areas. This could be argued to be a negative side of the Act that may sadly affect the country's GDP in the future rather than ensure accelerated economic development especially with the world shifting gradually away from hydrocarbon as noted earlier in this paper. In the same vein the Act may be faulted as not futuristic by not focusing much on alternative source of energy in its huge and copious provisions.

Conclusion/Suggestions

In conclusion, the Petroleum Industry Act of Nigeria (PIA) 2021, is

an Act established with far reaching positive implications for the oil industry and by extension the growth of the country's economy. It in actual sense has the potentials to turn around the fortunes of the oil industry in the country for the overall interest of the federal government of Nigeria, oil companies, oil bearing communities and other stakeholders. But the inherent challenges and pitfalls foreseeable are quite significant to the extent that everyone needs to be cautious and circumspect in handling the implementation. As mentioned before, the critical issues of the global dependency status of Nigeria as a nation and the local allegedly corrupt political elites and bureaucrats are visible challenges in view. Apart from that there are also sundry challenges which are associated with the nature and focus of some of the items enshrined in the Act which probably need to be revisited.

As a form of suggestion, on a broader note, the country needs to look inward in terms of being self-sufficient rather than continuous dependence on external support from foreign countries (in order to solve local national issues) especially those in the developed West. This will minimise expectations and undue interference from such outside countries who will always want more in return for every bit of assistance they render to third world countries like Nigeria. Secondly,

there is basically the need for a national rebirth in Nigeria. Nigerians both the followers and leaders need to change their attitude towards national life. Deliberate efforts are needed in all earnest towards condemning corruption at all levels. Violators Politicians should be checked and meted out appropriate punishment in order to serve as deterrence to others. Effective administrative mechanisms must also be put in place within existing institutions to prevent wrongful actions by people. This will help to make the PIA 2021 a success to a large extent.

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Importance of Good Governance in Indian Democracy

Jiwan Devi, Deep Kumar

Abstract

Good governance has set off one of the most dominant subjects countries across the globe. Consequently, many countries are trying to pursue and adopt good governance practices according to the established concepts of governance to achieve the desired sustainable growth in economic, social, and political development. The importance of good governance is a concept that has recently come into systematic use in political science, public administration, and more specific development processes. It takes shape alongside comparable concepts and terms such as democracy, civil society, participation, human rights, and social and legitimate development. In the last decade, it has been closely connected with improvement of the public sector. Good Governance can also be considered as part of a development procedure. Good Governance has the utmost implications for equity, poverty

alleviation, and improved standard of living. Good governance refers to structures and processes that are designed to make certain accountability, transparency, responsiveness, rule of law, stability, equity, inclusiveness, empowerment, and broad-based involvement in society. Good governance is also of equal importance, especially e-governance, namely the application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to transform the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of the transaction between government and government agencies, between government and citizens, between government and business, among others. All the time e-governance and government services will be made accessible to citizens in an appropriate, well-organised, and transparent manner. This paper examines the importance of good governance as it has emerged as a powerful idea in the growth of Indian democracy.

Key Words: Governance, development, politics, transparency, equity

Importance of Good Governance in Indian Democracy

The concept of 'Good governance' is a relatively new term that came to the limelight in the 1990s; however, the principle of good governance is not a brand new concept to Indian society. Looking back over the state of affairs in ancient India, it is observed that the King or the head of state was bound by the dharma which was precisely denoted to ensure good governance for the people. 'Rajadharma' was the code of conduct or according to rule of law which was superior to the will of the Ruler. Even in the remarkable epics like Mahabharat and Ramayana the rulers observe the principles of good governance which are more frequently cited in many instances. Arthashastra was written by Kautilya the Minister of the famous King Chandragupta Maurya which is a treasure house filled with precious gems of wisdom. Arthashastra deals extensively with the policies of statecraft and state administration which have wide significance in current times. 'Artha' is defined as the substance well-being of the people living on the earth and 'Shashtra' shows how the state administration should be carried out in the utmost interests of the people. The lead elements of Kautilya's policy are the safeguard, welfare, and prosperity

of the state and its people which is the foremost concern of the ruler. The insight and principles put forward by Kautilya in this Shashtra have general appeal and applicability since it is based upon the basic principles of good governance, accountability, and justice.¹ India is a country of great diversity with varied cultures, dissimilar lifestyles, languages, populations, and states that have different levels of social and economic development. The well-being of a community depends upon the choices made by the people and granted by the authority. The entire idea of good governance is the involved system of governance in which those who are called upon to govern on behalf of the people have the will to give their best, serving and doing good to the people, resolving their problems, and making their lives more livable, and enjoyable. Mahatma Gandhi prescribed the concept 'Ram Rajya' for India established upon the principles of good governance which necessarily meant considering India as a welfare state where the necessities of the down-trodden society, the welfare of the usual, and their progress through native industries would become the hallmark. After independence, the Indian Constitution has also been framed for securing justice, liberty, and equality and empowering weaker sections including women, youth, poor, scheduled castes, and scheduled tribes through making special

provisions in the Indian Constitution. India during the past six decades has accepted that good governance in India aims at the expansion of social and economic opportunities, the eradication of poverty, and the efficient delivery of services at the grassroots.² It implies the promotion of participation, accountability, and effectiveness at all levels. The conception of good governance has appeared as an important ingredient of communication in matters of administration. The matters of good governance are increasingly taking the center stage in development dialogue at local and worldwide levels. On the international site, commitment to good governance is at present seen as key to the success of development purposes. Good governance has also formed a considerable part of the devotion of nations to encourage sustainable growth and human development in each society. It has also been described as governing in a manner essentially free of abuse, and corruption, and with due regard to the rule of law.³ Good governance is recognized as essential for the success of any organization and it is considered more important than ever. Board members of any organization play a very important role in serving the causes and communities they lead. To protect the reputation and values of their organizations they provide a long-term vision. For this purpose, the board needs to have procedures and policies as well and

they need a proper team with good relationships within the organization. Good governance is a widely used term, so it is necessary to understand what good governance is.⁴ If it includes the exercise of authority in managing the resources of a country, then good governance is about making sure that this exercise of power helps to better the standard of life enjoyed by the citizens of the nation.

Research Methodology

The present study is based on secondary data collected from different journals, magazines, websites, etc...

Concept of Good Governance

Good governance as an expression indicates certain value assumptions, whereas governance as a process denotes a value-free exclusion. Good governance is connected with systematic and successful administration in a democratic structure. It is equivalent to intentional and development-focused administration which is committed to improvement in the standard of life of the people. It implies a high level of organizational effectiveness. It also relates to the capacity of the center of power of the political and administrative system to cope with the emerging challenges of society. It refers to the adoption of new values of

governance to establish greater efficiency, legitimacy, and credibility of the system. Good governance is consequently a function of the installation of positive righteousness of administration and the elimination of vices of dysfunctional bind. In short, it must have assigned an effective, reliable, legitimate administrative system nationally friendly, value-caring, and person-sharing. The concept of 'good governance' derives its relevance in the context of misgovernance which includes non-feasance, feasance, and malfeasance. In some countries, the democratic form of government has proved to be ineffective in checking the swindling of public funds for private gains by elected leaders as well as permanent bureaucrats. Misgovernance is often found all around, especially in developing countries, to a significant degree. The notion of good governance becomes attractive as a cure for this state of affairs where it exists.

Importance of Good Governance

- **Participation:** The participation in administration by both men and women is the key cornerstone of good governance. Participation may be direct or indirect.
- **Rule of law:** Good Governance is essential for fair and legal frameworks that are implemented impartially. It also requires the
- protection of human rights, independent and impartial police force, and bureaucracy.
- **Transparency:** It means that information is freely accessible to those who will be affected by such decisions and their enforcement. The Right to Information Act of India plays a very effective role in this regard.
- **Responsiveness:** The concept of good governance requires that institutions and their actions try to serve all stakeholders within an appropriate timeframe.
- **Consensus-oriented:** Good Governance requires reaching a broad consensus in society on what is in the best interest of the community and how this can be achieved sustainably and prudently.
- **Equity and Inclusiveness:** A society's well-being depends on the overall development of its people including women, the poor, as well as economically, and socially backward people without which real progress of the society cannot be achieved. Their proper depiction in the decision-making process is very important.
- **Effectiveness and Efficiency:** Good governance means the processes and institutions produce results that

meet the needs of stakeholders while making the best use of resources at their disposal.⁶

- Accountability: Accountability is a significant requirement of good governance. Every governmental system should be accountable to the people. Accountability cannot be implemented without transparency and the rule of law.

Good Governance of Society

The preliminary shape of good governance is the establishment of the Rule of Law supplanting the rule of impulse and notion of the power. Good governance demands that government must be not only representative but responsive as well to the needs of governing. A strong sense of responsiveness and commitment to serve the governed – the customer, the client of the government - would ensure the efficient delivery of services to the people. Thus, good governance shares or aims at the ethos of a cohesive and responsible democratic society. Good governance provides moral legitimacy, apart from constitutional validity, credibility to the goals as well and instrumentalities of government. Good governance comprehends within itself all sections of governance and all sections and regions of society.⁷ Governance is often described as good governance of society. Good governance itself depends on a range of

factors including administrative capacity, the country's stage of development, the external conditions that it faces, and the state of IT available to it for making decisions. Let us take a look at some of the agenda items of good governance as follows:

- Enhancing effective and efficient administration;
- Enhance the quality of life of citizens;
- Establishing legitimacy and credibility of institutions;
- The potential administration responsiveness, citizen-friendly, and citizen-caring, to ensure accountability;
- Securing freedom of information and expression;
- Reducing the cost of governance;
- Making every department result-oriented;
- Improving the quality of public services;
- Improving productivity of employees;
- Eradication of corruption to re-establish the credibility of government;

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- Removal of arbitrariness in the exercise of authority;
 - Use of IT based services to demystify procedures and improve the citizen-government interface

Enacting a Law on Good Governance

It is high time the government make a law on good governance which will describe the government's commitment to the principles and doctrine of good governance. This is a new concept that will have to be refined over the years, though a beginning can be made without loss of any time. For instance, no one would have thought it mandatory or proper to enact a law on budget management and fiscal responsibility even a decade ago. It was always proclaimed that it was impossible to restrict the freedom of government in these matters and the state cannot be bound by outwardly fixed ceilings such as on borrowings, guarantees, fiscal deficit, revenue deficit, along with others. However such legislations are on the statute books in several countries. Similarly, commitment to good governance needs to be underlined by self-imposed restrictions in suitable legislation enacted for the purposes.⁸ The broad features of such legislation may be along the lines of the recommendations contained in one report. Such legislation will help people judge the performance of the government in power from time to time.

Good governance and Decentralization

Decentralization or transfer of authority and responsibility for public functions from the higher levels of government to intermediate, local government, and the private sector has been a feature of the development discourse for the last three decades. Administrative, fiscal, and market decentralization are concerned with the public sector's efficiency and the delivery of public services, whereas political decentralization refers to the broader transfer of governmental authority and responsibility. The appeal of decentralization stems from its potential to improve state governance through increasing competition, accountability, and flexibility. As such, it is a cross-cutting reform that has a bearing on most aspects of governance. The World Bank has been hesitant in adopting a clear pro-decentralization strategy, recognizing that decentralization can either improve or undermine the state's capability.⁹ Decentralization can improve state effectiveness, but this is dependent on the quality of its design and implementation and on existing institutional capacities. Evidence on the relationship between decentralization and improved governance is ambiguous. Many World Bank studies have found a positive correlation between decentralization and good governance.

Right To Information Act: A Device For Good Governance

The Right to Information Act 2005(RTI) is an Act of the Parliament of India to provide for setting out a practical regime of the right to information for citizens. In the process of these provisions of the Act, any citizen may appeal for information from a public authority (a body of government or influential of state) which is required to respond expeditiously within 30 days time period.¹⁰ Information is an inalienable and natural right of every human being. In a democratic country, each person has the right to freedom of opinion and expression. This right includes the right to hold a public opinion and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas from the public authorities. The available and appropriate information helps citizens to live a dignified life in a civilized society.¹¹ The Right to Information Act 2005 enables every citizen access to public information from government records. Earlier this access was available to citizens of only nine states in the country but with the enforcement of the Central Act on 12th October 2005, this right is now available to every citizen.¹² The freedom of information brings openness in the administration which helps to promote transparency in state affairs, keep the government more accountable, and ultimately reduce corruption.¹³ Governance and

good governance have become the theme, matter of discussion, and deliberations. The government has played a vital role in the life of man. The act and process by which a government governs our people are called governance. The need for good governance is universally accepted. It has identified that the state and its machinery should work for the welfare of the public. Good Governance is the cornerstone of every democracy. Good Governance includes a wide range of issues like economic, political, administrative, and judicial as well.¹⁴ There is a close link between the right to information and good governance. Good governance is making distinctive by transparency, accountability, and responsiveness. In consequence, the citizen's right to information is increasingly being recognized as an important instrument to promote openness, transparency, and accountability in government administration. People are the sole part of a representative form of government.¹⁵ The RTI Act has brewed a quiet social revolution and played a vital role in the governance of the country. RTI users and activists in practically every nook and corner of the country are asking questions on varied subjects.¹⁶ The Act has produced a better impact on the quality of life of the poor and marginalized. During the past five years, the Act has brought positive changes in governance.

Right to Information and Good Governance

The Right to Information Act is a path-making legislation that brings to light the process of administration. It is an adequate means to promote democratic ideology. Good governance is a powerful instrument to fight against corruption. By realizing this significance the Second Administrative Reform Commission prepared a detailed blueprint for revamping the public administrative system. The second Administrative Reform Commission, the government of India has published its first report in —Right to Information: A master key to good governance. Good governance is characterized by transparency and accountability, and the best way to ensure transparency and accountability in governance is through increased and informed participation of people. People are the substantial stakeholders in governance; they have a critical and crucial role to play. So people must have the right to know the activities of the government.

E-Governance

E-Governance effectively delivers, exceptional programming and services in the era of newly emerging information and communication technologies (ICTs), which proclaimed new opportunities for rapid social and economic transformation worldwide. The governments at the national and

state levels seek to harness their potential and create a new dimension of economic and social progress by bringing change in the traditional governance structure to an e-governance system. E-Governance has a direct knock on its citizens who derive benefits through direct transactions with the services provided by the government. However, the process of e-governance requires sustained commitment, political will, and adequate resources which can develop a system of e-governance to make the current policies and practices of government more efficient and effective.¹⁷ E-Governance can renovate the relationship between the public, private sector, and government and enable better policy outcomes, high-quality services, and greater engagements with the citizens of the country.

Right to Information and transparency is work of administration

Participation- The involvement of both men and women is the cornerstone of good governance. Representative democracy does not mean the rule of a chosen few; it must take into account the interest of all sections especially the most vulnerable sections in society. The Right to Information Act gives people a probability to participate not just once in five years, but every day and query any decisions. The Right to

Information Act allows the common man to participate in governance and reduce the imbalance in a power relationship, equips people with a tool to oppose injustice, and allows the mutual spirit to make democracy work for everyone. The Right to Information Act also strengthens grassroots democracy and ensures people's participation in local governance and development activities.

Accessibility - The right to information makes it possible to easily access information from government departments, documents, records, services, finances, and policies for all sections of the community. The Right to Information Act by providing easy access to information reduces the traditional long gap between citizens and administration and thus helps in the nation-building process. The right to know and easy access to government information helps the people to understand the limitations of government at different levels. The availability of information also helps to foster the development process and it is a symptom of a true and mature democracy.

Transparency - Transparency is the landmark of good governance. Transparency means that decisions taken and their enforcement are done in an approach that follows rules and regulations. It also implies that information is freely available and directly accessible to those who will be

affected by such decisions and their enforcement. Transparency and accountability are practicable only when the public has access to information. With the enacting of the Right to Information Act 2005, people are now able to seek information from any government department within a specific time frame. The Right to Information Act is intended to promote accountability and transparency in government by making the process of government decision-making more open. Though some departments of the Union government are exempted from this Act the information can be sought if it is concerned with violation of human rights. Even the information from the private authority can be sought only through the controlling authority and the controlling authority will send the notice to the institution concerned under section 11 of the Act. In inclusion to the citizens are taxpayers, so they have every right to ask the government.

Accountability - Accountability is a further requirement of good governance. Not only the government but the private sector institutions should also be accountable to the people. Information is power and the Right to Information Act brings accountability and transparency to the administration. The Right to Information Act furnishes people with a mechanism to access information, which they can use to hold the

government accountable or to seek an explanation as to why decisions have been taken, by whom, and with what consequences or outcomes. However, accountability cannot be achieved without transparency and rule of law.

Empowerment - Before the enactment of the Right to Information Act, participation in political and economic processes and the ability to make informed choices had been restricted. As a consequence, commoners remained ignorant of various schemes and were unable to resist when their rights become casualty. At the same time, people were ignorant in terms of the ways and means through which they could exercise their entitled rights from the concerned departments legally. Now with the enactment of the Right to Information Act, people can participate in the decision-making process and it enables the citizens to know about the government's decisions. The Right to Information Act empowers people by pulling out unnecessary secrecy surrounding the managerial process of the government.

Equity and Inclusiveness - Fairness is another prominent component of good governance. It implies everybody is a part of the governance and they do not feel excluded from the mainstream of society. The Right to Information Act also does not make any discrimination

and it covers all the citizens in India.¹⁸ It always comes forward to fight against inequality, injustice, and inhuman activity.

Effectiveness and Efficiency-The Seventh feature of good governance is efficiency and effectiveness. The concept of efficiency in good governance covers doing work at first speed and effectiveness means doing things effectively with result orientation. In this connection, the Right to Information Act will bring more effective and efficient record management techniques that are needed to facilitate the provision of information in response to the public interest. In which under the RTI provision 4 (1) it is stated that it is obligatory for the public sector authority to maintain all this records duly cataloged and indexed. Under section 4 (b) —every public authority is requested to publish within 120 days from the enactment of the Act as many as 17 manuals.

Hub of Transparency

There are two separate bodies to hear complaints and appeals under the RTI Act, of 2005. At the central level, there will be the Central Information Commission (CIC) and the State Information Commission (SIC). CIC will deal with the matter of central-level public authorities and SIC state-level public authorities.

Central Information Commission

Section 12 covers the constitutional law of the Central Information Commission (CIC). The Central Government has constituted the body to be well known as CIC. It shall be composed of the Chief Information Commissioner and another Central Information Commissioners (ICs). The general superintendence, direction, and management of the affairs of the CIC shall vest in the Chief Information Commissioner who shall be supported by other Information Commissioners. The headquarters of the CIC will be in Delhi. Chief Information Commissioner and other Information Commissioners shall hold office for a term of five years. CIC and other ICs can be separate as per Section 14. All decision notices need to be collected internally into a central database, so that Commissioners and staff can easily refer back to previous decisions. State Information Commissions have also been set up, thus giving practical shape to the 2005 Right to Information (RTI) Act.¹⁹ The CIC helps in spreading the culture of the public seeking information under the RTI and exposing wrongdoings. When handling cases, Information Commissions must keep in mind the law's objective of promoting open government via maximum disclosure of information and the information disclosure is in the public interest. The Information Commission must remain user-friendly.

State Information Commission

Section 15 provides for the constitution of the State Information Commission (SIC). The State Government constitutes the body to be known as SIC. It shall consist of the State Chief Information Commissioner (SCIC) and other Information Commissioners (ICs) not exceeding ten. The general superintendence, direction, and management of the affairs of the SIC shall vest in the State Chief Information Commissioner who shall be assisted by the other Information Commissioners.²⁰ The headquarters of the SIC will be decided by the state government. State Chief Information Commissioner and other Information Commissioners shall hold office for a term of five years and shall not be eligible for reappointment provided a maximum age of sixty-five years (Section 16). SCIC and other ICs can be removed as per the 17 Section.

Conclusion

Good Governance is a dynamic mechanism of providing fruitful results for governing any system and can enable reform and bring about political and social development; accountability at all levels, transparency, effectiveness, rule of law are important pillars of good governance. It can play the role of bridging the divide between the idea of the common man and those in power (Ruler); moreover misconduct is

exposed and the national attitude remains vigilant against wrong-doing. The RTI encourages democratic ideology by contributing to openness and transparency in the administration. The governments, instead of waiting for the common people to seek the information, must voluntarily make all the information accessible to the people. Summing up, the idea of good governance is to create a healthy atmosphere in society with a development philosophy through the programmes and policies of the governing body with a focus on the prosperity of India and the well-being of its people..

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Assessing Extent of Implementation of The Constitution (Seventy-Fourth) Amendment Act, 1992 in Uttar Pradesh: An Empirical Study

U. B. Singh

Abstract

It is three decades now since the historic 74th Amendment to the Constitution. It is high time to understand its impact on municipal government. This study attempts to assess the status of implementation of provisions of the supreme law of the land in the most populous state having largest municipal network. The analysis is quite glaring. Many of the mandatory provisions namely, constitution of Ward Committee, District Planning Committee and Metropolitan Planning Committee still awaits to see light of the day. The state government is yet to implement the mandatory provisions of the Constitution. The concerned policy-makers must look into it and direct the implementation of the provisions in true spirit, without any further delay.

Key Words: Constitution, 74th CAA, Wards Committee, District Planning Committee, Metropolitan Planning Committee, State Finance Commission

Introduction

Municipal government refers to the third partner in our federal system of governance, at the level of urban local body. Although local government system in the country was indigenously in existence since ages, the advent of foreign traders including Dutch and British in India made every attempt to abolish our indigenous system of local administration, and they succeeded in thrusting their system of administration for their own convenience. The British East India Company established institutions of local administration in major trading towns. Later those institutions flourished under the empire of British Royalty which established a strong network of municipal institutions throughout the country. Even after the Independence of the country, the system introduced by the British continued.

In Independent India, towns and cities contribute substantially to the

economic development of the country. To keep the economic transformation in line with needs, aspirations, and realities at the grass-root level, it is necessary that the people and their representatives are fully involved in the planning and implementation of the policy and programmes at local level. More so, if democracy in the country is to remain strong and stable, its roots must reach to towns and villages and the cities.

The Constitution adopted in 1950 made India a democratic republic. For ensuring a sustained and vibrant democracy, it is necessary to have democratic freedom at all levels of governments - national, state, and local. Hence, democratic institutions were conceived at the grass-root level, i.e. village. The Constitution, however, did not make Local Self-Government in urban areas a clear-cut Constitutional obligation. While the Directive Principles of State Policy refer to the Village *Panchayats*, there is no specific mention to municipality except implicitly in Entry-5 of the List-II State List (Seventh Schedule), which places the subject of 'Local Government' as a responsibility of the State. Article-40 of the Constitution prescribes that-

“40. Organisation of village panchayats - The State shall take steps to organise village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to

enable them to function as units of self-government.”

Entry-5 (List-II State List) of the Constitution reads as under-

“5. Local government, that is to say, the constitution and powers of municipal corporations, improvement trusts, district boards, mining settlement authorities and other local authorities for the purpose of local self-government or village administration.”

Need for Amending the Constitution

As a consequence, democracy in municipal governance was not stable. Though the respective municipal laws of the states provided for regular elections to municipal bodies, they were frequently superseded for indefinite periods of time. This eroded the very basis of local self-government. The general position with regard to financial resources of the municipal bodies was also not satisfactory. Over the years, there was a steady encroachment on the assigned functions and revenues of urban local bodies by specialised agencies (parastatals) created by the state government. As a result, majority of urban local bodies became weak and were not able to perform effectively. This led to a need for initiating some reform measures to safeguard the interests of municipal institutions in the country.

Independent India was initially ruled by a single dominating party, the Congress, consecutively for about four decades. After tragic assassination of Indira Gandhi, in 1984, Rajiv Gandhi took over the reign of the party and also of the country. Political situation in the country at that time was very fragile, as many of the states were governed by the non-Congress parties. It posed a political as well as administrative challenge before him. He therefore wanted to devolve financial power to the people through decentralising power by giving constitutional status to the local government system (loksabhadocs.nic.in).

In this context, for strengthening the urban local governments, the Government introduced the Constitution (sixty fifth) Amendment Bill in the *Lok Sabha*, in July 1989 to constitutionalise municipal institutions and make them more powerful and broad-based. The Bill was passed by the *Lok Sabha* in August 1989; however, in the *Rajya Sabha* it was not approved due to vehement opposition on the ground that it sought to strengthen centralisation in the federal system. The following National Government led by V.P. Singh soon after assuming office in November, 1989 also announced its commitment to take appropriate steps to strengthen the local self-governments. Consequently, a combined Constitution (seventy third) Amendment Bill was introduced in the

Lok Sabha, in September 1990. However, the fall of the government and dissolution of the *Lok Sabha* resulted in the lapse of the Bill. The succeeding Congress Government led by P.V. Narsimha Rao once again considered the importance of matter and introduced the Constitution (seventy third) Amendment Bill, in September 1991, which finally emerged as the Constitution (seventy fourth) Amendment Act, 1992, after attaining the assent of the President (MoHUA, n.d.). This Amendment to the Constitution came into force with effect from 1st June, 1993.

The Constitution (seventy fourth) Amendment Act, 1992 (74th CAA) has introduced a new part namely, Part IX-A in the Constitution, which deals with the issues relating to the municipalities.

The Statement of Objects and Reason, as annexed with the proposed bill and presented by the Union Minister explicitly elaborates the reasons for amending the Constitution for the purposes of strengthening local government in the country. It reads as under-

“In many states local bodies have become weak and ineffective on account of a variety of reasons, including the failure to hold regular elections, prolonged supersession and adequate devolution of powers and

functions. As a result urban local bodies are not able to perform effectively as vibrant democratic units of self-government. Having regard to the inadequacies, it is considered necessary that provisions relating to urban local bodies are incorporated in the Constitution particularly for putting on a firmer footing the relationship between the state government and the urban local bodies with respect to the functions and taxation powers; and arrangements for revenue sharing...”(Kaul,1991).

In order to provide time to allow changes in the then existing laws which were inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution 74th Amendment Act,1992, a transition period of one year was provided to the state governments. The state government of Uttar Pradesh passed the conformatory laws in May, 1994 amending the UP Municipal Corporations Act, 1959, and the UP Municipalities Act, 1916.

In this backdrop, it is high time (after about three decades of amending the Constitution) to study the extent of

implementation of the provisions of the Constitution 74th Amendment, 1992 in the most populous state of Uttar Pradesh having the largest municipal net-work in the country.

Constitution of Municipalities

The Constitution 74th Amendment Act provides for three types of municipalities depending upon size and area namely (i) Municipal Corporation for larger urban area; (ii) Municipal Council for smaller urban area; and *Nagar Panchayat* for transitional area.

Prior to 1992, Uttar Pradesh had *Nagar Mahapalika* (Municipal Corporation), City Board, Municipal Board, Notified Area Committee, and Town Area Committee. Consequent upon the enactment, only three types of municipalities have been formed namely, Nagar Nigam (Municipal Corporation); Nagar *Palika Parishad* (Municipal Council); and *Nagar Panchayat*. Demographic and other conditions, determining the factors for constituting a particular type of municipality are furnished in Table-1.

Table-1: Criteria for Constituting Municipalities

Classification of Urban Areas	Type of Municipality	Population Content	Annual Income (Rs)	Other Criteria
Larger Urban Area	Municipal Corporation (<i>Nagar Nigam</i>)	300,000 and above	-	Other criteria include 75 per cent or more population earning their livelihood from non-agricultural activities; existence of good transport facility, police station, development
Smaller Urban Area	Municipal Council (<i>Nagar Palika Parishad</i>)	100,000-299,999	60.00 lakhs and above	

Transitional Area	Nagar Panchayat	20,000-99,999 in plain areas and 10, 000 in hill areas	30,000 and above	block, commercial centre, school, health centre, electricity, bank, post office, etc
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Source: The Uttar Pradesh Municipal Corporations Act, 1959; The Uttar Pradesh Municipalities Act, 1916; Government of Uttar Pradesh G.O. No.NV7/1813/IX-7-14-10G/2013 dated 1st November 2014; Government of Uttar Pradesh G.O. No.NV-1/2934/IX-1-2014-426 G/14 dated 20th August 2014; Government of Uttar Pradesh G.O. No.60/9-6-2018-181 Misc/2014 dated 03rd April, 2018

Composition of Municipalities

As per 74th CAA, the seats shall be filled by direct elections (Elected Members). Besides, some seats may be filled by nomination of persons having special knowledge and experience in municipal administration (Nominated Members). The State Legislature may, by law, also provide the representation of the Members of the House of People (Lok Sabha) and members of the Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha) of the state representing constituencies which comprise fully or partly the municipal area and also the Members of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) and the Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad) of the state registered as

electors within the municipal area (Ex-officio Members). In addition, the Chairpersons of the Wards Committees are also the members of municipalities having population of three lakhs or more.

In compliance, the state Municipal Acts have made provision accordingly. See Table-2.

For the purpose of direct elections, municipal area is divided into number of wards. The state government issues an exhaustive order for fixing the number of wards in municipalities of different population size before each municipal election.

Table-2: Composition of Municipalities

Municipal Corporation			Municipal Council			Nagar Panchayat		
Members								
Elected	Ex-Officio (Paden)	Nominated (Nam-Nirdishta)	Elected	Ex-Officio (Paden)	Nominated (Nam-Nirdishta)	Elected	Ex-Officio (Paden)	Nominated (Nam-Nirdishta)
60-110	MP, MLA, MLC	5-10	25-55	MP, MLA, MLC	3-5	10-24	MP, MLA, MLC	2-3

Source: Uttar Pradesh Municipal Acts
MP-Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha)
MLA-Member of Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha)
MLC- Member of Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad)

Mode of Selection

The Mayor (Municipal Corporation) or the President (Municipal Council and *Nagar Panchayat*) is elected on the basis of adult franchise by the electors in the municipal area.

Constitution of Wards Committee

The 74th CAA mandates to constitute Wards Committee in the towns having population of three lakhs or more. The Wards Committee may comprise one or more wards.

The municipal laws in the state were again amended, in 2009, and the provision of constituting the Ward Committee in each ward (earlier the provisions were for constituting the committees in group of wards) was incorporated. The Rules were framed, in 2012, and given a final shape, in 2014. But the Ward Committees are still to see the light of the day.

Reservation of Seat

In order to ensure adequate representation of SC/ST and of women in the municipal bodies, provisions have been made for reservation of seats. The proportion of seats to be reserved for SC/ST to the total number of seats shall be the same as the proportion of the population of SC/ST in the municipal area. The reservation would be made in respect of seats to be

filled by direct elections only. Not less than one-third of the total number of seats reserved for SC/ST shall be reserved for women belonging to SC/ST. In respect of women, the seats shall be reserved to the extent of one-third of the total number of seats. This includes seats reserved for women belonging to SC/ST. There will be no bar on State Legislature from making provisions for reservation of seats in favour of backward class of citizens.

In compliance to this provision of the Constitution, the state government, in 1994, enacted the enabling laws providing the reservation to the intended classes of citizens and also framed the Uttar Pradesh Municipality (Reservation and Allotment of Seats and Offices) Rules, 1994 and the Uttar Pradesh Municipal Corporation (Reservation and Allotment of Seats and Offices) Rules, 1994. These Rules have since been revised several times, the latest amendments being made in 2011. The seats are reserved for the SC (Scheduled Castes), the ST (Scheduled Tribes), the Backward Classes and the women. For the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and the Backward Classes reservation is done based on the proportion of their population to the tune of its population in the urban area. In case of the Backward Classes, however, it should not exceed twenty seven per cent of total seats of a municipality. A minimum of one-third

of seats are reserved for the women belonging to these classes. Seats are reserved for women to the tune of a minimum one-third.

In pursuant to the recommendations of the Committee for Reservation to Backward Classes, the government decided to treat District (for *Nagar Panchayats*), Division (for Municipal Councils), and State (for Municipal Corporations) as unit for reserving seats to the citizens of Backward Classes.

The reservation in every election is done on rotation basis.

Duration of Municipality

According to the Constitution, the municipality has a fixed term of five years from the date appointed for its first meeting. Elections to constitute a municipality are required to be completed before the expiration of the duration of the municipality. If the municipality is dissolved before the expiry of five years, the elections for constituting new municipality are required to be completed within a period of six months from the date of its dissolution. If the period of dissolution is less than six months, it is not necessary to hold elections.

Both the Municipal Acts in the state provide that a municipality, unless sooner dissolved, continues for a term of five years from the date appointed for its first meeting and no longer.

Elections to Municipalities

The Constitution mandates that the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to the municipalities shall be vested in the State Election Commission.

In compliance, the State Election Commission, an independent constitutional body was formed in the state on 23rd April 1994. The State Election Commissioner is assisted by one Additional Election Commissioner, three Joint Commissioners, two Officers-on-Special Duty, a Secretary and two Deputy Election Commissioners, and other supporting staff.

Post-74th CAA, however, none of the municipal elections held so far was regular on time. The successive state governments have delayed the elections on one pretext or the other. The date of elections is shown in Table-3.

Table-3: Dates of Municipal Elections Held Post- 74th Caa

First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth
01-12-1995	01-12-2000	14-11-2006	03-03-2012	01-12-2017	04-05-2023

Source: State Election Commission, Uttar Pradesh (<http://sec.up.nic.in>)

Disqualification of Membership

Both the Municipal Acts provide a number of grounds for disqualification of members. In addition, there exists a provision to no-confidence motion against a Mayor; and also grounds on which a President may be removed.

Powers and Functions

All municipalities would be empowered with such powers and responsibilities as may be necessary to enable them to function as effective institutions of self-government. The state legislature may, by law, specify what powers and responsibilities would be given to the municipalities in respect of preparation of plans for economic development and social justice and for implementation of schemes as may be entrusted to them. An illustrative list of functions that may be entrusted to the municipalities has been incorporated as the Twelfth Schedule of the Constitution.

The state municipal laws (the Uttar Pradesh Municipal Corporations Act, 1959 and the Uttar Pradesh Municipalities Act, 1916) provide a plethora of functional responsibilities to the municipalities. The multifarious duties of the municipalities range from regulatory to developmental to social welfare to promotional to planning to communication to public health to conservancy to civic service provider

to public conveniences to education to construction and maintenance to agency functions. The functions entrusted are obligatory and optional, in nature.

As regards assignment of functions listed in the Twelfth Schedule, a number of functions have been devolved but still continue to be performed by other non-municipal agencies. Thus, the discharge of devolved functions is highly restricted.

Power to Impose Taxes by, and Funds of Municipalities

As per the Constitution, it has been left to the state legislature to specify by law matters relating to imposition of taxes-

- Authorise a municipality to levy, collect and appropriate taxes, duties, tolls and fees, etc
- Assign to a municipality such taxes, duties, tolls and fees, etc which could be levied and collected by the state government
- Provide for making such grants-in-aid to the municipalities from the Consolidated Fund of the state
- Provide for constitution of funds for crediting and withdrawal of moneys by the municipality

(i) The Uttar Pradesh Municipal

Corporations Act, 1959 and the Uttar Pradesh Municipalities Act, 1916 provide for a range of taxes, non-taxes and user charges to be levied by the municipalities. This comes under the domain of the state government to authorise the municipalities to levy following taxes and non-taxes.

A perusal of the taxation provisions in the state laws reveals that while power to impose and collect certain taxes is vested with the municipalities, the rates and revision thereof, procedure of collection, ceilings and floors, method of assessment, exemptions, and concessions etc are reserved with government.

- (ii) The state government feels shy in assigning to, or sharing with, any of its taxes.
- (iii) No grant-in-aid is given to the municipalities from the Consolidated Fund of the State.
- (iv) A separate Municipal/Corporation Fund is statutorily maintained by every municipality to which all funds received are credited or expenditure made therefrom.

Finance Commission

The Finance Commission constituted under Article 243-I to review the financial position of the

municipalities and will make recommendations to the Governor as to—

- (a) The principles which should govern—
 - (i) Distribution between the state and municipalities of the net proceeds of the taxes, duties, tolls and fees leviable by the state
 - (ii) Allocation of share of such proceeds between the state and the municipalities
 - (iii) Determination of taxes, duties, tolls and fees to be assigned to, or appropriated by, the municipality
 - (iv) Grants-in-aid from the Consolidated Fund of the state
 - (v) Measures needed to improve the financial position of the municipalities
 - (vi) Any other matter referred by the Governor in the interest of sound finances of the municipalities

In compliance, the Uttar Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act, 1947 provides for the constitution of State Finance Commission every five years. The enabling provisions have also been incorporated in both the Municipal Acts. According to Finance Commission Rules (1994), the Commission has a Chairman and two

other members appointed by the government for a period of one year. A person possessing experience of dealing with public affairs, public policies, public finances and district administration and extensive experience of financial matters relating to local government units can be appointed as Chairman or the Member.

So far, five State Finance Commissions have submitted their reports. The first State Finance

Commission favoured for global sharing rather than sharing specific state taxes. The successive Commissions followed suit. The divisible pool is clearly defined in Terms of Reference as consisting of 'the net proceeds of taxes, duties, tolls and fees'.

As discussed earlier, the successive Commissions have focused mainly on recommending a share out of the Divisible Pool. The pattern is shown in Table-4.

Table-4: Share of Urban Local Government in State Revenue

State Finance Commission	Percentage Share to State's Total Revenue			
	Total (Urban + Rural)		Urban	
	Recommended	Accepted	Recommended	Accepted
First	10.00	11.00	07.00	07.00
Second	12.50	12.50	07.50	07.50
Third	15.00	12.50	09.00	07.50
Fourth	15.00	12.50	09.00	07.50
Fifth	15.00	12.50	08.25	07.50

Source: Action Taken Report of the respective State Finance Commissions

The lack of any previous experience provided the first State Finance Commission to adopt an unscientific manner for devising the share for local government units without analysing the actual requirements including development. The Commission to its own admission,

“arrived at after taking into consideration that these local bodies have been receiving from the state government as recurring grants-in-aid from year to year”.

Assignment or Sharing of Taxes

As regard to assigning any tax, none of the Commissions favoured, on one pretext or the other. The observation made by the first Commission is clear to set its line of thinking:

“As the urban local bodies were not collecting more than 50 or 55 per cent of the current demand of their own taxes, the Commission recommends that assignment of more

taxes and duties to the urban local bodies is not likely to be of great help and it would do more harm than good both to the urban local bodies and state government”.

The successive Commissions followed the same path and suggested various measures for optimising the proceeds of Property Tax.

It seems that the state government has been fully convinced with, and impressed by the observations made by the first Commission, and is neither interested in broadening the tax base of, nor in assigning any state tax to, nor sharing proceeds of any state tax with urban local government.

Grants-in-Aids

The first State Finance Commission set the precedent and proposed,

“to do away with the existing system of grants-in-aid to urban local bodies...” and evolved “a new system of direct devolution of funds to these local bodies”.

The successive Commissions have been concurring with the views and have followed the same path. None of the successive Commissions has so far thought of deviating from the path shown by the first Commission, and municipalities in the state thus have

been kept deprived of any grant out of the Consolidated Fund of the State over and above the devolution fund.

Audit and Accounts

The 74th CAA provides that the maintenance of the accounts of the municipalities and audit shall be done in accordance with the provisions in the state law.

Maintenance of Accounts

In compliance to the provisions of municipal laws, every municipality has to prepare its annual budget, but it is legally required to have a surplus budget. This legal compulsion leads to prepare an unrealistic and imbalanced budget by a municipality in the state.

For maintenance of municipal accounts, the state government has framed the Uttar Pradesh Nagar Nigam Accounts Rules, 1960 applicable to the Municipal Corporations; and the Municipal Accounts Code, 1918 (subsequently rechristened as the U.P. Municipal Accounts Rules, 1918), applicable to the Municipal Councils as well as Nagar Panchayats. Further, in pursuance of the National Municipal Accounting Manual (2004), the state government has adopted the Uttar Pradesh Municipal Accounts Manual, 2018. This uniform Accounting Manual is applicable to all the municipalities in the state.

As directed by the government, the Double Entry Accounting System has been adopted by all classes of municipalities in the state, of course, in phases. Most of the municipalities (barring a few Municipal Corporations) in the state lack capacity and capability necessary for implementation of the Double Entry Accounting System.

Audit of Accounts

As regards audit of accounts, it is observed that good numbers of municipalities (smaller Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchayats) across the state are not regular in getting their accounts audited every year. They seldom show keen interest about serious audit objections.

Committee for District Planning

In the Constitution, provisions have been made for the constitution of a Planning Committee at the district level with a view to consolidating the plans prepared by Panchayats and the Municipalities and preparing an integrated draft development plan for the district as a whole.

In compliance to the mandatory provision made by the supreme law of the land, the state government promulgated an Ordinance, in 1999, for the purpose of constitution of District Planning Committee at the district level. Later on, the Legislature

of the state enacted the Uttar Pradesh District Planning Committee Act, 1999. The government further framed and notified the Uttar Pradesh District Planning Committee Rules, 2008. The U.P. Municipalities Act, 1916 and the U.P. Municipal Corporations Act, 1959 were also amended accordingly and the relevant provisions were incorporated therein.

This is a sorry state of affairs that the District Planning Committees in the state are not even constituted properly and made functional in their truest sense. The existing provision of constituting Zila Niyojan Samiti (District Planning Committee) under the U.P. Kshetra Panchayat and Zila Panchayat Act, 1961 also creates some confusion. More so, there is non-existence of plan-preparation mechanism in the municipalities.

Metropolitan Planning Committee

The 74th CAA mandates that in every metropolitan area, a Metropolitan Planning Committee shall be constituted for preparing a draft development plan for the metropolitan area as a whole.

For the purpose of constituting and making the Metropolitan Planning Committee functional, the state government framed and notified the Uttar Pradesh Metropolitan Planning Committee (Regulation of Procedure

and Execution of its Functions) Rules, 2011.

This mandatory provision of the Constitution has not seen the light of the day. None of the existing metropolitan areas in the state has yet constituted the Metropolitan Planning Committee. Thus the provision is lying in limbo even after three decades.

Summing Up

The conforming legislations were passed by the state legislatures about three decades ago, and many enabling laws/rules/regulations have also been framed and enforced. However, a number of mandatory provisions namely, constitution of Ward Committee, District Planning Committee (establishing a mechanism for planning in urban areas), and Metropolitan Planning Committee are still awaiting proper implementation. The effective implementation of 74th CAA is a sine qua non for strengthening the urban local government. Further, the assignment of functions should follow the suitable functionaries as well. The state government should therefore ensure the implementation of the provisions of the 74th CAA, in spirit. Administrative decentralisation for bringing efficiency, accountability and transparency in municipal administration is necessary besides deepening of democratic traits. Non-constitution of many citizen-centric committees has denied to a great extent

in making the grass-roots urban administration more democratic and participatory. The government thus needs to take necessary action in this regard.

The present state dispensation seems determined to provide sufficient space to urban local government for flourishing and providing quality basic civic services to the people in efficient and transparent manner besides deepening the democracy and decentralise the governance at grass-root level in the state. There seems a ray of hope.

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Need and Significance of the Tools in Social Analysis

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The need and significance of tools in social analysis are multifaceted, addressing the complexities inherent in understanding and interacting with diverse social systems. These tools are essential for several reasons:

1. **Comprehensive Understanding of Social Dynamics:** Social analysis tools help in comprehensively understanding the intricate dynamics of communities and societies. They enable analysts to delve into various social aspects like demographics, cultural norms, economic conditions, and political structures, providing a holistic view of the community being studied.
2. **Identification of Impact:** These tools are critical in identifying the potential impacts of projects or policies on different community groups. By understanding the social fabric, analysts can predict how changes might affect various segments of the population, particularly vulnerable groups such as minorities, the elderly, or the economically disadvantaged.
3. **Effective Planning and Decision Making:** Utilizing social analysis tools aids in informed decision-making and strategic planning. They provide valuable insights that guide the development of initiatives, ensuring that they are culturally sensitive, economically viable, and politically feasible.
4. **Enhancing Community Engagement:** Tools in social analysis facilitate better community engagement by identifying appropriate communication strategies and engagement methods. This leads to more effective and inclusive public participation, ensuring that diverse voices are heard and considered.
5. **Mitigation of Negative Impacts:** These tools help in foreseeing potential negative impacts of a

project, allowing for the development of strategies to mitigate these effects. This is crucial for sustainable development and for maintaining social harmony.

6. Promoting Social Justice and Equity: Through detailed analysis of social structures and dynamics, these tools play a key role in promoting social justice and equity. They help in identifying disparities and injustices, leading to targeted interventions to address these issues.

In summary, tools in social analysis are indispensable for understanding complex social realities, ensuring responsible and effective interventions, and fostering sustainable, equitable development.

Successful implementation of large scale programs requires prior analysis and understanding of community structure, organization and social networks. Systematic sociological analysis facilitates entry process. Survey results would help to build acceptance, participation and to design the programs. Specific methods used to assess the community's social need, organizational resources, and leadership patterns helps in speedy and effectively implementation of the project for this one has to study the community processes thoroughly (Kaplan, R. S., and D. P. Norton. 1996).

Identification of local informer leaders and participation of community has a vital significance in social analysis. Approaches to the study of community should be considered in the context of the project and its nature. One of the important benefits of the community analysis is that it creates "realistic expectations" community wants and needs. Often, community members do not have realistic expectations from ignorance, they expect too little or too much. Often, they simply assume that the collection of data would never contain something of their interests. It is the responsibility of the project implementation agency data to create the most appropriate within the available resources (Bonnet, T. W., and R. L. Olson. 1998). However users and potential users should be told what information to be collected and made available. The local community based organization would be an integral part of the community analysis process, such organization is linked with the community wants and needs. To do this, we need valid, reliable evidence about the nature of the community and how it is changing. We need to make decisions on evidence rather than impressions so that one can prepare a plan and work on it. It could be achieved through "Going to the people, living among them, learning from them, leaving them, planning with them, starting with what they know, building on what they know (Fahey, L. and R. M. Randall. 1998)."

Community analysis is also referred community assessment in different literature, the analysis will attempt to identify and interact with a substantial representation of users and potential users. Hence it is essential to discover socio-economic attributes, interests, needs and wants. Priorities of the analysis should focus on the development which should be accessible to stakeholders. Although the primary focus is to strengthen and justify the relationship between the community and the development activities.

One could make a persuasive argument that these planning elements should logically follow the community analysis. It can also be argued that community analysis comes first and provides broad guidelines which answer the questions as "What community is to be defined" and "who should be served by development"? "who are the potential stakeholders"? "Who are going to get benefits from community analysis"? "who are going to lose and what they are losing"? Certainly, the social analysis needs specific objectives which will focus on socio-economic and environmental conditions of the residents, stakeholders and non-stakeholders (Fahey, L., and R. M. Randall, eds. 1998,1999).

Community analysis may have different approaches, but the focus is similar i. e. identifying particular

major segments of the community and to become familiar with their interests and attributes; and identifying and understanding their needs and wants. The funding organization interested in social analysis may contact individuals or groups to assess the needs and demands of the people. Selecting appropriate methods and framework for analysis is a key of success of social analysis. For this purpose following framework is to be kept in view.

- Is the method appropriate?
- Is it timely?
- Is it cost-effective?
- Who will conduct the study and what expertise is required?
- How much participation is needed?
- What sort of sample is needed?
- What will we do with the results?

Further, the individuals those involved in social analysis must share three essential skills or values:

- Comfortable and competent with numbers and data
- A non-defensive personality and open-minded about how things are and might be
- Somewhat skeptical i.e. looks for evidence to support generalizations.

Though the social analysis methodology varies depending upon time, place and geographical area, the most commonly used methods include:

-
- Use of published data such as Census report
 - Analysis of available data and staff observations.
 - Surveys – (face-to-face)
 - Community or community segment meetings
 - Focus groups.

Interacting with the community and collecting data that is both reliable and valid which requires considerably more time and effort than pulling data from existing content.

In the process of social analysis the leadership is essential. Without the visible, continuing enthusiasm of community leaders, community analysis is not likely to be successful. Success also requires the enthusiasm and commitment of at least one or two information professionals who are willing to do what needs to be done in social analysis. When leaders are active in community affairs and visible to the community, community analysis is likely to get success (Kahane, A. 1998,1999).

Benefits of community analysis are as follows:

- Understanding the potential customers, beneficiaries and stakeholders.
- Opportunity to transform potential users into actual ones
- Better understanding of current content needs and wants

- Better understanding of sources and their use
- Visible community involvement [walking the streets]
- Evaluation of satisfaction with current collections and services
- Provides priorities needed for making difficult decisions when funds limited

Community analysis makes the community more visible when the results shared with the community; it helps the community to understand that it is "their" collection. Gathering current information about the community, its wants and needs, should guarantee that scarce resources are spent on material that will be used and useful. Community analysis is tangible evidence of an accountable organization. During the course of preliminary work the NGO staff interaction with the community, there is ample opportunity to understand the people. Continuing relationships with community and NGOs increases community support (Noonan, P. S., and M. S. Tenaglia. 1998).

Defining the Community

Community analysis begins by delimiting the community. The most obvious approach to delimiting is to use geographic boundaries. **The second method of defining a community** is to include all those affiliated with a particular organization or agency. **Finally**, the recent or

advanced method of defining a community is to include all those interested in a particular subject and with Internet access. This would be "virtual community."

The basic Assumption in social analysis is that: the NGO cannot provide everyone with what they would like to have. Certain people will receive more and others less. Community analysis is designed to insure that scarce resources are allocated in an equitable manner and that the most important needs are met first.

Process of community Analysis:

- A variety of social science research methods need to be used:
- Surveys via questionnaire
- Observation [including walking around the neighborhood]
- Interviews of stakeholders and key persons
- Focus groups of respective category of stakeholders.
- Community data source and information centre.

While undertaking community analysis the local resources will need to be thoughtfully considered. Working with smaller segments of the community at a time will reduce cost time and effort. Successful analysis does require comfort with numeric and textual data in detail. The approaches selected [more is better to confirm]

should be economical, as easy as possible, and provide genuine evidence rather than hearsay or opinion. Community analysis involves working with people. This requires substantial skills and being comfortable and welcoming to people who are different from the typical views.

Data should be gathered carefully and prepared for summarization, analysis [results], and discussion. In particular, different community segments are to be reviewed with some emphasis on users versus non-users. If past studies are available, trend analysis should be undertaken. Stakeholders, especially those likely to get benefit and those who are likely to lose should receive consideration. Typical segment questions might include:

- What are the most important wants?
- What are the most important needs?
- How often do they use the collection?
- If they don't use the collection or use it infrequently, why?
- What other sources are used to meet their content needs?
- How satisfied are they with the collections of information?
- What is their most serious disappointment with the existing collections?

The community analysis process will vary from situation to situation, but here are some examples. The community walk may be an effective introduction where the service area is limited to a neighborhood, a campus, or other smaller site. The focus of the "walk" is to become more familiar with the neighborhood, meet people, and gain some sense of change. Walking through the neighborhood would notice economic conditions (including signs of affluence and poverty), change in racial or ethnic populations as well as families and younger children, and the state of infrastructure.

A literature search, especially of local sources is an obvious first step of information. In Census data, there is often a rich variety of government information available that provides information and data about particular areas, services, and businesses. Such data might focus on demographic data, including social and economic, service which indicates which services are available in the area, geographic and infrastructure data as well as resource data. Basic demographic data is especially useful in planning (Schoemaker, P. J. H. 1998). For example, knowing the number of vulnerable families will help in planning for the economic upliftment. Geographic dispersion is also of interest, i.e. how is the population scattered throughout the area. Often, community development and planning

agencies have already collected useful information.

In summary, we need to be able to answer these questions:

- What kind of a place is this?
- What kind of people work or live here?
- What kind of work do they do?
- Popular leisure-time interests?

Common information and entertainment wants and needs?

- What do they want from the developmental organization?
- How satisfied are they with developmental organization services?
- How has the community changed during the last three years?
- How is the community likely to change during the next three years?

Answers to these questions will need to be related to information-seeking and information use behavior of community therefore: eventually, community analysis will need to deal with these questions:

- What should the collection contain?
- How can we make it more visible to potential users?
- Who will use it?
- What can we do to keep them using the collection?

Community analysis based on evidence

A properly done community analysis should provide evidence that resources are needed and that additional collection development will benefit the community as a whole or an important segment. Findings should be seen as objective, valid and reliable. It is important to be able to demonstrate the community wants/needs the collection; it is not just something that the information professional desires. Both major findings and conclusions must be shared with the community through announcements, reports, and presentations. The intent is to inform and educate the community about current information wants and needs as well as community change. Secondly, such reporting should clearly demonstrate that collections are community-based and flow up from the community rather than down from professionals. "It is your collection." "We care about you and what you want or need." "We want the collection to be current, useful, usable, and used." Thirdly, community analysis usually reveals the need for more material and that creates the need for additional financial resources. Reporting on the community analysis results should be persuasive on the need for more financial support to do what is needed (Butcher, J. 1999).

In any developmental process when a project team is involved in

preparation of the project proposal, designing the project implementation and monitoring or impact evaluation the team must have the knowledge of the following aspects. Particularly if the community assessment is conducted by the professional social worker, he should be able to answer the following questions (Georgantzas, N. C., and W. Acar. 1995).

Project Team Information

1. When do I need to do a social analysis?
2. What should I include in a social analysis?
3. Should social and environment assessment be separate discipline reports?
4. Should I consider combining other related disciplines with social?
5. How should I define the study area?
6. Why do I need to collect demographics?
7. What should I include in the demographics?
8. How detailed should I make the demographics?
9. How do I involve the community and keep them involved?
10. How do I convey technical information to non-technical people?

11. What should I include in my public involvement plan and how should I track it?

12. Should we conduct surveys?

13. How does a public involvement plan relate to social analysis?

14. How we change the public involvement plan?

1. When social analysis is to be conducted?

You have to do the analysis before you undertake the project. The main objective of social analysis is to assess the possible effect on community. These benefits may be positive or negative on the various dimensions of social life, on overall condition of community. To cope with the possible problems that may occur during the course of project implementation or even after completion social analysis is to be undertaken. It is a continuous process which helps to monitor the progress of development (Van der Heiden, K. 1998).

2. What should be included in a social analysis?

The area / fields to be included in social analysis depend upon whether your project has a positive or negative effect on community life, your level of documentation

will vary depending on its implications. For a social analysis, you should always discuss what current community cohesion is as well as any effects on community cohesion. This means division of the community, separation or elimination of services, relocations, business effects, noise and recreation effects. If your project would affect the livability of the community, it probably will affect the community cohesion.

3. Should social and environmental assessment be separate discipline reports?

It is easier for the reviewer, to incorporate the environmental analysis into the social analysis in environmental document. If you prepare two separate reports, you will find a great deal of repetition between them, since so much of the information is the same. Do make sure whichever approach you use that the reader can understand how you arrived at the conclusions.

4. Should I consider combining other related disciplines with social?

Since doing a comprehensive social analysis requires reference to other related disciplines, it is a natural for a combined discipline report. Most common is a combination with economic and environmental justice.

5. How should I define the study area?

You should define your social study area to be large enough to include most of the direct and indirect effects, which would potentially affect the social environment. A study area for assessment should always be the same as for social. Illustrate the study area by using maps in your document.

6. Why do I need to collect demographics?

There are two reasons for collecting demographics:

To determine if there are potentially affected populations within the study area.

To support the projects with public involvement plan.

7. What should I include in the demographics?

Your demographics should include minorities, low-income, disabled and elderly at a minimum. You also might want to include data on land / assets ownership which would show transit dependency, owners and renters, and age distribution, income levels, employment status, and other special sub-populations. You can use these demographics to improve your public involvement

plan, as well as for your social analysis.

8. How detailed should I make the demographics?

Generally, you should use the smallest geographic unit for which data is available. This would usually be the block. Since not all information is available at the block level, for consistency sake, using block groups is usually best. However, block level data can give some valuable information. For instance, block level data might show a concentration of a specific ethnic population. This information might change the type of outreach you would do in that area and probably where you would locate it.

9. How do I involve the community and keep them involved?

After getting some ideas from public by using data sources you should meet with community, neighborhood and civic groups to find out more about them: how they communicate, their interests, and how you can best involve them. Do not assume that your public involvement will be successful if all you do is the usual public open house meetings. Get creative, but take your clues from the community. By meeting with community leaders and social service organizations, you can learn

how best to communicate with differing groups of people and gather a wealth of information. Early, continuous and inclusive involvement helps gain confidence, build trust and decrease any controversy. If people feel that you are truly listening to their needs and concerns early enough in the process that it can make a difference, you will gain a lot of support.

10. How do I convey technical information to non-technical people?

For effective communication following are the tips.

- Stay away from acronyms.
- Use visuals when possible.
- Avoid technical terms. If you cannot find another word or phrase in place of the term, then footnote the word (or phrase) and give an explanation.
- Use relatively short sentences.
- Be clear about your message.
- Use the active voice. It's more direct and concise than the passive voice.
- Write short sections and separate them with headings.

11. What should I include in my public involvement plan and how should I track it?

Your public involvement plan should identify whom to involve,

what needs to be done to involve the public, where you will hold any meetings, a timeline for when activities will take place, how you will use strategies to involve the affected public, and a budget. Consider your project schedule and budget constraints. In addition, you should address regulatory requirements.

Make sure you:

Retain copies of all meeting materials, press releases, public materials such as brochures or websites, traffic to the website, responses to surveys, public comment from all contacts. Record any targeted outreach done (Godet, M., and F. Roubelat. 1985). Document as much content as possible from your public meetings and summarize any issues.

Include in your meeting summaries such things as the purpose of the meeting, number of attendees, whether attendees were reflective of the local community, minority composition as known, whether you used interpreters, any action items, issues discussed, and lessons learned. The project team also should set up a tracking system early in the project to track comments and responses, including responses and who responded. The system you use should enable you to identify issues so you can track them and evaluate your process.

12. Should we conduct surveys?

Sometimes you will find a survey is an appropriate tool. Other times other tools may be more effective. The methods you use to communicate with people and gather information about the community will vary from project to project. Using a survey is an excellent way to obtain information about people who are not likely to attend or to speak out in a public workshop. Surveys can be written or oral interviews.

13. How does a public involvement plan relate to social analysis?

For a social analysis, you need information from public involvement. It is through public involvement that you can really understand who you are affecting and how. This information will enrich your social analysis by helping you to understand the communities the project will affect including how cohesive they are.

A brief summary of the project's outreach strategies to the community.

A summary of results of outreach efforts to the community, and Cross reference sections of the document where this information can be found. You should mention any targeted outreach done as well as its

results. The community can help to define whether an effect is adverse or not and give ideas for mitigation. If listened to early in the process, they may have creative ideas that will help create a better project. These ideas can provide valuable information for your social analysis. In most cases, you would not include individual comments in your document.

14. Should we change the public involvement plan?

The public involvement plan should be a living document. As you learn more about the affected community, adjust your strategies to ensure that they are inclusive and appropriate to the community. If workshop attendance is not reflective of the community, you should evaluate and consider changing your outreach strategies. You may need to do targeted outreach to make sure that you include individuals who normally might not participate due to language or cultural differences.

Evaluate your public involvement methods periodically to determine if you need to change your plan. Ask the following questions.

- Is the entire project community participating in public involvement activities?

-
- Are you employing the appropriate communication techniques?
 - Are community comments relevant to the project? Are they realistic and appropriate to the project phase?
 - Are there significant unresolved issues on the project?

Doing a Social Analysis

1. Where does the process start and what are the basic components of conducting a social analysis?
2. What methodology should I use to conduct a social analysis?
3. What type of data should I gather?
4. What data sources should I use?
5. How do I gather demographic data?
6. What is community cohesion and how do I measure it?
7. Does a social analysis focus only on residential effects?
8. What if a project has only business effects, do I have to discuss cohesion?
9. How should we display demographics?
10. How can we integrate demographics into a public involvement plan?

11. Do we need to coordinate between discipline reports?
12. Do we need ongoing coordination with public involvement?
13. How should I determine appropriate avoidance, minimization, mitigation and enhancement measures?
14. What kind of documentation do I need to do?

1. Where does the process start and what are the basic components of conducting a social analysis?

Although you may find some information gathered by planners useful, you will do most of your groundwork as you develop the scope of work for the project. You will need to start with some basic questions:

- What data will I need for the analysis and what will my sources be?
- What are the basic components of conducting a social analysis?
- Describe the proposed Project.
- State why you are doing the analysis. Include applicable laws and regulations.
- Determine and discuss how you will conduct the analysis.

-
- Identify the study area for your analysis.
 - Identify the study area's demographics. (Make sure you use at least two data sources.)
 - Describe the affected area including current community cohesion. Identify important social resources, such as community gathering places, religious institutions, schools, service agencies.
 - Document the public outreach process.
 - Identify and compare anticipated effects on the community including the no build.
 - Summarize effects, both adverse and beneficial.
 - Determine the anticipated effect on the community especially effects on cohesion.
 - Identify any appropriate mitigation/enhancements.
 - Document your data sources.

2. What methodology should I use to conduct a social analysis?

Tailor your specific approach to the unique circumstances of each project and those affected by it. Your methodology should be

consistent with that which will provide a consistent framework for both preparing an analysis and effective public involvement strategies.

3. What type of data should I gather?

For a social analysis, you need at least two kinds of demographic information. Gather data on minorities, including, low-income, disabled, and elderly. Sometimes it is valuable to look at households without basic amenities, since it will indicate numbers of transit dependent. Include any other similar data sets that will help to "paint a picture" of the affected communities (Schwartz, P., and J. A. Ogilvy. 1998). Also, gather demographic information on the areas just outside the study area. Nearby demographic data has more meaning than city or county data. Don't bother to include state demographics.

4. What data sources should I use?

You need to answer: What are the populations within your study area? Use Census data to start. Since detailed Census data is only gathered every 10 years, also examine other data sources that could help determine the existence of populations within the study areas (e.g. public school data, social service NGO data).

5. How do I gather demographic data?

The census website can be difficult to navigate. If you need help, take the help of NSSO for a secondary data source. You can also gather information from the Govt as well as Pvt. website to get a better picture of the area. Next, you need to determine what the cohesion of the community is. Although you can extract some of this information from the community.

What is community cohesion and how do I measure it?

Community cohesion is the ability of people to communicate and interact with each other in ways that lead to a sense of community, as reflected in the neighborhood's ability to function and be recognized as a singular unit. To determine the cohesion of the community, you need to look at factors such as

- How walkable is the community?
- How transient is the neighborhood?
- Are there community-gathering places community centers that enable neighbors to get to know each other?
- Are there community events? All of these are factors in determining the cohesiveness of a community. Your description of community

cohesion will help to see the situation favorable for project.

Determine if cohesion is high, medium or low based on the above factors and your best judgment. You will need to determine how the project will affect cohesion by looking at how the project will affect each factor.

6. Does a social analysis focus only on residential effects?

A social analysis includes more than residential effects. At the very least, you will need to look at how changes in social resources might affect the community. Will the project affect the important service or product to the local neighborhood? Will the project affect religious institutions or social services? If so, you need to document those effects in the social analysis.

7. What if a project only has business effects, do I have to discuss cohesion?

You do not need to discuss cohesion or effects on cohesion if there are no residential effects. However if your project would divide or separate an adjacent unaffected residential area(s) from businesses or services, make sure you discuss that. If not, then say so in your document so the reader will

know there is no new division or separation.

8. How should we display demographics?

A visual display of study area demographics is the most useful. Maps are also very useful during outreach. Visuals can help identify effects in relation to the surrounding community. The reader will gain a lot of information from an overlay of where social resources are located and the study area.

9. How do we integrate demographics into a public involvement plan?

Demographic analysis should be part of the foundation upon which your public involvement plan is developed. For social analysis purposes, your demographic analysis should include minorities and low-income groups. For the rest of your social analysis, you should include other pertinent elements like English proficiency, income, disabilities, age, employment status, transit dependency etc. These demographics will not only help with public involvement, but will contribute to your project's social impact assessment.

10. Do we need to coordinate between discipline reports?

The writer of the social analysis needs to coordinate with other related disciplines to obtain important information on how the project will benefit or affect people. The most important part of this document will be the effects section. To clearly understand how the project will affect people, you will need information from those related disciplines. Most commonly, those disciplines are relocations, economics (if separate), noise, air quality, transportation, parks and recreation and public utilities. You may also need to review cultural resources, visual and hazardous materials reports (Ringland, G. 1998). Do not complete your social analysis until information from these other areas is available or you will not be able to give a complete picture of how the project will affect the human environment.

11. Do we need ongoing coordination with public involvement?

As the public submits comments, you should track and distribute these comments to the correct technical person on the project team, and address them appropriately. These comments will help you to understand how the community is affected and give you insight into potential mitigation measures, benefits, and

enhancements. As you develop your technical reports, you need to determine whom the proposed project will affect and create a dialogue with them. Work with your public involvement coordinator. This work may help refine your demographics in those potentially affected areas.

12. How should I determine appropriate avoidance, minimization, and mitigation and enhancement measures?

Along with the technical recommendations, information from public outreach can be very effective in determining the most appropriate avoidance, minimization, mitigation and enhancement measures.

13. What kind of documentation do I need to do?

Supply enough documentation to support your finding. This may involve cross-referencing other reports, summarizing analysis, and providing maps or tables. How you document your finding will be partially dependent on how you structure your analysis – as a separate discipline study, or combined.

Project Description

- Describe briefly the project, its purpose, need, and location.

- Describe the type of environmental assessment document being developed for the project
- Regulations, Methods and Coordination
- Document that the analysis is being done in accordance with appropriate laws, regulations, and guidance.
- Document data sources and methods.
- Document outreach strategy.
- Describe outreach efforts results.
- Document community perception (+/-) of effects/benefits and severity.
- Document community perception of suitability of mitigation proposed.
- Describe methods used to overcome potential outreach barriers such as use of interpreters, materials in other languages, and specific outreach due to cultural differences.

Summarize any changes to outreach to improve participation.

- Affected Environment
- Describe the study area and the rationale for its boundary.
- Describe the areas surrounding the study area.
- Describe affected neighborhoods and current community cohesion. Include demographics.
- Describe any past effects such as a prior division of the community or

other actions that have affected the community.

- Effects and Benefits Analysis
- Document the effects of each alternative, on the social elements.
- Describe any adverse effects on the social conditions including any changes to community cohesion.
- Discuss alternatives that avoid, minimize, or mitigate such effects.
- Describe any offsetting benefits.
- Describe appropriate avoidance, minimization, mitigation and enhancement measures.

Summary

Social analysis is essential for assessing a project's impact on communities, which can be either positive or negative. It should be conducted before the project begins and is a continuous process to monitor development progress. The analysis should include the effects on community cohesion, considering factors like community division, service disruptions, relocations, business impacts, and noise. It's advisable to integrate environmental analysis with social analysis to avoid repetition, as they often share information.

A comprehensive social analysis often involves related disciplines, especially economic and environmental justice. The study area for the analysis should be broad

enough to encompass all direct and indirect effects on the social environment, and should be clearly illustrated with maps. Collecting demographics is crucial to identify potentially affected populations and support public involvement plans. Demographics should include data on minorities, low-income groups, the disabled, the elderly, and details on land/assets ownership.

Community involvement is key, requiring engagement with local groups to understand their communication styles, interests, and involvement methods. Avoid relying solely on public meetings; instead, use creative and community-driven approaches. Clearly communicating technical information to non-technical audiences is vital, avoiding acronyms and technical terms, and using visuals and short, clear sentences.

Your public involvement plan should be comprehensive and adaptable, covering who to involve, the timeline, strategies, and budget. Document all public interaction and periodically evaluate and adjust the plan based on community feedback and involvement. Surveys can be an effective tool for gathering information, especially from those unlikely to attend public workshops. Public involvement is integral to social analysis, providing insights into community impacts and cohesion. Any

changes or effects on the community, including adverse impacts and mitigation strategies, should be well-documented.

When conducting a social analysis, start by defining the project and determining the required data and methodology. The analysis should include demographic data, community cohesion assessment, and consider both residential and business impacts. Visual displays like maps can effectively present demographics, which should inform the public involvement plan. Coordination between different discipline reports is necessary, as is ongoing coordination with public involvement. This helps in understanding community impacts and devising suitable mitigation measures. Finally, thorough documentation is required to support findings, including detailed project descriptions, effects and benefits analysis, and community perceptions.

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Report Review

The State of Food and Security Nutrition in the World 2023

Read the full report here:

<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en?details=cc3017en>

The report is jointly authored by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The latest 2023 edition of this Report is an interesting presentation.

The Foreword begins on a grim note stating that if we do not redouble and better target our efforts, then the SDG Goal 2 of ending hunger, achieve food security and end malnutrition by 2030 will remain out of reach. In other words, the progress so far with respect to this goal has been less than satisfactory. The authors observe that though the world is recovering from the pandemic, this recovery is uneven; at the same time the war in Ukraine is shaking up the food and energy markets. Estimates put the number of

hungry in the world at between 690 and 783 million in 2022, that is, 122 million more than before the pandemic. While noting that the SDG Goal 2 is a 'daunting challenge' the authors predict that in 2030, 600 million people would still be facing hunger; 119 million more than in a scenario where neither the pandemic nor the Ukraine war had occurred. In addition to hunger, the Foreword notes, that during 2022, about 2.4 billion people, more women and rural folk, lacked access to nutritious, safe and sufficient food all year round. The pandemic adversely impacted people's incomes while inflation made a healthy diet dearer.

The increasing impacts of conflicts, climate extremes, and economic slowdowns have been mentioned. In addition, the authors point to other important megatrends. Urbanisation is one such megatrend which is now creating a sort of continuum where urban and rural are no more distinct silos. The consumption of processed foods, for example, is increasing across the spectrum. Our policy interventions will have to take into account the complex interactions in the agri-food systems.

Key Messages

The section titled Key Messages gives one a gist of the findings of the report. Among them are: global hunger is far above pre-pandemic levels -

affecting 9.2 percent of the population in 2022 against 7.9 percent in 2019;

From 2021 to 2022, there has been progress towards reducing hunger in Asia and in Latin America, but hunger is still on the rise in Western Asia, the Caribbean and all sub-regions of Africa;

Almost 600 million people will be chronically undernourished in 2030 – about 119 million more than in a scenario in which neither the pandemic nor the war in Ukraine had occurred;

Worldwide, food insecurity disproportionately affects women and people living in rural areas. The gender gap which had widened during the Pandemic, has now narrowed;

Child overweight and low birthweight have not improved and prevalence of wasting is twice the 2030 target;

Increasing urbanisation is driving changes in agrifood systems which presents challenges as well as opportunities;

The affordability of a healthy diet is more critical to households living in peri-urban and rural areas;

Executive Summary

The Executive Summary sets out in some detail, the findings and analysis contained in the report.

It points out that as mentioned in previous editions of the report, conflict, climate extremes, economic slowdowns and downturns, as well as growing inequality are the major drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition that are affecting our efforts in achieving the SDGs. Alongside are other megatrends, one of which is increased urbanisation.

While the world is recovering from the pandemic it is now being confronted with the war in Ukraine which has resulted in rising food and energy prices. While overall there has not been much change in the global level of hunger, regional disparities can be seen. While there is progress in Asia and Latin America, Africa, the Caribbean and western Asia are still seeing a rise. Based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), estimates suggest that in 2022, no progress was made. Using another index it is found that at the global level, food security improves as the degree of urbanization increases. Further the Summary explains that food insecurity among adult women was higher than males across all regions.

Discussing affordability, the Summary explains the situation during the pandemic and later stating the increases during the years 2020 and 2021. Further, the Executive Summary discusses various dimensions of malnutrition including stunting, wasting, and overweight among

children under five years as also exclusive breastfeeding and low birthweight.

In later paragraphs, the urbanisation trend is discussed. While discussing the reasons for increased urbanisation, the authors also state that the definition between urban, peri-urban, and rural is getting blurred. There is a linkage between urbanisation and agrifood systems changes and how these affect the availability and affordability of a healthy diet and therefore food security and nutrition. Changing food preferences towards market-purchased (processed) food as against home made foods are growing in urban and rural areas. Further, while high share of food purchases is expected in urban areas, it is surprisingly high for rural areas too.

Next are discussed the possible policy initiatives that could be put in place to ensure a healthy diet. Here there is discussion on the need to plug infrastructure and regulatory gaps with respect to the preparation, storage and consumption of street food. Also discussed are technology and innovation aspects in preparing safe and healthy, nutritious food. For example given the increasing preference for pre-prepared and packaged foods, innovations in packaging could help preserve the freshness and nutritional values of such foods.

A few concluding paragraphs sum up the Executive Summary.

The Chapter 1 is titled **Introduction**. It is a brief chapter which points out the drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition. These, as in the past, are conflicts, climate change, economic slowdowns and downturns and inequality. Urbanisation is mentioned as an important megatrend. This results in changes in the composition of the population – urban and rural – which in turn drive changes in the entire agrifood system creating challenges as well as opportunities. These require policy interventions. It covers the trends in urbanisation as well as the reasons for this phenomenon gaining much momentum in many parts of the world.

Chapter 2 is titled **Food Security and Nutrition around the World**.

This Chapter covers various aspects such as

- a) Food Security Indicators – latest updates and progress towards ending hunger and ensuring Food. Here, data with respect to prevalence of undernourishment is tabulated for various regions of the world during the period 2005 to 2022. As per this table, the African region is the worst affected. Another table provides figures stating where the undernourished people live. Several other tables, charts, graphs and tables bring alive the data related to this subject.

b) Cost and affordability of a healthy diet – Here too various tables and charts depict the numbers of people unable to afford a healthy diet in various regions of the world.

c) The state of nutrition - progress towards global nutrition targets

Chapter 3 is titled **Urbanisation is transforming agrifood systems and affecting access to affordable, healthy diets across the rural-urban continuum**. It looks at this megatrend urbanisation and its role in the access to food. There are several key messages at the beginning which give a glimpse of the subject. It goes on to discuss;

- a) Drivers, patterns and dynamics of urbanization
- b) Its effects on agrifood systems, creating challenges and opportunities to ensure access to affordable healthy diets

Chapter 4 is titled **The interplay of food supply and demand and the cost and affordability of healthy diets across the rural-urban continuum**. This Chapter contains the following important takeaways:

- a) While high share of food purchases (as against home-made food) is to be expected among urban households, the same is also true of rural households. Average share of own production of food comprises

only 37 and 33 percent of total household food consumption in high and low food budget countries respectively.

b) The diffusion of processed and highly processed is already high in Asia and Latin America. It is spreading quickly in Africa too, across the rural-urban continuum, even in remote areas.

c) The higher cost of animal source foods, compared to the other food groups, drives up the cost of a healthy diet across the rural-urban continuum

d) In the 11 countries of Africa studied, the cost of a healthy diet exceeds average food expenditure for low and middle income households

There is a detailed analysis of select countries on these aspects depicted in charts.

Chapter 5 is titled **Policies and Solutions to leverage Agrifood Systems Transformation for Healthy Diets across the rural-urban continuum**.

- a) Considering the gradual convergence in dietary patterns across the rural-urban continuum, including the consumption of highly processed foods, policies and legislation are needed to

promote healthy food environments, both formal and informal, and to empower consumers to make nutritious food choices.

- b) Public investment in research and development needs to be increased to develop technologies and innovations to create healthier food environments and increase the availability and affordability of nutritious foods.
- c) There is much detailed analysis of food supply chain and food production related technologies and innovations in these pages.

Chapter 6 is the **Conclusion** of the Report. Further pages contain Annexures having detailed tables with data as well as the description of the methodologies used in the report.

This latest edition of the Report is a valuable document for policymakers and administrations working in the field of food and nutrition. While providing useful insights into the subject especially with respect to the developing world countries, there are also provided policy approaches to address the challenges and leverage the opportunities.

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OBJECTIVES

The main emphasis of the Institute's work is to see that the local bodies can contribute more effectively to the development process and provide the citizens with better living conditions by meeting their aspirations in terms of required amenities, infrastructure and better environmental conditions, thus contributing to social and economic development of the society as a whole by better management of the human settlements. While these are the long-term objectives, the immediate ones are:

- ❖ To advance knowledge of the principles and practices of Local Government by conducting research and by organising training courses and programmes at various centres in India for officials and elected representatives in the local bodies.
- ❖ To strengthen and improve Local Government Institutions by improving their performance through education, orientation and bringing them together for common endeavor by organising specialised conferences, conventions and seminars.
- ❖ To make available a platform for members of local bodies and officials for exchange of views and ideas related to urban development and administration.
- ❖ To represent the views of local authorities supported by research work to the concerned higher authorities from time to time.
- ❖ To publish bibliographies, articles, books and other literature on matters of interest to local bodies.
- ❖ To publish journals, bulletins and other literature on different aspects of Local Government and on the working of Local bodies in different states.
- ❖ To undertake research studies in public administration, problems of local bodies and also in related topics of urban and environmental factors and arrange for their publication etc.
- ❖ To establish and maintain an information-cum-documentation service for local bodies.
- ❖ To undertake consultancy assignments in various areas of urban development and problems of local bodies with a view to improve and develop organisational, managerial and operational efficiency.

In view of the above, the Institute has been collaborating with the relevant government departments, Central and State, Universities, Organisations and Research Institutions. The work of the Institute covers several aspects involving a multi-disciplinary teamwork.

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