Promotion of Local Leadership in Local Political Institutions: The Emerging Issues

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Abstract

Realizing the importance of an effective local leadership towards delivering the core of local government mandate is a very delicate issue as the local Governments across India face several challenges. There is a need for an effective strategy formulation towards capacity building of political leadership to effectively lead and engage communities in policy making & decision making. This paper looks at the challenges faced by local communities in managing the local revenue, local problems, and local community issues. This paper spotlights the need for developing an effective strategy for capacity building of political leadership.

Key words: *challenges, political leadership, capacity building, community empowerment*

Introduction

Leadership capacity building needs strategic planning and execution capacity & managerial review. (Laxmikanth.M. Public Administration 2009). It needs programs to enhance capacity of local political leadership to effectively lead and engage rural communities in decision making process. This requires strategy which continuously improves service delivery within resource constraints with in a community. (Mitra, Subrata K. and Singh, V.B.- Democracy and Social Change in India).

Local power jurisdiction

They look into Water supply, sanitation , electricity , drainage , bridges , roads , solid waste , fire brigades , market yards , health issues , schools & colleges ,birth /death registration ,marriage registration, vehicle transport , local festivities etc. (Mitra, Subrata K. and Singh, V.B.- Democracy and Social Change in India: A Cross-Sectional Analysis of the National Electorate).

The issues connected with local leadership development programs are

1. **Providing training** – providing local government with specific leadership development programmes to both political and management leadership spheres is required.(Laxmikanth.M. Public Administration 2009).

2. **Innovative leadership techniques**- Exposing local government leaders to innovative leadership techniques within the municipal / grama sabha / village sabha units context(George Mathew, Ed :Status of Panchayati Raj in the States and Union Territories of India).

3. **Identifying the service delivery sy**stem- Assisting Municipal Managers, Executive Directors, Directors and other leaders to

discharge service delivery requirements,

4. **Identifying constraints**- Clearing constraints to leadership management requirements & providing local community with proper training needs. Constraints can be avoided through Providing guidance to management to optimize local people capability , in breaking down constraints that impede service delivery. (George Mathew, Ed :Status of Panchayati Raj in the States and Union Territories of India).

5. Providing guidance on modeling the economic reality to local leaders within which municipalities / grama sabhas have to operate will have more impact in addressing constraints. (Mitra, Subrata K. and Singh, V.B.- Democracy and Social Change in India).

6. **Drafting realistic development proposals** -Assisting municipalities / grama sabhas in drafting realistic development proposals and aligning these to the budgetary allocations & planning to improve productivity through performance management of each local community member is needed.(Laxmikanth.M. Public Administration 2009).

7. **linking performance management** -Designing, co-implementing and maintaining performance management processes and systems for municipalities / grama sabhas .Helping municipalities / grama sabhas to implement performance management to support, track and improve implementation methodologies. Guiding municipalities / grama sabhas on linking performance

management to ensure effective implementation.(Mitra, Subrata K. and Singh, V.B.- Democracy and Social Change in India).

8. **Creating awareness** -Creating awareness on nonpayment of local taxes in municipalities / grama sabhas . Indigent management and free basic services in municipalities / grama sabhas should be avoided. Budgeting, tariff determination and revenue planning should be made known to all community members. Local leaders can help the community with accurate electric Meter reading & billing accuracy avoiding non-technical losses due to meter tampering and illegal connections. Debt management and credit control awareness session can be held through call centre & customer relationship management.(Laxmikanth.M. Public Administration 2009).

9. **Cash flow planning and managem**ent -Cash flow planning and management of revenues & providing upfront revenue assessments to build the business case for transformation is required This can be met through training sessions to local leaders. Developing an easy & implementable revenue management & enhancement strategy can be developed in these session. (Laxmikanth.M. Public Administration 2009). Enhancing municipal revenue through improving core revenue processes, , data quality, skills and organisational structures needs a review.(George Mathew, Ed :Status of Panchayati Raj in the States and Union Territories of India).

10. **Improving coordination** -Through training session local political leaders

can be made to advise on local cash management methods & help the community to understand & identify the   process cash expenditure & income   generation.   Improving coordination   across   the   various departments   in   municipalities   to break   down   the   silo   effect   and improve service delivery. Providing cost analysis and tariff determination methods based on cost of services.(George   Mathew,   Ed :Status   of Panchayati Raj in the States and Union Territories of India).

Conclusion:

Local   leadership   can   be   made accountable   to   local   issues.   A meticulously planned strategy towards providing   training   to   all   community members   towards   strengthening   local policy making bodies is the need of the hour. In-depth analysis knowledge & understanding complexities facing the local government bodies in identifying the   issues   plaguing   the   community should be prioritized. All community members should be trained to empower themselves with knowledge of politics procedural methodologies. The awareness about policy making procedures supports empowerment programs.

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