

Study of Problems and Prospect of Urban Local Self Government in old Malda Municipality in West Bengal

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ABSTRACT

There are three administrative forms of government in India that is central government, state government and local government. This present study is an instance of local government as well as urban local government in India. Old Malda Municipality is an urban local body which is one of the oldest urban local government bodies in North Bengal zone of West Bengal, but this is very regretful that the condition of this municipality is not so good. Actually, Old Malda Municipality remains old till today. In this connection interest becomes higher to find out the actual scenario of this urban local body from very beginning to till date.

1. Introduction

Urbanization is a worldwide phenomenon and urban population is increasing at a faster rate than the average rate of growth of nation. It is an ongoing process. Although India is not a highly urbanized country there has been a rapid growth of towns and cities during the last 50 years. Consequently the urban population of the Old Malda Municipality has also increased 4885 in 1961 to 84012 in 2011. Democracy as we enjoyed in the society has been divided into two broad categories;

- (i) direct democracy and
- (ii) indirect democracy.

In a country like India we are enjoying the indirect form of democracy i.e. through the people's representative we rule ourselves. In spite of all these principles we could not rule ourselves directly through local government operates at the lowest level of society. These local governments are also divided into two categories, first one is urban and another one is rural local government. It works at the grass-root level close to the people touching their everyday life. Seventy Fourth Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992: This amendment introduces a new part IX-A in the constitution relating to Municipalities. It contains provisions from Article 243-P to Article 247-ZG. In addition, the act has also added a new Twelfth schedule to the constitution this schedule contains eighteen functional items of municipalities.

2. The constitution (seventy-fourth amendment)

ACT, 1992 "TWELFTH SCHEDULE": Article 243W of the Indian Constitution says about;

1. Urban planning including town planning,
2. Regulation of land-use and construction of buildings,
3. Planning for economic and social development,
4. Roads and bridges,
5. Water supply for domestic, industrial and commercial purposes,
6. Public health, sanitation conservancy and solid waste management,
7. Fire services,
8. Urban forestry, protection of the environment and promotion of ecological aspects,

9. Safeguarding the interests of weaker sections of society, including the handicapped and mentally retarded,
10. Slum improvement and upgradation,
11. Urban poverty alleviation etc

Problems and Prospect of Urban Local Self Government in Old Malda Municipality:

Because of modernisation and economic liberalisation, the industries and transport systems grow rather out of proportion. These developments are primarily responsible for pollution of environment, particularly the urban environment. The important problems associated with urbanization are: 1. Pollution in Urban areas 2. Excessive Population 3. Problems related to Settlement 4. Lack of Employment opportunities 5. Increasing Slums and related problems 6. Supply of Drinking Water 7. Sewerage Problems 8. Communication and Transport Related problems 9. Increasing Criminal activities in Urban Areas 10. Garbage Disposal

3. Out of these problems only three major problems in this area are highlighted:

- I. **Supply of Drinking Water:** This is one of the most essential elements of nature to sustain life and right from the beginning of urban civilisation, sites for settlements have always been chosen keeping in view the availability of water to the inhabitants of the settlement. However, supply of water started falling short of demand as the cities grew in size and number.
- II. **Sewerage Problems:** All major city areas in India are almost insufficient sewage facilities. Not a single city in India is fully sewered. Resource crunch faced by the municipalities and unauthorised growth of the cities are two major causes of this pathetic state of affairs.
- III. **Communication and Transport Related problems:** High population leads to traffic congestion and almost all cities of India are suffering from acute form of communication and transport problem. Transport problems increase and become more complex as the town grows in size. With its growth, the town performs

varied and complex functions and more people travel to work or shop. When the cities becomes extended, even people living within the built-up area have to travel by car or bus to cross the town and outsiders naturally bring their cars or travel by public transport. As trade is important, commercial vehicles such as vans and trucks will make problem of traffic more complicated. Developmental Projects undertaken by Old Malda Municipality: For the development of Old Malda Municipality various state government and central government project and scheme are continue in this urban local body such as water supply project, IHSDP, Housing for Urban Poor, CBPHCS, SJSRY, ICF, NFBS, Mid Day Meal, JSY, SSK, and various department of Old Malda Municipality has undertake these schemes and project for the upliftment of the Old Malda Municipality. As far as the developmental works in the Old Malda.

municipality has been undertaking some project to continue better water supply such as tube well sinking, construction of water shed, laying pipe-line, and surface water treatment plant. It should be told that the surface water treatment plant is under UIDSMT project which constructed pipeline, overhead reservoir etc

- **Sanitation:** There are four number of pay and use toilet in the area of old Malda municipality that are set up in Molpur, Vivekananda more, pashupati more, Mangalbari More.
- **Development for slum area:** There are eighteen slum area of this urban local body for the development of those slum area, the Old Malda municipality has made concrete pavement, community centre, livelihood centre, electric informal market for the welfare of these slum area.
- **Banking facilities:** In this municipality there are Four (04) National Banks like State bank of India (02nos.) Mangalbari Branch and Bachamari Branch, United Bank of India (01no.) and one Cooperative Bank situated at Mangalbari under Old Malda Municipality.
- **Education:** To provide quality education the Old Malda Municipality has taken a lot of steps for civilization. There are 53 primary school, 6 middle schools, 5 secondary schools, 3 senior secondary schools, and 1 college in this municipal area. Considering the information it is revealed that a cyclonic wave of education was stretched throughout the municipal area to make the people literate.

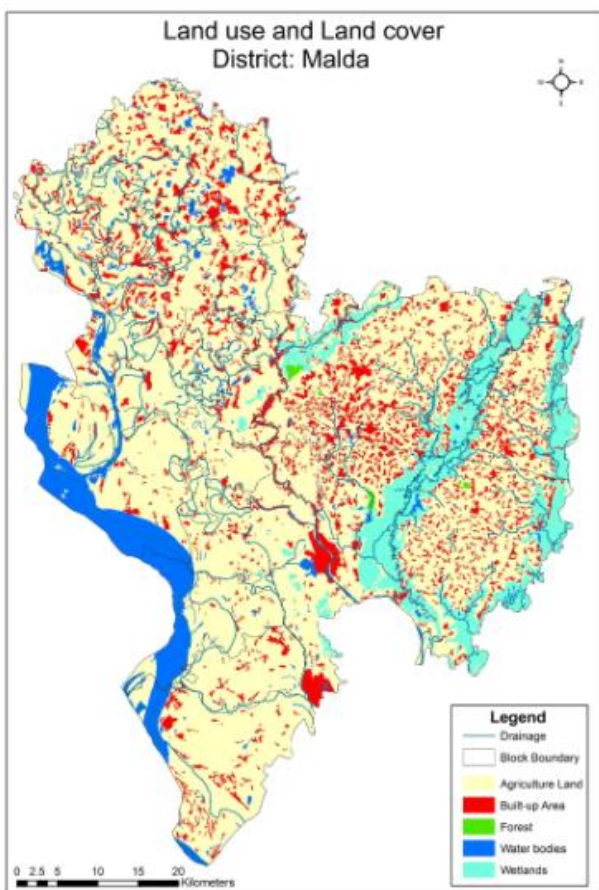
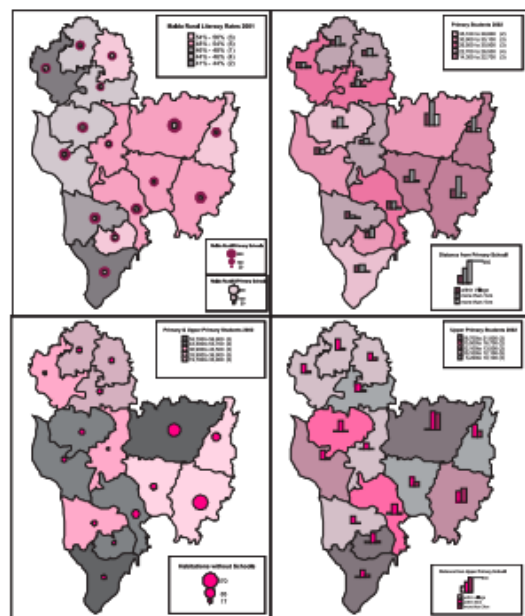


Chart : Regional Accessibility of Schools in Malda District



4. Municipality is concerned, few developmental programmes are highlighted below:

- **Road Construction:** The Old Malda municipality has successfully constructed many roads in its area and makes the area a beautiful network of communication such as bituminous road, concrete road, brick soling road etc.
- **Drainage system:** A good drainage system is the heart of a civilization. Old Malda municipality has taken a great initiative role to maintain and manage running drainage system in its area. So many high drains and sub drains are seen here where there is seen less stagnant water.
- **Drinking Water supply:** Time to time drinking water supply is another feature of a municipality old Malda

5. Special Cleanliness Drive

Receiving the message from health department government of West Bengal the Old Malda Municipality immediately has taken special cleanliness drive and the following precaution has been taken up to tackle the situation.

- For public awareness hoarding, flex, wall posturing, leaflets have been arranged by the ULB. The health workers conservancy supervisors have played a vital role. They went door to door campaign.

- b) Publicity over microphone also has been done.
- c) Heap of garbage's have been removed from all wards.
- d) Road, drains, Choked drains are made clear.

e) Fog machine, spray machines are being used till today regularly specially in the afternoon. f) Bleaching amalgamated with lime is being spread out throughout the area as well as market, bus stands, Public urinals, ditches, etc.

In this connection the Old Malda Municipality have arranged a rally throughout the municipal area with placards and banners to make people concern about the dreadful disease. This urban local body has decided to continue the cleanliness drive in each ward regularly to keep the people healthy.

6. Conclusion

The history of Life of all above mentioned Malda District's people is not a history of happy blissful life. Poverty and deprivation are their symbol of life. Poverty "is a complicated

perception which includes lacking of well-being factors in relation to physical, psychological, social and spiritual elements to participate fully towards social contribution. "Absolute poverty is a condition characterized by severe deprivation of human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter education and information, it depends not only on income but also on access to social services" The Environmental and Social Management Framework is intended to identify the adverse environment and social impacts and provide specific guidance on the policies and procedures to be followed for environmental and social assessment along with roles and responsibilities of the implementing agencies. The Environment and Social Management Framework (ESAMF), therefore, is an umbrella by the NGRBA program (the PMG and SPMGs) and all implementing agencies while preparing and/ or appraising, approving and executing the investments so that all environmental and social impacts are identified and mitigated appropriately.

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