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ADMINISTRATION AND FUNCTIONS OF NAMAKKAL MUNICIPALITY

P. Prakash

Assistant Professor , Department of History ,
Thiruvalluvar Government Arts College
Namakkal Tamil nadu.

ABSTRACT :

Local Self-Government in brief means the Government of a local area. The concept of Local Self-Government is relatively a modern concept, although some of the components did exist in the ancient and medieval ages in all countries. The stages development in course of time in any situation had been the overall framework of the policy of the country. The modern local self-governments are mixture of prevalent traditional culture in country western impact.

KEYWORDS : Sewage, Appraisable. Crematoria, Diagnostic.

INTRODUCTION

Local government forms the democratic and decentralised grass root in India. As per the directive principles of the state policy of the Indian constitution, the government had made a drastic change in the administrative set up of the municipal bodies. The Tamil Nadu Municipalities Act has been drastically amended by the 74th Amendment Act, 1992, (Nagarpaliga Act) and paved a way for an effective

municipal administration.

The local administration organizations are considered the main system of democracy. The Municipal institutions were created primarily for the management of local affairs by the local funds in the aspects of public health and education and other local problems such as housing, water supply, drainage, sewage etc. Municipality attempts to ensure better living conditions by improvement of the above mentioned civil amenities. Rapid inventions in the science and technology and its application have definitely broadened the sphere of municipal activity.

The preventive methods of disease control like immunization, management of mosquito nuisance are improving from time to time and applied to the municipal fields to ensure better living standard of the urban residents. The control of pollution and preservation of environment a global issue at present has to be implemented from municipal basis. The spectrum of municipal field is widening year after year in search of promotion of urban living in the best possible manner.

The municipality should have a number of requisites for its smooth functioning. The financial resources of this local institution should be abundant to meet the expenses of maintenance and the desired developmental works. Unlike the state and national governments the local government is close to the people and this closeness justifies the existence of local self government. Citizen's interest in local affairs is an important asset for local administration, Civil consciousness is a pre-determinant of success of city government.

The functions of the municipal government is carried out through the decisions made by the municipal council being the democratic organ of the local government, and this council is the most important policy making body at the city or town level. Since municipal governments are the state government's creature, it functions which are specifically delegated to them by the acts. The duties and power vary with the nature and size of the municipality and subject to state control and supervision through the local administration development.

Namakkal town panchayat was established in 1943. Namakkal town panchayat was converted into a Grade III Municipality with the effect from the year 1970. In addition to the area of Namakkal revenue village some patrons from avenue village of periyampatti was included. The Municipality was upgrade as a grade II Municipality in 1975 and again upgraded to grade I Municipality in 1983 later upgraded as a selection grade Municipality in 1988. It is one of the most important Municipality of TamilNadu, Namakkal. The total area under the Namakkal municipality is 10.24 sq.k.m. The total population of the municipality is 44,969 and 53,041 as per the 1991 and 2001 census respectively. There are 30 wards, 110 street and 53.78 k.m. roads are in the Namakkal Municipality. The residential development has been uniform in all over the town. The establishment of industries, particularly lorry body built industries in Namakkal town resulted in a steady growth of population. Namakkal municipality not only tries to fulfill the civic needs of its existing population, it also provides services to the tourist population. Namakkal Municipality covers a number of essential services such as communicating, housing, drainage, traffic, transport, street light, tree plantation, improvement of slums, civil education, city beautification, protection of ancient monuments and above all it has done tremendous work in the field of Waste Management. It has obtained the name of zero Garbage City.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Department is controlled and administered by the Health Officer. Every day before sun rise, Namakkal Municipality discharging its service to the 50,000 population through its scavenging staff under the supervision of Health Officer, one malaria inspector, 6 malaria mazdurs, 4 sanitary supervisors, 10 sweepers and sweepress, one lorry driver and one cleaner and some daily wage labours who constitute the health department of Namakkal Municipality. The sanitary inspector look upon the entire epidemic measures in their respective sanitary circles. Anti-Cholera vaccine, oral polio vaccine, tripe antigen and tetanus toxoid are administered in the Namakkal Municipality. Mosquito nuisance is tackled by anti-larval and anti-adult measures. Apart from diagnostic and creative services at its medical institutions, the malaria inspectors along with the malaria mazdurs attack mosquitoes by spraying DDT and mosquito repellent gas in the residential areas.

BIRTH AND DEATH REGISTRATION AND ISSUE OF EXTRACT

Under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, the urban local bodies pay vital role in registering births and deaths within their territory and issue extract of births/deaths to the citizens. The following officers entrusted with the responsibility of registration in Namakkal Municipality.

Commissioner	: Custodian of records and Chief Registrar.
Sanitary Inspector	: Registrar.

IMMUNISATION

Namakkal Municipality is playing an active role in immunization according to schedule and in nationwide Pulse Polio immunization programme. Immunization is done in every Wednesday in the Maternity centre to all children. The Sanitary Officer or Commissioner of the Municipality and his team of Doctors and para-medical staff are entrusted with the responsibility for immunization programmes.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

India developed best option for public service delivery through successful implementation of Environmental Management System of International standard by promoting public private partnership with organized total citizen engagement and participation in innovative practices in Municipal Solid Waste Management and delivered best public service.

Namakkal Municipality divided into 30 wards and 21 MTs of solid waste is generated per day from the household and commercial activities. The entire waste is collected and segregated at source manually. The collection and transportation has been privatized by the municipal authority. 8 MTs of waste is being subjected vermin composing, 3 MTs of recyclable waste is sold and remaining 10 MTs inorganic waste is disposed off into

the land fill.

Due to the earlier practices of indiscriminate disposal of solid waste, the surface water, ponds and lakes in the area are already polluted. The ground water resources are depleting because of fewer monsoons and ever increasing demand for water, the ground water resources are diminishing. Namakkal is one of 151 Municipal towns under Government of Tamil Nadu. Namakkal Municipality alone selected practices on Environment Management System with Municipal Solid Waste Management as best option for providing effective public service delivery.

NAMAKKAL AS A MODEL ECO-CITY

High industrial growth in Asia and Pacific region, in the recent past has resulted into urbanisation and increase in living standard in urban areas and thereby giving rise to consumerism. There had been income gap between urban and rural areas in the past has caused imbalance in their living standards. However with increasing industrialisation, the gap between urban and rural is reducing and the rural areas are moving towards urbanisation. As a result the life style, culture, needs etc. of the people living in rural areas are changing. Consequently, the quantity and composition of waste generated by the society has diversified. Due to the unscientific approach for the dealing with the wastes, the environmental quality in and around the habitation, in most of the areas has deteriorated. These posed a threat to the socio-economic development and survival of the living being. In view of the importance of resource conservation and environment protection, the concept of ECO-CITY has been evolved. The concept provides society to live in harmony with environment and towards the sustainable development.

Namakkal Municipality on its own has taken initiatives for 100% door to door collection and segregation of wastes from households, business and commercial establishments, treatment and disposal of domestic wastes by promoting Annamalai Environment Production Trust a private organization for waste processing, recovery, recycle and reuse. The private organization has engaged for door to door collection of garbage with segregation at source, transportation and disposal of garbage by manufacturing Vermi-Compost with the involvement of private parties and people being mobilized for keeping the city clean, the municipality is able to provide a better level of service.

SETTING UP OF VERMIC CULTURE INDUSTRY

Out of total 21 MTs of garbage collected every day 10 MTs of organic wastes are segregated at source and sent to the Vermi Culture Industry. Annamalai Environment Production Trust has set up a Vermi Culture Industry on B.O.T basis with a capacity of manufacturing 2 MTs per day.

ISO 14001 CERTIFICATION

Fulfilled the requirements to meet environmental management standards for obtaining ISO 14001 Certification on Environment Management System improved total management quality of the administration as well as quality of service at international aspects goal was set itself to achieve environmental objectives and targets and other requirements. A systematic, independent and documented process is fulfilled. Internal and External audit have been conducted. Pre Certification audit also completed. The certification audit alone to be conducted and became first local body in the country to get ISO 14001 certification.

The Supreme Court of India has praised the Municipality in having complied the rules with the significant innovations achieved in public administration and management which reads as "Lack of funds is no excuse for inaction. Smaller towns in every state should go and learn from Suryapet in Andhra Pradesh (Pop.103,000) and Namakkal in Tamil Nadu (Pop.53,041) which have both seen dustbin free "Zero Garbage Towns" complying with the Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules since 2003 with No financial input from State or Centre, just good management and a sense of commitment."

WATER SUPPLY

The Municipal Engineer and his team of Engineers and Staff are responsible for protected drinking water

supply in the town. The first drinking water supply was introduced in the year 1967 at the cost of Rs.24 lakhs. From the digged wells in the Cauvery River at Mohanur, this flows 19 k.m. away from Namakkal. Water comes from Mohanur by pumping system with the help of 30 HP motor to Namakkal town. First the pumping water is stored overhead tank at Aniyapuram which is 9 k.m. away from Mohanur. Again it pumped with the help of 30 HP motor to Namakkal and stored in two newly constructed water tanks. For a population of 53,043 the town required a daily quantity of 83 mld. On an average, the per capital supply is maintained at 120 lpcd. Municipal authority has sent proposals to the Tamil Nadu Water & Drainage Board to afford water supply of 120 liters per person as the fixed target. Municipal authority expect of quick orders in this connection.

At present in Namakkal Municipality the protected drinking water is distributed through 8437 service connections. Out of them 912 connections are tap rate connections, 6655 connections are household connections and remaining 870 connections are non-residential connections. Water charge is collected in the rate of Rs.4 and Rs.10 for the household and non-household purposes respectively.

WATER SUPPLY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME TO NAMAKKAL MUNICIPALITY

This scheme is proposed to cater to the drinking water needs of Namakkal Municipality and the Collectorate complex, for a present population of 58,000 and an ultimate population of 1,30,000 to be reached in the year 2031. The source of this is River Cauvery. Surface water will be drawn through off-take arrangements proposed on the River bank near Mohanur and will be pumped to a full scale treatment plant of capacity 12.75 MLD. Thereafter, water will be pumped to Eleven Over Head Tanks (6 numbers to be constructed) from where the water will be distributed to the public through the net work of Distribution mains. The Detailed Project Report has been prepared at a cost of Rs.14.24 crores to install and Rs.67.00 lakhs to maintain annually.

SERVICES AND FUNCTIONS IN WATER SUPPLY

The following services and functions are performed by the Namakkal Municipality for the fulfillment of the water requirement of their inhabitants.

- + Operation and maintenance of Head works for water supply and distribution of drinking water to households and public stand posts.
- + Sanctioning new house service connection.
- + Conveyance and distribution of water private and public use.
- + Billing and collection of water charges in four facilitation centres.
- + Creating awareness among people to conserve water and install Rain Water Harvesting structures.

STREETS AND STREET LIGHTS

According to the rules of municipal administration the municipal council should spend for the construction and maintenance of streets and bridges from the municipal funds. The council is empowered to layout and makes new public streets, construct bridges and sub-ways turn, divert. National highway NH-7 is in the centre of the Namakkal municipal area. It connects Namakkal town with Salem, Karur and Trichy districts. The total length of the National Highway road is 15,865 k.m. These NH roads are maintained by the National Highways Department. The following National Highway roads are established in the jurisdiction of Namakkal Municipality.

+ Sendamangalam Road	: 1.300 k.m.
+ Trichy Road	: 1.240 k.m.
+ Kashmir-Kanyakumari Road	: 6.240 k.m.
+ Thuraiyur Road	: 0.770 k.m.
+ Mohanur Road	: 1.200 k.m.
+ Tiruchengode Road	: 2.100 k.m.
+ Ninamalai Road	: 1.225 k.m.
+ Rasipuram Road	: 1.790 k.m.
Total	15.865 km.

During the year 2004-05, 52.50 k.m. length of Dhar roads and 1.48 k.m. Cement concrete roads are maintained by the Namakkal Municipality at the cost of Rs.38,42,742.

The streets of Namakkal Municipality have been provided with street lights and were being maintained by the electricity board till September 1989. After that according to the state government orders, the maintenance of all the street lights has been taken over by the Municipal Administration. Now the total numbers of street lights maintained by the Namakkal Municipality are 1868. Among them 1328 lights are 4 feet tube lights, 370 are 250 W Sodium Mercury lights, 30 are 150 W Sodium Mercury lights, 21 are 70W sodium mercury lights and 119 are 125W sodium mercury lights. All of them are maintained by the Municipal. Maintenance expenditure of the Municipality is Rs.25,39,858. The exististing lights are insufficient, hence the steps are taken by the municipality to provides lights to all the streets.

For the maintenance of the street lights two wireman, two wireman were appointed.

EDUCATION

One Government High School, 3 Government Higher Secondary School and 7 private schools are located within the municipal limits. From 1st April 1990 all the municipal schools are comes under the direct control of the state government. But buildings are maintained by the municipal authority. All children irrespective of caste, creed, community etc., are imported education in the above institutions. It is reported that in all the schools the children belongs to SC and ST are also getting education in rank with other children. In all the primary schools periodical medical check-up programmes are being conducted by the municipal officials.

Within the municipal area one Government Arts College for Women and One Teacher Training Institute are located. Near to the Municipal jurisdiction one Government Arts College for Men and One Veterinary College are located.

BUILDINGS

According to the building regulations, buildings site and constructions or re-construction of buildings could be undertaken by the municipality for several purposes. No piece of land shall be used as site for the construction of a building and no building shall be constructed or re-constructed otherwise than in accordance with the provisions of this part and of any rules or by-laws made under this Act relating to the use of building sites or the construction of buildings. The permission from the state government should be sought for any class of the building construction. The permission of municipal council is required to undertake any building work. But the council may give public notice and consider objections if any and then confirm the construction. Under the Integrated Development of Small and Medium Town Scheme several works were undertaken and completed.

Namakkal municipality has undertaken the following first phase of works: construction of bus stand, construction of shops and shelter shed at the bus stand. The daily market shops were constructed at the bus stand area.

PARKS

There are two parks viz. Sandaipet Park and Nehru Park in the municipality area. The maintenance of these two parks are looked after by the municipal authorities.

CREMATORIA

The council provide at the cost of the municipal fund, place to be used as burial or burning grounds and charge rents and fees for the use thereof. The crematoria inside the burial ground was constructed by Namakkal Municipality.

TREE PLANTATION

During the year 2005-06, 3190 trees are planted at the cost of Rs.28,128. For the maintenance of trees no persons were appointed by the municipal authorities.

MATERNITY CENTRE

There is one maternity centre rendering fee service to the urban poor. They are managed by Sanitary Officer and other para medical staff. They are under to overall supervision of Commissioner.

The following functions and services are discharged by the maternity service.

- + Providing maternity and child care
- + Providing help and advice on Family Welfare issues
- + Immunisation and vaccination.
- + Disease preventive and curative measures.

TOWN PLANNING

The Town Planning Officer is entrusted with the responsibility of Town Planning activities. The branch looks after regulation of building activities/lay out and other planning permissions. The Planning permission is granted by Local Planning Authority headed and Building permission is granted by the Commissioner.

The following are the functions and services of the Town Planning.

- + Granting permission for construction of alteration of building.
- + Lay out/sub division plan approval
- + Action against unauthorized constructions, violation and encroachments.
- + Preparation of master plan and other development plans and their enforcement.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION OF NAMAKKAL MUNICIPALITY

In order to study the financial administration of the municipality it is important to analyse the different sources of income and expenditure of the Municipality. The following are the important items of income for the municipality.

- + Tax Revenue
- + Non-Tax Revenue
- + Grants from central and state government and
- + Local contributions.

PROPERTY TAX

Property tax is a major revenue source for the municipality. There are 15790 property tax assessments and the annual demand is Rs.1.67 crores.

TAX ON VACANT PLACE

Namakkal Municipality collects considerable amount of tax on vacant place. During the year 2005-06, 1 1/3 percent of tax is levied in this head.

AGRICULTURAL TAX

As per the Government Order agricultural tax are completely cancelled.

PROFESSIONAL TAX

Professional Tax is another important source of tax revenue to the Namakkal Municipality. Upto the income level of Rs.2100 there was no profession tax. The minimum and maximum profession tax collected by the municipality is Rs.75 and Rs.750 respectively.

VEHICLE AND ANIMAL TAX

Namakkal Municipality collects Rs.100 per vehicle and per animal to issues numbers to them.

TOTAL TAX INCOME

Namakkal Municipality earns income during the year 2005-06 as mentioned below:

Property Tax (Rs. In lakhs)	:	162.20
Professional Tax	“	23.54
Water Charges	“	80.30
Non-Tax Revenue	“	101.33
Total	“	367.37

The total amount of balance is Rs.180.10 lakhs.

FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE MUNICIPALITY

According to the Annual Report of the Namakkal municipality the following are the financial position of the Namakkal Municipality during the financial year 2005-06

Opening Stock	Rs.	: 1,10,99,048.98
Total Income	Rs.	: 5,61,95,000.00
Total Expenditure	Rs.	: 5,26,30,000.00
Closing Stock	Rs.	: 1,46,63,814.98

This study” shows that Namakkal Municipality has been constituted and functioning on the democratic basis and as per the District Municipal Act of the state government. The local affairs of the Namakkal Municipality are managed by the popularly elected council, a Chairman and a Commissioner who is the executive authority of the municipality and appointed by the state government. With the above guidance of the commissioner and chairman the administration of this municipality is carried out efficiently. The qualities of responsibility and leadership developed among the officials of the municipality paves way for leadership quality at the higher level

The present study concludes that Namakkal Municipality has been doing its best services for the people of this area and in general and also for the pilgrims who are visit very famous Anjenaya Temple and Ranganathar Temple The administration and functions of this municipality is appraisable and excellent. Though the municipality is willing to undertake several developmental programmes, the insufficient finance leads to delay in completing the works. This Namakkal Municipality has got the credit of “Clean City”, “Zero Garbage City” and “Model Eco-City” for its excellent performance. Above all Namakkal Municipality got the credit of “Ezilmigu Namakkal”.

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