



DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN POOR THROUGH JNNURM IN MADURAI

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Introduction

Infrastructure development is recognized as an essential factor to sustain economic growth of the country. The quality, efficiency and productivity of the infrastructures affect the quality of life, health and livability of the society. Due to migration from rural areas to cities, increased population and rapid expansion of urban areas, there is a shortage of infrastructures in the cities. There has been a huge gap between the demand and supply of the essential public amenities. Public private Partnership in the infrastructure development is essential for the development of good governance. JNNURM is a major urban renewal mission developed many cities within a stipulated period.

Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission is the single largest initiative ever launched in the country to address the issues of urban infrastructure and basic services to the urban poor JNNURM aims at achieving the following outcomes at the end of the Mission period by the Urban Local Bodies, Modern and transparent budgeting, accounting, financial management systems, designed and adopted for all urban services and governance functions, City or wide framework for planning and governance will be established and become operational, All urban poor people will have access to a basic level of urban services. There are provisions of Basic Services to Urban Poor including security of tenure at affordable prices,

improved housing, water supply, sanitation and ensuring delivery through convergence of other already existing universal services of the Government for education, health and social security. Care will be taken to see that the urban poor are provided housing near their place of occupation.

¹ Madurai city forms the nucleus of economic and leisure time activities for the people of the Local Planning Area. The Corporation area is more or less saturated with developments except for a few pockets of agricultural fields. Consequently, new industrial and residential areas have sprung up along the main transportation routes, as ribbon developments in an unplanned manner. This development around the main city resulted in large pockets of undeveloped land in between the arterial roads becoming inaccessible.

Objectives of Basic Service to the Urban Poor

Focused attention to integrated development of basic services to the urban poor, Security of tenure at affordable price, improved housing, water supply, and sanitation, Convergence of services in fields of education, health and social security housing near the place of occupation of the urban poor are some of the basic objective. Effective linkage between asset creation and asset management to ensure efficiency, scaling up delivery of civic amenities and provision of utilities with emphasis on universal access to urban poor, ensuring adequate investment of funds to

fulfill deficiencies in the basic services to the urban poor created in the cities, are not only maintained efficiently but also become self-sustaining over time. It ensures adequate investment of funds to fulfill deficiencies in the Basic Services to the Urban Poor. It also scales up delivery of civic amenities and provision of utilities with emphasis on universal access to urban poor.¹

Civic Amenities

JNNURM has two sub-missions: one for urban infrastructure and governance administered by the Union ministry of urban development and one for basic services to the urban poor. A result oriented performance producing tangible improvements in quality of life for the citizens and at the same time dealing with the active interests both organized and unorganized. Civic amenities, like, Convergence of health, education and social security schemes for the urban poor. Madurai Corporation and the Urban Local Bodies lying in the Local Planning areas have been selected for execution of development works under JNNURM.

Tamilnadu Slum Clearance Board(TNSCB) has taken-up construction of blocks for slum dwellers under the environmental improvement fund. Under this scheme a fireproof tenement of size 10x10 ft. will be constructed by TNSCB outside the limits of Corporation, with offsite infrastructure facilities. Corporation is also involved in various community development activities in slums. A comprehensive evaluation of Swarna Jayanti Sharti Rozgar Yojana scheme on an all India basis was carried out in 2005-06. Through JNNURM also the local body administrators provide housing schemes for the people of Madurai.

Tamilnadu Water supply and Drainage Board had taken up investigation works and prepared the Detailed Project Report for providing combined water supply scheme to Melur, Avaniyapuram and Thirumangalam Municipalities and A.Vellalapatti, Thirunagar, Paravai and Vilangudi, Alanganallur, Palamedu, Town Panchayats 1430 rural habitations in Madurai District and Singampunari Town Panchayat in Sivagangai District with River Cauvery as source at a cost of to Rs.784 Crore to install and Rs.15.60

Crore to maintain annually.²

The entire beneficiaries, Urban Local Bodies and rural habitations are provided with protected water supply schemes with Infiltration wells, Open wells and bore wells. During summer months extraction of ground water for agricultural activities are noticed which promotes the depletion of water level and hence there is inadequacy of water supply to these beneficiaries. Water security involves conservation and storage of water by utilizing different sources for different use viz. properly collected and stored rainwater, treated surface water, ground water for drinking and cooking, untreated water for bathing and washing and grey water and spent water for flushing of toilets. To ensure risk and vulnerability reduction on such occasions and to ensure reliability and sustainability, a good frame work should consider different drinking water sources accessible in different situations and different points of time.³ The scope of Public Health Engineering training programme needs to be widened so as to provide requisite training for increasing the skills and expertise of all personnel involved in the water supply and sanitation sector. The infrastructure being developed by various Urban Local Bodies State departments for drinking water supply, sewerage, sanitation, drainage, sewage waste management under JNNURM have qualified and trained manpower for better planning, designing, implementation, and Operation and Maintenance of water supply and sanitation schemes.

Employment opportunity for women

The main programs in this scheme are the Development of Women and Children in Urban Areas. This scheme is distinguished by the special incentive extended to urban poor women who decide to set up self-employment ventures as a group as opposed to individual effort. Groups of poor women shall take up an economic activity suited to their skill, training, aptitude and local conditions. Besides generations of income, their group shall strive to empower the urban poor women by making them independent as also providing a facilitation atmosphere for self-employment. Under this program, groups of women devise a project plan. A successful plan will receive a subsidy from the government

and a loan from an area bank branch. Under this scheme, the Development of Women and Children Urban Areas group should consist of at least 10 urban poor women. The loan is 45 percent of the project cost (maximum), the subsidy is 50 percent (maximum), and the remaining 5 percent are borne by the group. The maximum project size supported is Rs. 2,50,000. During this year under this scheme 25 lakhs have been sanctioned for 23 groups.⁴

Thrift and Credit Societies

This program brings together 10-20 women from Below Poverty Line families to carry out saving and lending activities. The government gives a lump sum grant to the group after it has been functioning for one full year. The grant is determined at the rate of Rs. 1,000 per member and is to be used as a revolving fund. Under this scheme Rs.21 lakhs have been sanctioned for 2014 beneficiaries.

Urban Skill Training

This component sponsors skill development in a variety of service and manufacturing trades as well as in local skills and local crafts. After being trained, beneficiaries should be able to set up self-employment ventures or secure salaried employment with enhanced remuneration. Training institutions such as ITIs, Polytechnics, Shramik Vidyapeeths Engineering Colleges and other suitable training institutions run by Government, private, or voluntary organizations may provide support for this purpose but they must be registered with the concerned government departments. Training includes computer skills, beautician skills, car driving, screen printing, doll making, tailoring, TV and radio repair, electrical equipment repair, candle-making, detergent and soap-making and book binding. Training is limited to an expense of Rs. 2,000 per student, including a Rs. 300 stipend. For trainees successfully completing their courses, the scheme can provide up to Rs. 600 for a toolkit. Some institutes place candidates in jobs. In one year 150 no of Trainees have been trained up at a cost of Rs. 3.00 lakhs.⁵

Urban Wage Employment Program (UWEP)

This program seeks to provide wage employment to beneficiaries living below the

poverty line within the jurisdiction of urban local bodies by utilizing their labor for construction of socially and economically useful public assets. Under this program, there is no restriction on educational qualification. The material labor ratio for works under this program is to be maintained at 60:40. The prevailing minimum wage rate, as notified from time to time for each area, has to be paid to beneficiaries under this programme.⁶

Urban Self-Employment Program (USEP)

Under this program, individuals mainly women devise an income generation project plan and apply for a loan. A successful plan will receive a subsidy from the government and a loan from canara bank branch. The loan is 80 percent of the project cost (maximum), the subsidy is 15 percent (maximum), and the remaining 5 percent are borne by the individual. The maximum project size supported is Rs. 50,000 per individual. Community Structure Component This component provides a budget for working with other government agencies and departments to address needs of the eligible population beyond jobs and income.⁷

Socio-Economic Research Studies in areas of Urban Poverty, Slums, Housing and Building Construction

The Socio-Economic Research Unit in National Building Organisation will deal with action research covering areas such as urban poverty, slums, housing and building construction and socio-economic studies concerning impacts of policies, plans and programmes of Government in the related fields. It will work closely with reputed academic institutions, research and training centres and civil society organizations working in the relevant fields. A Documentation Centre relating to urban poverty, slums, housing, building construction and related statistics will be established by National Buildings Organisation. This will undertake periodic publications relating to the above subjects and disseminate them widely.⁸ Capacity Building and Training in areas of Urban Poverty, Slums, Housing and Building Construction Statistics. National Building Organisation will coordinate capacity building and training activities in the areas of urban poverty, slums, housing and building

construction statistics, including design, development and deployment e-tools and statistical applications.

Conclusion

Madurai Corporation implemented many development programmes under JNNURM in a successful manner. Under this program, the central and state government provide certain percent of the project cost while the local body has to bear the remaining. IN some of the schemes 100% assistance was provided. The workshare finalised by the decision of the council. They are inspected by the Research and Development wing. Special Priority is given to the Improvement of Drinking Water Supply System, Laying and Relaying of Roads, Provision of Street Lights, Drainage Facilities Improvement and New Public Conveniences with Water Supply , Welfare and Shelter Upgradation

End Notes

¹JNNURM, Toolkit, *Op.Cit.*, p66

²Madurai Corporation, *Technical Check list*, p15

³Government of India Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation *Guidelines for Urban Statistics for HR and Assessments (USHA)2012*, p18

⁴Madurai Corporation, *Support to National policies for Urban Poor reduction*, 2012, p16

⁵*Ibid*, p21

⁶ Madurai Corporation, *Support to National policies for Urban Poor reduction*, *op.Cit.*, p21

⁷*Ibid.*, p32

⁸Madurai Corporation, *Support to National policies for Urban Poor reduction*, *op.Cit.*, p33.