

4. MUNICIPALITY AND MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Sitapur is a small town. Ramesh, Radhika and Sameena study in the middle school. Since the last two-three days the children are having difficult times. There is no water in the school. There is no water to drink or to wash hands. This morning when the children reached school, they saw that some people had dug out the water pipe and were laying down a new one. The children were very happy. They would now have drinking water in the school.

When the teacher came to the class, Ramesh asked her, “Madam who is getting the water pipe repaired? Will we have to pay for it?” The teacher replied, “No we will not have to pay for it. This is the work of the municipality. I had informed the municipal member or councillor of our ward. I had told him that as there is no water supply in the school the children are facing much difficulty. The councillor is getting the pipe repaired by the employees of the municipal council.”



Pic 4.1 Women filling water

Each ward faced some problem or the other. Thus the whole class wanted to know more about the municipality and how it could help in solving the problem of their ward. Therefore, the teacher asked the students to talk about the problems of their wards.

Radhika: There are no streetlights in our ward. We are scared to move out after dark. Several thefts have also taken place.

Ramesh: Madam, we live in huts. We have no streetlights in our ward. Also there are no roads and drains. Lots of garbages lying on the paths makes it difficult to walk on them.

Kallu: In our ward the roads are made of cement, but we have a water problem. Water is supplied for only one hour in a day.

Salma: In our ward all other things are fine, but the roads are not cleaned properly. Garbage keeps on collecting and it stinks.

The students thus shared some of the problems of their wards.

Teacher: We elect the councillor of the municipality from our wards. It is their duty to solve our problems. If we have any such problems, we can convey them to the councilor of our ward and request him or her to help us.

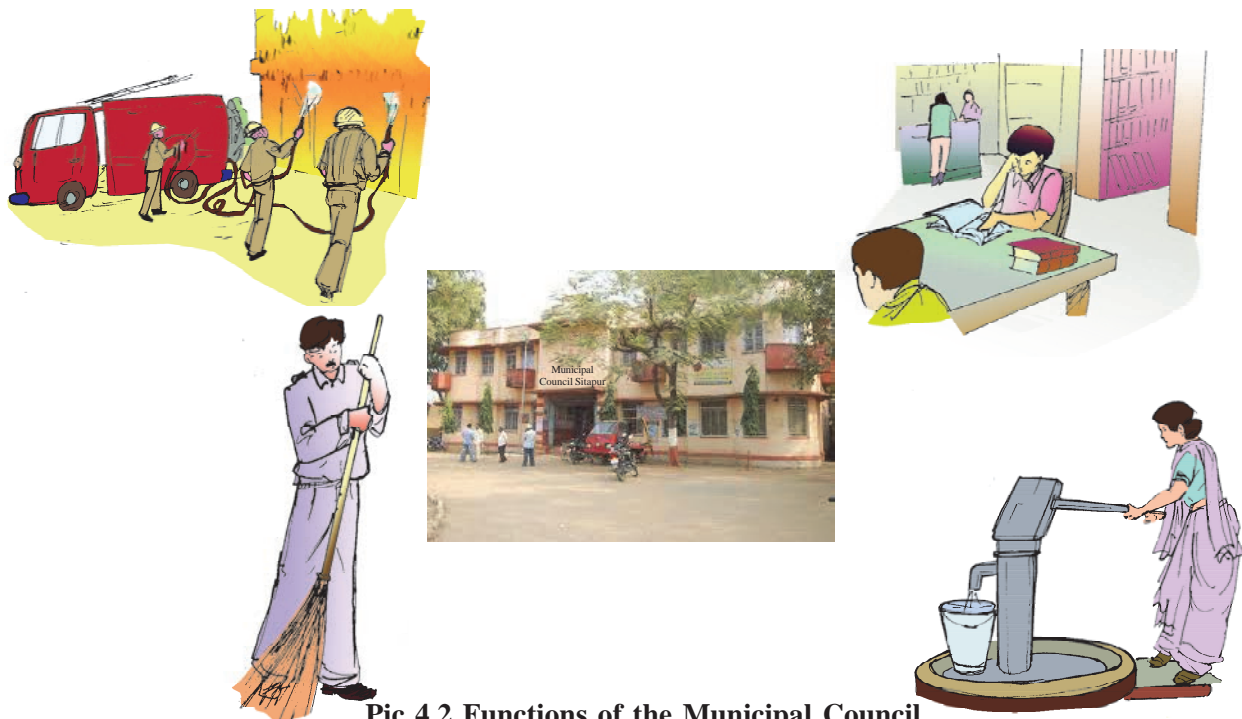


COME LET US FIND OUT

1. Who is the municipal member or councilor from your ward ?
2. Which institution solves the problems of your city ?
3. What is the name of the presiding officer or mayor of your city ?

In the previous chapter you read about the Gram Panchayat. Do you remember, how the Panch and Sarpanch were elected?

The Nagar Panchayat, municipality and municipal corporation are formed in the same manner as the Gram Panchayat. These three local self-government bodies are formed on the basis of the size of the population. Towns and cities are much



Pic 4.2 Functions of the Municipal Council

bigger than villages and thousands of people live there. Lakhs and lakhs of people reside in the bigger cities. Municipalities and municipal corporations provide facilities like water, roads, electricity and sanitation in the bigger cities.

A person who is 21 years or more can contest the elections of municipalities or municipal corporations. There are about 15 to 60 members in the municipal councils whereas the number of members of municipal corporations can be from 50 to 150.

For municipal elections the city is divided into small areas called wards. All adults, or those persons who are 18 years and above in age, can cast their votes. A councilor is elected from each ward for a period of 5 years. It is the duty of these councilors to solve the problems of the people. They plan and execute the policies for the development of the city.



All the elected councilors attend the meetings of the municipality or the municipal corporation. These meetings are presided over by the mayor who is also elected by the people of all the wards.

The functions of the municipality and the municipal corporation are carried out through various committees, which look after different areas. There are 5 to 12 members in each committee.

The state government appoints an officer called the Municipal Commissioner to look after the function of the municipal council. The officers in-charge of various departments assist her or him.

S. No.	Population	Name of the Institution	Officer	Chief
1.	5,000 to 20,000	Nagar Panchayat	Chief Municipal Officer, (Nagar Panchayat)	President
2.	20,000 to 1,000,000 (one lakh)	Municipality	Chief Municipal officer, (Municipality)	President
3.	More than 1,000,000 (one lakh)	Municipal Corporation	Commissioner	Mayor

FUNCTIONS OF THE MUNICIPALITY

1. It looks after the drinking water supply, garbage disposal and public health.
2. It builds and maintains roads, bridges, etc. as well as arranges for streetlights.
3. It provides a 'Kanji House' for stray animals.
4. It provides and maintains market places.
5. It maintains birth and death records.
6. It organizes vaccination campaigns to prevent the spread of disease.
7. It provides shelter for the safety of the weaker sections.
8. It runs and maintains schools, public libraries, parks and zoos.
9. It promotes the spread of educational and cultural activities.

SOURCES OF REVENUE

The municipal corporation raises its revenue through various sources –

- (1) Levying taxes on houses and property.
- (2) Collecting taxes on water, electricity, and maintenance of cleanliness of the different parts of the city and its roads.



- (3) Taxes from shops
- (4) Through entertainment taxes levied on films, circuses, etc.
- (5) Charging taxes on advertisements.
- (6) Obtaining grants from the government.
- (7) Receiving a proportion of the amount collected by the state government through fines on property.

The establishment of a Nagar Panchayat, Municipality or Municipal Corporation is dependent on the size of the population of a town or city. Each Nagar Panchayat or Municipal corporation has their own C.E.O.

EXERCISE

I. Match the following -

<u>S. No.</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>
1.	Nagar panchayat	15 to 60
2.	Municipality	50 to 150
3.	Municipal corporation	5,000 to 20,000
4.	Number of members in the municipality	Population more than 1 lakh
5.	Number of members in the municipal corporation.	Population of 20,000-1 lakh

II. Answer the following questions -

1. Who elects the members of the municipal council?
2. What are the functions of a mayor?
3. Whom will you approach if there is a problem of water or sanitation in any ward in your city?
4. What all would you do in your ward if you were a councillor?
5. What are the functions of local self-governments?
6. What are the sources of revenue of local self-governments?

III. Find out the following from your near by municipality -

1. Name and population of the city _____.
2. Name of the mayor _____.
3. Number of councillors _____.

