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Conference of Women Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Chairperson on Urban Poverty Alleviation and Urban Governance in Aurangabad

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The National Resource Centre for Urban Poverty at Regional Center for Urban and Environmental Studies of All India Institute of Local Self Government in Collaboration with Aurangabad Municipal Corporation organized a two days Capacity Building Conference of Women Mayors, Deputy Mayors & Chairpersons on Urban Poverty Alleviation and Urban Governance on 9th-10th August at Aurangabad.



Mr. Chandrakant Khairi, Member of Parliament
Mr. Chandrakant Khairi, M. P. Aurangabad welcomed all the delegates and stated that the 74th Constitution Amendment Act has given one third

reservation for women and provided the opportunities to perform in local government affairs. In the view of the complexities at city level all the elected members must receive proper orientation on issues of city management and local governance. He said that this kind of platform provides excellent opportunity for women elected members to interact on several issues which has relevance to good local governance. He congratulated NRCUR, RCUES, Government of India and UNDP for taking such initiative for women elected representatives.



Mr. Haribhai Bagde, former Minister, Government of Maharashtra

Mr. Haribhai Bagde, former Minister, Government of Maharashtra welcomed the delegates and said that women should be more encouraged to enter in the politics and for which the institutions like RCUES, AILSG should play a major role in preparing leadership at local level. He said that special efforts should also be initiated at party level to bring more women in political arena.



Mr. Akhesh Sharma, IAS National Project Coordinator, GOR-UNDP Project titled National Strategy for the Urban Poor, Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India in his special address stressed that urbanization is not a western phenomenon. 60% of gross domestic product comes from the cities in India, urbanization should in the real sense mean city development. Urbanization of poverty means lack of basic services and lack of access to land tenure. To address these complex urban challenges, JNNURM was launched and it is necessary to initiate action agenda for urban poverty alleviation which primarily includes socio-economic profile of slums, provision of affordable housing and land tenure, provision of basic services facilitating social security & many other initiatives.

Government of India has established a Forum of Women Mayors which is supported under the National Programme on Capacity Building for Urban Poverty Alleviation to bring about a gender perspective into

city governance especially policies and programmes meant for addressing poverty and livelihood issues of urban women. This Forum is aimed at improving social, economic and political participation of women. It will also facilitate establishment of Gender Resource Centres with emphasis on rendering support to women belonging to weaker sections.

The Mayors' Forum for Fight Against Urban Poverty initiated by Government of India will function as a conclave of Mayors and Municipal Chairpersons to discuss urban poverty alleviation and livelihood issues and serve as a voice and accountability platform for the urban poor. It would debate on issues of topical importance, review progress of urban poverty alleviation programmes and reformers for sustainable urban development and poverty alleviation.



Mrs. Vijaya Rathakrishnan, Hon'ble Mayor of Aurangabad Municipal Corporation

Mrs. Vijaya Rathakrishnan, Hon'ble Mayor of Aurangabad in her address expressed her happiness for organizing the first Women Mayors and Chairpersons Conference organized in India and it is made possible only because of 74th CAA, 92 that there are 38 women Mayors, in the country, in any elected members work upon the most challenging work is the slums in the ward. That poses several issues such as basic services like water, toilets, paved ways, street light, etc. The 74th CAA is instrumental in guiding women towards the path of garbage collection, empowerment and participation in local governance.

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Ms. Rajesh Tyagi, Hon'ble Minister of State, Urban Development, Government of Maharashtra, inaugurating the Conference.

Ms. Rajesh Tyagi, Hon'ble Minister of State, Urban Development, Government of Maharashtra, in his inaugural address said that I am indeed very happy to be here in your midst in this two-day Women Mayors' Conference on Urban Poverty Alleviation, organized by RCUES at All India Institute of Local Self-Government, under the GOI UNDP Project 'National Strategy for Urban Poor'. As we all are aware the Government of India has launched Mayors' Forum for Fight Against Urban Poverty. This Forum aims at facilitating better understanding of various facets of urban poverty, sharing of knowledge, experience, best practices and expertise among Mayors, Municipal Chairpersons and officials and champion advocacy for pro-poor governance. The Forum will also address the issues of implementation of Jawahar Nrega National Urban Renewal Mission projects in cities.

The 12th Schedule created as part of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 identified 18 civic functions as belonging to the legitimate domain of municipal bodies. These include urban poverty alleviation, slum upgradation, promotion of education, public health and other basic civic amenities to the poor. City Mayors have a very crucial role to play in the alleviation of urban poverty. Being heads of municipal bodies, they represent the aspirations and hopes of people, especially the poor.

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Government of Maharashtra has also taken several initiatives towards the alleviation of urban poverty. Government has prepared housing policy which includes policy for shelter for urban poor. Government has been implementing various Central Government's schemes like Sawarna Jayanti Shikharaj Rajgarh Yojana, 15th Point programme, Atal Jyoti Yojana, Sanjay Gandhi Nrihar Yojana. Considering the urgent need to rehabilitate slums in Mumbai, the Government of Maharashtra has established Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) for speedy implementation of slum rehabilitation schemes. Government has issued various Government Resolutions from time to time for effective implementation of the poverty alleviation schemes, other efforts include encouragement for the schemes like SMILE, integrating waste pickers in Solid Waste Management and Sewa Kendra for income generation activities at city level.

The municipal and state governments have to implement the projects and reforms in order to achieve urban renewal. Mayors have to initiate planning, designing, implementation, monitoring and social audit of projects for quality assurance in consultation with city councilors, NGOs, citizens' organizations.

Women and children are the most affected and marginalized in the overall urban poverty scenario. Hence, to mainstream the issues of women in urban local governance, gender budget should be adopted in all the programmes and plans of the municipal bodies. The Gender Budget Initiative is a policy framework to help governments to integrate a gender perspective into the budget as a key plank of public expenditure management. It will facilitate media coverage and public debate, which will directly promote women's economic empowerment through allocation of budgetary funds for women's development programmes. This will be a specially focused component for creation of enabling environment for women to become economically, politically and socially empowered.

The Urban Local Bodies should actively involve the people, especially women in determining the

Mayors' role assumes great significance in view of the current urbanization, urban poverty and growing complexities in the urban canvas. While Indian cities contribute over 55% to the Country's GDP, they also face the brunt of various issues related to pollution, poverty, slums and squatter settlements. There is increasing stress on the already over-burdened infrastructure and basic urban services.

The issues of urban poverty cannot be looked in isolation; they have an link with strong and diverse economic growth, urban basic-services delivery, social inclusion, good and responsive local governance and strategy for urban environmental management that would provide improved quality of life for all citizens.

Realizing the importance of inclusiveness in poverty alleviation, Government of India has adopted "inclusive growth" as the key development design in the 11th Five Year Plan. In the urban context, this calls for "inclusive cities", with focus on slum upgradation, poverty alleviation. The concerns of access to basic civic services and economic opportunities to the vulnerable, slum-dwellers, street vendors & hawkers, informal sector, construction workers, weaker sections, minorities, women, children, and the destitute have to be addressed in a holistic manner.

Today, every fourth person in urban India is a slum dweller, and every third person added to urban India finds accommodation only in a slum. A planned approach towards developing inclusive and slum-free cities is therefore, necessary to meet the challenges posed by urbanization. Jawahar Nrega National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), the single largest initiative undertaken by the Government of India in area of urban renewal with a central government share of Rs.50,000 crore envisages a large number of reforms for inclusive cities and urban renewal in an integrated and focused way. To achieve this Goal, 7-Point Charter of Basic Services to Urban poor and slum dwellers has been prescribed, which includes provision of security of tenure, affordable housing, water supply, sanitation and convergence delivery of soft services like health, education and social security.

number, location, and types of urban facilities and services, and incorporate their various preferences into policies and programmes. They should consider their practical problems in getting access to basic services and try to redress them through provision of facilities like water taps, toilets, street lights, and public health facilities, including maternal and child care services, by locating those in places easily accessible to women.

It is also necessary to look at employment generation and livelihood issues in the cities. As most of the urban poor are involved in informal sector activities, the urban poor and slum dwellers need places to live, work and sell their products and services. Municipal bodies must involve various NGOs, citizens groups and training institutions to improve and upgrade their skills for appropriate employment opportunities. Special care needs to be taken for providing kiosks, clean toilets, proper space, proper lighting and security especially to women in municipal markets. Micro enterprises are the need of the hour to help women overcome poverty; special micro finance projects for women through formal credit mechanisms have to be promoted. Better marketing facilities and micro insurance will take the enterprises a step further towards sustainability. In Maharashtra, we have several initiatives, one of which is SMILE, an example of women's empowerment and initiative of providing income generating venture.

He said that city Mayors can achieve citywide actions and promote partnerships between municipal governments, organizations of the urban poor and civil society organizations through different interventions. I request all the Mayors and municipal elected members to strive to promote experience sharing and replication of innovative practices for poverty reduction. These functions are discharged most effectively when the poor are actively involved in planning and governance processes as 'partners' and the city Mayors "lead" their cause. A partnership can be established with the private sector, non-governmental organizations, CBOs, national and international organizations.

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I appealed to the women Mayors and women elected members to take full advantage of this Forum to enrich their knowledge and cross learning from grassroots, and take benefit of capacity building initiatives.

I would like to thank the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation Govt. of India, Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies, All India Institute of Local Self Government, the Government of Maharashtra, UNDP and Aurangabad Municipal Corporation for extending all cooperation and support in organising this important Conference.



Dr. (Prof.) Susha Palankar, Director, Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies, IITD, New Delhi.

Dr. (Prof.) Susha Palankar, Director, Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies, Mumbai gave details about the Conference and also proposed a vote of thanks.

The Conference had several thematic presentations by eminent experts, urban practitioners and former Mayors.



Adh. Vandana Chavan, Former Mayor of Pune making her presentation.

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The first session covered the topic on Employment Generation & Experiments, Adh. Vandana Chavan, Former Mayor, Pune Municipal Corporation, presented a case study on 'Navari Marketing Institution for Ladies Empowerment' (SMILE) an initiative of an NGO named Sphat, based in Pune in association with the Pune Municipal Corporation. The main objective is to promote different products made by women belonging to the economically weaker sections of society. This is sought to be achieved by imparting skill training and providing infrastructural support in the form of shops in prime locations of the city, which led to an increase in sales and in turn an increase in income as well.



Dr. Adh. Ravi, Hon'ble Mayor, Mumbai.

The second presentation was made by Dr. Mrs. Susha Ravi, Hon'ble Mayor of Mumbai. She presented different schemes in Mumbai city which are implemented for urban poverty alleviation such as Slum Adoption Scheme, Slum Rehabilitation Scheme as well as a new initiative which is called the Adhar Kendra, which will work as a service centres for the citizens of Mumbai City and also provide employment opportunities to the unemployed skilled people. The Adhar Kendra will be manned by NGOs or Community Based Organizations (CBO) but MCGM will provide the infrastructure, including land, building and furniture. The Adhar Kendra will also display and sell products made by beneficiaries of various poverty alleviation schemes in the city.

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Mr. Dilip Bhandari, Divisional Commissioner, Aurangabad, presenting a paper on 'Integrated Slum Rehabilitation programmes undertaken under IHSDP, JNNURM schemes'.

Mr. Dilip Bhandari, Divisional Commissioner, Aurangabad presented a paper on "Integrated Slum Rehabilitation programmes undertaken under IHSDP, JNNURM schemes. He put forward his vision for Aurangabad city and a "Sustainable Slum Less City" in future. He explained the rehabilitation that has been planned based on Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation pattern and construct multi-storied buildings to rehabilitate 17,000 households in Aurangabad.



Mrs. Rakhi Trivedi, Deputy Mayor, Ahmedabad, presenting a case study of Slum Networking Programme implemented in Ahmedabad city.

Mrs. Rakhi Trivedi, Deputy Mayor, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation presented a case study of Slum Networking Programme implemented in Ahmedabad city. It is a partnership programme of infrastructure and social development in slums. The partners in this initiative are Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, Gujarat Mahila Housing SEVA Trust, SAATH, an NGO & SEVA Bank. Under the

networking, the infrastructure, such as, water supply to individual households, underground sewerage connection, individual household toilets, paving of internal roads, storm water drainage, street lighting, solid waste management, landscaping. Social services through community development components such as non formal education, day care centers, health centers etc. Poverty alleviation is sought through income generating activities.



Mr. Chandrasekhar Ghosh, Mayor-in-Council, Kolkata, presenting poverty alleviation programmes implemented by the Corporation.

Mr. Chandrasekhar Ghosh, Mayor-in-Council, Kolkata Municipal Corporation presented poverty alleviation programmes which are implemented by the Corporation. She explained the strategy of Kolkata Municipal Corporation to reduce poverty, including creation of a sustainable model to ensure self sufficiency through training, community empowerment and by providing opportunities. The Corporation is taking the steps to reduce poverty through judicious, sustainable & economically viable use of resources.



Dr. N.P. Mahesh, Professor, National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi, presenting the second session.

The second session included presentation by Dr. M.P. Mahesh, Professor, National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi. Presented on Urban Poverty and Governance. He said that in 2005, about 28.3% or 306 million population was living in urban areas. Urban poverty is largely concentrated in small and medium towns. Lack of services is a major phenomenon of small towns than that of metropolitan cities. No city in India has continuous water supply, whereas access to toilets with sewerage and septic facilities is available to only 14% population. Only 25% out of 4700 towns have partial sewerage system. Poor housing, poor environment, no solid waste management for 99% of slum dwellers these makes their suffering worst of its kind. He explained government of India's fiscal framework for JNNURM which is for 63 mission cities and also for remaining urban local bodies. Governance is an interplay of 3 key elements. These are i) formal & informal institutions ii) delivery mechanisms & processes and iii) supportive framework of legislation, rules & procedures. What is required is to get the institutions and system work for economic reforms & financial management. After that the agenda is to move to the states and finally the important state is focus on implementation, making services work, enhancing responsiveness, accountability and transparency in administration. The requirement is for the bottom up approach.

Mr. Alkesh Sharma, IAS, National Project Coordinator, GAT (UNDP, National Strategy for Urban Poor), Government of India, made presentation on "Municipal Women Leadership for Urban Poverty Alleviation, Issues & Action Plan". He stated that the main urban challenges are poor infrastructure & civic services. Urbanisation of poverty is due to lack of access to land tenure, water, sanitation, health, education & social security. City governance is very poor and due to it there are inadequacies and lack of professionalism. The Government of India is trying to address these urban challenges through Jawahar Nehrū National Urban Renewal Mission. He put forward the mandatory reforms that impact poverty at the urban local body level. He also presented the facts and figures of BSUP and IHSDP Sub-Missions of JNNURM. He then stressed upon implications of Gender Mainstreaming and Gender Budgeting in the urban local bodies and the priority areas where it is

very important and what are the key steps to be followed for the mainstreaming.



Dr. R. C. Pruthi, Chief Auditor, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, presenting on Urban Basic Services to the Poor and financial implications in Municipal budget.

In the third session, Mr. P. C. Pruthi, Chief Auditor, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, presented on Urban Basic Services to the Poor and financial implications in Municipal budget. He also provided an overview of various poverty alleviation schemes under taken by the MCGM. He explained about the preparation of budget at ward level and "P" budget for the urban population in ward.



Mr. Sudama Wadia, Project Coordinator, SNHEA, Mumbai, presenting on Urban Health in India: Issues and Perspectives in Maternal and Child Health.

The fourth session on health had two presentations. Mr. Sudama Wadia, Project Coordinator, SNHEA, Mumbai, presented on Urban Health in India: Issues and Perspectives in Maternal and Child Health. She explained the trend of urban poverty and its relation to urban health and access to health care facilities by

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urban poor. She also presented the work of SNHEA an NGO in Mumbai and its work in the slums of Mumbai on maternal and child health.



Dr. Deepali Pruthi, Center for the Study of Social Change, Mumbai, presenting a case study on Women of India Network (WIN).

Dr. Deepali Pruthi, Center for the Study of Social Change, Mumbai, presented a case study on Women of India Network (WIN). The basis of WIN is to provide quality primary health care services to women and children in slums of Mumbai through self-help groups. The services provided by WIN are women's health, child health, family planning and infertility, non formal education, income generation through small savings & vocational training, and formation of self help groups. In conclusion of her presentation she said that Quality Primary Health Care at doorstep of the poor can be one of the Strategies of Poverty Alleviation in convergence with economic programmes. "WIN" is one such model, which is replicable by CHOs, NGOs, Corporates, ULBs and can become an example of public private partnership at city level.



Ms. Anuja Gadi, State Programme Officer, UNPPA, Mumbai, presenting on Sex Selection: The Practice, its Causes and Implications and the Role of Elected Representatives.

The last presentation of the day was made by Ms. Anuja Gadi, State Programme Officer, UNPPA, Mumbai, who presented on Sex Selection: The Practice, its Causes and Implications and the Role of Elected Representatives. She raised a very important issue of declining sex ratio in various states and specific districts in various states in the country where with industrial and economic development there is rise in cases related sex selection. While the tribal districts have a higher sex ratios. She elaborated with examples that parents can go in any level to have a male child. Ms. Gadi also presented about the legal measures provided by the constitution of India. Some successful models were also presented to curb sex selection e.g. Medical and Social Audit as done in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh and also Pregnancy Monitoring in Navamohar in Punjab, which are showing positive results.



Adv. Nirmala Sumant Pruthi, Former Mayor of Mumbai, anchoring an open forum of women mayors and women elected members.

In the last session, Adv. Nirmala Sumant Pruthi, Former Mayor of Mumbai anchored open forum of women mayors and women elected members. She mentioned how such programmes help for cross learning and networking. She also urged all present dignitaries to actively participate in such Conferences where they could gather knowledge about experiences of various cities and could implement the good practices in their areas of work. All women Mayors and Deputy Mayors shared their experiences and expressed their appreciation for organizing such kind of Forum for women in urban local government.

Our Forthcoming Events

1. Capacity Building Programme for Municipal Elected representatives from West Bengal on Urban Poverty Alleviation on 25th & 26th September, 2008 in Mumbai.
2. Seminar on Resource Mobilization for Urban Local Bodies - Octrel vs Entry Tax / Cess on 29th October 2008, Mumbai.
3. Orientation Training Programme on 'Role of Public Relation Officers and Municipal Secretaries in Urban Poverty Alleviation' on 6th & 7th October, 2008, Goa.
4. Capacity Building Programme for Municipal Elected Representatives on Urban Poverty Alleviation on 18th & 19th October, 2008 in New Delhi.



Women Delegates at Aurangabad Conference.

Dr. Susha Pruthi, President of the Association of Women, which was elected and elected by all the present elected representatives from all over the country. Dr. Susha Pruthi also presented the

role of women in all these who have been the Conference a success.