

Brief Note Urban Governance Research & Media & Communication Internship

Over the last two decades, Praja has been working towards enabling accountable governance. We conduct data-driven research on civic issues and inform key stakeholders such as Elected Representatives (ER), citizens, media and government administration. The aim is to work with ERs and equip them to address inefficiencies in their work processes, bridging the information gaps in the process and mobilising them to take measures towards advocating for change.

The hallmark of Praja's work has been the extensive collection and analysis of data to highlight trends and gaps across various issues concerning citizen's lives to guide policy recommendations. Over the years, we have analyzed more than 4.5 crore unique data points on urban governance, collected via the Right to Information Act and numerous citizen surveys. The in-depth insights have been instrumental in creating evidence to represent the ground realities and advocate for reforms.

In the year 2020, Praja Foundation started its first batch of Research internship for three months (July to September 2020). An overwhelming number of 369 applications were received from all over India, out of which 12 interns were finally selected. These interns had worked for 3 months to conduct research and analysis on urban governance issues such as health, housing & transport, municipal finance and municipal services.

[Link of Op-ed](#)

We had started the second batch of Urban Governance Internship in the month of February 2021 for a duration of three months. Twelve postgraduate interns engaged with Praja to work on research projects. The thematic areas covered under the same included the indicators of Urban Governance Index – Municipal Finance, Citizen Participation, Health, WASH i.e. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Civic issues, Development Plans, Affordable Housing and Urban Transport. More details on their research and projects have been mentioned in the project detail section below. All the interns successfully completed their internship in the month of May 2021 and their final reports have been published in the form of Op-ed.

These reports expansively covered different facets of urban governance, namely Municipal Finance, Civic issues and Health issues. They have assessed different indicators of citizen engagement and progress in health and civic sections. The research and analysis conducted by the twelve interns has been extensive and different factors and implications in urban governance have been astutely highlighted through the same.

[Link of Op-ed](#)

Now, we are planning to start the 3rd batch of Urban Governance internship from July to September, 2021. The internship provides the participants, a platform to comprehend and combine academic knowledge with practical experiences while working on projects. Hence, over the course of this programme, the second batch worked on topical issues in local governance and contributed to the publication of research papers. The research intern will also develop strong research skills involving various research methods, data compilation and analysis and research writing. The internship will also ensure that the interns gain in-depth knowledge on various aspects relating to the research topics or live projects they work on.

The Urban Governance Internship provides opportunities, to graduate and postgraduate students, to gather an understanding and experience on various issues related to urban governance. This

programme envisions that people will use this knowledge and insights gathered from this internship, to expand their capabilities and advocate for reforms. Also, please note that there is no stipend included in this internship.

Timeline for Research Internship:

Time line for research internship	
Application forms	11 th – 27 th June 2021
Application Deadline	27 th June
Joining date (orientation)	6 th July 2021
Duration	3 months/12 weeks 30 hours per week

Research Topics:

Research Topic	No. of Interns	Coordinators
Media & Communication	2	Souradeep Roy
Citizen Participation	2	Meghna & Pooja
Urban Finance	2	Harshil
Housing	2	Rini
WASH & Health	4	Aviral, Eknath & Swapneel

Media & Communication

Praja’s Media Internship is a unique opportunity for media and communication students to gain knowledge and skills in a professional setting while pursuing their academic education. During the internship students will work on live projects, opeds, report writing, video making, testimonials, podcasts and so on. Media interns will learn about urban governance and its different facets while also gaining social sector experience. Also, please note that there is no stipend included in this internship.

No. of Interns: 2

Professional Background: Graduate/postgraduate – (Mass communication/Journalism/Mass Media)

Duration: 3 months

Roles & Responsibilities of Media internship:

- Should have own editing workstation (Laptop/Desktop)
- Should able to write op-eds, article and reports
- Should have in-depth knowledge of Premiere Pro or FCP and access to the software.

- Should have the aesthetic sense of framing, lighting, and camera setup (Further training for the same will also be provided if necessary).
- Should understand the importance of deadlines.
- Interest in issues of civic issues, law and order, SWM, urban studies, etc. is preferable.

Outcome of the Internship: The media internship will enhance professional skills that can be utilised in their future professional carrier.

Research Theme: Citizen Participation

Research Topic: Thematic Project to Assess the Citizen Participation in City Governance

Number of Interns: 2

Duration: 3 months

Scope & Objective of Study:

- To collect data of 11 cities on the indicators finalised
- Analysis of the indicators
- Report preparation
- Qualitative analysis of data points and issues under citizen participation

Methodology:

- City government website for data
- Internet search
- Qualitative Interviews with Stakeholders
- Analysis of qualitative and quantitative aspects of the research

Outcome: Understanding of the status of citizen participation in the 11 cities across 6 States

Research Theme: Urban Finance

Topic: Thematic Project to Assess the Fiscal Empowerment of City Governments.

Number of interns: 2

Duration: 3 months.

Scope and Objective of the study: To assess the Status of Fiscal Empowerment of City Governments

- To perform secondary research and analysis over sub-thematics such as Devolution of Financial Power, Systemic Fiscal Transfer, Financial Transparency and Accountability and Financial Management and Performance.
- To conduct financial ratio analysis
- To conduct surveys and perform qualitative research analysis over specific focus areas pertaining to municipal finance. cope and Objective of the study:

Methodology:

- Primary and Secondary research
- 2. Data checking and analysis, and pulling out key insights
- 3. Preparation of Final Report

Outcome of the study: Comprehensive database and analysis on Fiscal Empowerment of City Government.

Research Theme: Housing

Research Topic: Research on rental housing, vacant housing, etc., help in symposium planning- live project for July launch

Number of Interns: 2

Duration: 3months

Scope and objective of the study:

- To understand the various possibilities for achieving adequate housing for all in Mumbai Metropolitan region.
- Research on bringing vacant housing to use, lease/rental housing in MMR region
- Preparation of recommendations report
- Support in Interactions/follow-ups with external stakeholders (MLAs, housing experts)
- Management of logistics support for organising symposium

Methodology: Secondary research and data analysis, interactions with external stakeholders, event management

Outcome: Comprehensive recommendations report on short term strategies for housing and symposium with key stakeholders for deliberations on the same.

Research Theme: WASH & Health

Research Topic:

- Determining correlations between indicators of WASH & Health and Citizen Participation/Fiscal Empowerment.
- Research on health policies, data analysis and report making for August launch.

Number of interns: 4

Duration: 3 months

Scope and Objective of the study: To create a database of indicators pertaining to WASH & Health services, and determining correlations with that of indicators of structural themes relating to Urban Governance.

- To list down robust compilation of indicators.
- Data Entry for finalised indicators & data analysis and developing key insights. .
- To research and analyse data on key health indicators based on health policies in Mumbai and Delhi, as a part of the live project for launch of annual Praja reports.
- Research on health policies in Mumbai and Delhi.
- Data analysis and white paper making for health Mumbai and Delhi reports.
- Existing Health infrastructure
- Preparation of Final Report

Methodology:

- Secondary data collection.
- Data entry and quantitative analysis.
- Studying various policies and acts related to WASH and Health
- Secondary research and data analysis, interactions with external stakeholders, event management

Outcome of the study:

- Comprehensive database on WASH & Health services will be built including determining the correlations with structural themes of Urban Governance
- Launch of Health White Papers in Mumbai and Delhi

