

Report on **Empowerment of Women Elected Representatives in City Governments**



October 2023

Study spanned over 37 cities across 28 states and 3 Union Territories in India.

The study involved a total of **800 interviews** held with key stakeholders such as the city Elected Representatives (ERs), city administrators and city based CSOs.

Detailed Secondary Research conducted by studying the state municipal corporation and municipal acts, election rules, city government official websites, and other rules to grasp the provision of reservation for women ERs in the council, and committees.

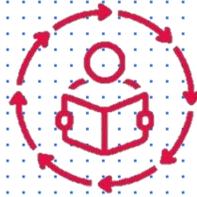
The report analyses the **questions raised by ERs** in the General Body/House to highlight the prominent issues in focus.

Cities studied for the report



Summary and explanation of cities studied

Categories	Count
Cities studied for the report	37
Cities studied for legislative framework	37
Cities showing status of women representations	31
Cities studied for deliberative data	14
Cities with no elected body during the course of study	8
States with no provision for apex committees	5
Cities with no apex committees during the course of study	1
Cities with no subject committees during the course of study	9



01

Status of Women Elected Representatives in City Governments

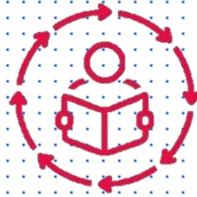
Proportion of Elected Seats Held by Women in Local Government

Sr. No	States	Cities	Provision for Women Reservation	Seats for women as per Act	Women from unreserved seats
1	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada	50%	32	3
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	33%	7	0
3	Assam	Guwahati	50%	30	1
4	Bihar	Patna	50%	37	8
5	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	33%	23	1
6		Bilaspur	33%	23	3
7	Delhi	Delhi	50%	125	10
8	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar	33%	24	3
9	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	50%	50	3
10	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	50%	42	2
11		Indore	50%	42	2
12	Maharashtra	Mumbai	50%	113	20
13	Mizoram	Aizawl	33%	6	2
14	Odisha	Bhubaneswar	50%	33	7
15	Rajasthan	Jaipur	33%	50	2
16	Sikkim	Gangtok	33%	6	4
17	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	50%	100	0
18		Coimbatore	50%	50	5
19	Tripura	Agartala	33%	25	4
20	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	33%	36	5
21	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	33%	33	3
22	West Bengal	Kolkata	33%	48	20
23		Asansol	33%	35	6
24	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	33%	12	1
25	Goa	Panaji	33%	10	2
26	Gujarat	Gandhinagar	50%	22	0
27	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	50%	20	0
28	Telangana	Hyderabad	50%	75	5
29		Warangal	50%	33	0

Highlights

- 15 states have a provision for 50% reservation for women in their municipal acts, whereas 17 states show 33% reservation.
- Vijayawada, Patna, Mumbai, Bhubaneswar, and Coimbatore has more than 55% actual representation of women in the house.
- Despite provision on 33% women reservation, Agartala has shown 57% women representation in the house.
- There is no elected body 8 cities namely: Gurugram, Ranchi, Bengaluru, Nagpur, Imphal, Shillong, Kohima and Amritsar

- Five cities (Srinagar, Shillong, Panaji, Hyderabad and Warangal) **do not have provision for reservation for women for the post of Mayor and Dy. Mayor.**
- Only two cities (**Thiruvananthapuram and Bengaluru**) have the provision for women reservation for the **post of Dy. Mayor.**
- Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh municipal acts do not have provision for the post of Dy. Mayor.
- **The post of Deputy Mayor was omitted** in 2007 for the municipal corporations in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- The term of Mayor **is 2.5 years** for four cities (Mumbai, Nagpur, Bengaluru and Gandhinagar) and **one year** for Delhi and Chandigarh.
- Few states have provision for reservation for the post of Mayor for **women only from SC, ST and OBC categories** such as Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, Punjab, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.
- Ironically, in the municipal act of **Kolkata** the reservation for women for the post of Mayor is for the first term but only if at least 50% of the total elected members are women.



02

Status of Representation in Deliberative bodies

Sr. No.	States	Cities	As per State Municipal Act		Total no. of councillors in apex committee	Total women councillors in apex committee
			Reservation in the apex committee	No. of seats reserved for women		
1	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada	No	-	7	4
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Yes	1	4	1
3	Assam	Guwahati	No	-	8	1
4	Bihar	Patna	No	-	9	5
5	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Yes	1	16	2
6		Bilaspur	Yes	1	12	2
7	Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar	No	-	4	0
8	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	No	-	9	5
9	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Yes	1	11	3
10		Indore	Yes	1	11	1
11	Maharashtra	Mumbai	No	-	26	9
12	Mizoram	Aizawl	No	-	6	1
13	Odisha	Bhubaneswar	No	-	10	4
14	Rajasthan	Jaipur	Yes	2	29	11
15	Sikkim	Gangtok	No	-	7	3
16	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	No	-	15	8
17		Coimbatore	No	-	15	8
18	Tripura	Agartala	No	-	10	3
19	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	No	-	13	2
20	West Bengal	Kolkata	No	-	14	1
21		Asansol	No	-	8	1

Highlights

- Only Four states (7 cities) have reservation for women in the Standing/ Apex committee.
- There is no provision for Standing/ Apex committee in the Municipal Acts of Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Chandigarh, and Warangal.
- In total only 7 seats are reserved for women for the apex committee constituted in the 22 cities however, 86 women councillors are part of the apex committee.
- Despite no provision for women reservation, seven cities have more than 40% and more representation of women in the Apex committee.

Sr. No.	States	Cities	Reservation as Committee Chairperson
1	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	At least one women member should be a part of Mayor-In-Council Body. Thus, that women councillor becomes the chairperson of a subject committee.
2		Bilaspur	
3	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	At least one women member should be a part of Mayor-In-Council Body. Thus, that women councillor becomes the chairperson of a subject committee.
4		Indore	
5	Maharashtra	Mumbai	Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson on the Women and Child Welfare Committee shall be from amongst the Women Councillors.
6		Nagpur	Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson on the Women and Child Welfare Committee shall be from amongst the women Councillors.
7	Odisha	Bhubaneswar	Chairperson of the Standing Committee for Grievances and Social Justice shall be elected from amongst the elected Councillors of weaker section belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Women.

Sr. No.	States	Cities	Total no. of Subject Committees Constituted	No. of Committees chaired by women
1	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada	11	7
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	3	0
3	Assam	Guwahati	7	1
4	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	14	2
5	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	7	4
6	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	10	2
7		Indore	10	1
8	Maharashtra	Mumbai	9	4
9	Odisha	Bhubaneswar	9	3
10	Rajasthan	Jaipur	20	8
11	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	6	2
12	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	6	4
13	Tripura	Agartala	6	3
14	Mizoram	Aizawl	3	Data Not Accessible

Highlights

- Only four states out of 28 states and 3 Union territories have provision for women reservation as a chairperson in subject committee.
- Despite no reservation for women as chairperson of the subject committees, 41 committees across 13 cities are chaired by women.
- In Vijayawada – 64%, Thiruvananthapuram – 57%, and Coimbatore – 67% of the subject committees are chaired by women.

Only Seven States have Provision Women Reservation as a member of subject committees

Sr. No.	States	Cities	Reservation in committees	Total reserved seats in committees	Total women councillors in committees
1	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Yes	3	2
2	Maharashtra	Mumbai	Yes	27*	104
3	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Yes	8	Data Not Accessible
4	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar	Yes	1*	
5	Maharashtra	Nagpur	Yes	75%*	No Elected Body
6	Goa	Panaji	Yes	75%*	Only Municipal Act Studied
7	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Yes	1*	
8	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	No	0	24
9	Delhi	Delhi	No	0	131
10	Madhya Pradesh	Indore	No	0	41
11	Odisha	Bhubaneswar	No	0	26
12	Rajasthan	Jaipur	No	0	32
13	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	No	0	52
14	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	No	0	40
15	Tripura	Agartala	No	0	24

Highlights

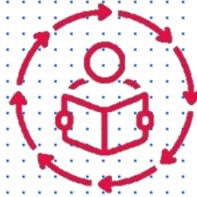
- 30 cities out of 37 across 28 states and 3 UTs do not have provision for reservation of women as a member of subject committees.
- Further, out of these seven states, four states (Maharashtra, Jammu & Kashmir, Goa, and Himachal Pradesh) have provision for women reservation only in the Women Child and Social Justice Committee. Remaining Committees do not have a provision for women's reservation.
- Out of the 15 cities for which data was available, 476 women councillors are members of subject committees.

Note:

* Seats reserved in committee dealing with women and children's issues only

Only 4 States have Provisions for Women Reservation of One Seat in the Financial Decision Making Committee

Sr. No.	States	Cities	Total number of members in committee	Number of women councillors in committee
1	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada	7	4
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	4	1
3	Assam	Guwahati	8	1
4	Bihar	Patna	9	5
5	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	16	2
6	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur	12	2
7	Delhi	Delhi	38	11
8	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar	4	0
9	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	11	3
10	Madhya Pradesh	Indore	11	1
11	Maharashtra	Mumbai	26	9
12	Odisha	Bhubaneswar	10	4
13	Rajasthan	Jaipur	7	3
14	Sikkim	Gangtok	7	3
15	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	15	8
16	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	15	8
17	Tripura	Agartala	6	2
18	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	13	2
19	West Bengal	Kolkata	14	1
20	West Bengal	Asansol	8	1
21	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Data Not Available	



03

Participation of Women Elected Representatives in City Governments

Four cities had less than 75% attendance of women councillors in the GBM.

Sr. No.	States	Cities	Total Men Councillor	Total Women Councillor	Attendance in GBM			
					Total Meetings	% of total Councillors	% of Men Councillors	% of Women Councillors
1	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada	29	35	5	92%	93%	91%
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	13	7	6	90%	90%	90%
3	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	46	24	2	96%	95%	98%
4	Delhi	Delhi	125	145	62	75%	75%	74%
5	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	44	42	2	97%	99%	95%
6	Maharashtra	Mumbai	94	133	104	69%	64%	73%
7		Nagpur	71	78	15	57%	57%	57%
8	Mizoram	Aizawl	11	8	6	96%	100%	92%
9	Odisha	Bhubaneswar	26	42	7	98%	97%	98%
10	Rajasthan	Jaipur	98	52	1	87%	85%	92%
11	Sikkim	Gangtok	9	10	5	84%	84%	84%
12	Tripura	Agartala	22	29	5	92%	86%	96%
13	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	63	36	1	77%	86%	61%
14	West Bengal	Kolkata	75	68	13	82%	80%	83%

Highlights

- Seven out of 14 cities studied had a councillor's attendance of 90% and more in the GBM/ House.
- Four cities had less than 80% of councillor's attendance in the GBM. Nagpur had mere 57% of councillor's attendance in the GBM.
- Women Councillors from Six cities (Raipur, Mumbai, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, Agartala and Kolkata) had higher attendance than the men councillors.
- Four cities (Delhi, Mumbai, Nagpur and Dehradun) had less than 75% attendance of women councillors in the GBM.
- Women councillors from Dehradun had 25% less attendance in the GBM than of men councillors.

- One-year deliberation data of 14 cities shows that, per councillor have asked/ raised **two questions** in the GBM/ House.
- **Overall, per women councillor have raised one issues in a year, as compared to three issues per men councillor in the GBM.**
- Councillors from **Nagpur have asked five questions** each in the GBM/ House.
- Whereas, **two councillors** from Amritsar have asked a **mere one question collectively** in the GBM/ House.
- The number of questions asked by women Councillors of Raipur, Bhopal, Mumbai, Jaipur, Gangtok and Kolkata are **at par with men councillors.**
- Women councillors from **Aizawl have asked four times the questions than as men councillors.**
- In Amritsar participation of women councillors in asking questions is comparatively very low; per male councillors have asked one question whereas, **seven women councillors collectively have asked one question.**
- Similarly, women councillors from Itanagar, Delhi, and Bhubaneswar, Amritsar have very **low participation** in asking questions compared to male councillors.

Top 5 Issues Raised by Councillors across 14 Cities

Sr No.	Type of Issues	No. of Questions
Top 5 Questions raised by Women Councillors		
1	Road / Footpath Related	78
2	Naming Renaming of Roads/Chowks/Monuments/Buildings/Stations Related	75
3	Scheme Policies	64
4	Solid Waste Management Related	59
5	Health	57
Top 5 Questions raised by Men Councillors		
1	Human Resources Related	256
2	Naming Renaming of Roads/Chowks/Monuments/Buildings/Stations Related	221
3	Maintenance of Municipal Property	220
4	Scheme Policies	165
5	Road / Footpath Related	155

Highlights

- Women councillors have contributed only 27% of the total questions asked by the all councillors of 14 cities studied.
- The top five issues raised by the councillors are Human Resources, Naming and Re-naming, Maintenance of Municipal Properties, Roads, and Schemes & Policies.
- The top five issues raised by women councillors are Roads, Naming and Re-naming, Schemes & Policies, Solid Waste Management, and Health.
- Participation of women councillors in raising civic issues such as; Storm Water Drainage, Garden, Nuisance due to Animals, and Mosquito Nuisance & fogging is reasonably well and have shown above 40% of the total questions asked on these issues.

Sr. No.	States/Union Territories	Cities	Training given to Councillors
1	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Yes
2	Bihar	Patna	Yes
3	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Yes
4	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur	Yes
5	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar	Yes
6	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Yes
7	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Yes
8	Madhya Pradesh	Indore	Yes
9	Maharashtra	Mumbai	Yes
10	Mizoram	Aizawl	Yes
11	Odisha	Bhubaneswar	Yes
12	Sikkim	Gangtok	Yes
13	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Yes
14	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	Yes
15	Tripura	Agartala	Yes
16	West Bengal	Kolkata	Yes
17	West Bengal	Asansol	Yes

Highlights

- Only the Telangana Municipalities Act has provision for councillor training. Rest none of the municipal acts have any such provision.
- Although training activities are organised in an ad-hoc manner by various cities and/or states, there is no defined module or format of trainings.
- Other than the reservation in council and committees, there needs to be a provision for training and capacity building of women councillors for enhance participation in the governance system.



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