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India—Municipal Committees

Lesson Plan

Contents

- ▶ What are public utility services or civic amenities?
- ▶ Who provides them?
- ▶ What is a Municipal Committee or Corporation?
- ▶ The constitution and work of a Municipal Committee or Corporation.
- ▶ From where does the money for civic amenities come?

Objectives

- ▶ Learning about public utility services or civic amenities.
- ▶ Understanding how they are financed and governed.
- ▶ The Municipal Committees and Corporations of cities – elected by people.
- ▶ The way they are constituted and organised.
- ▶ The work done by these Committees/Corporations?
- ▶ Who pays for the civic amenities?

Teacher's Aids

- ▶ News items and articles in newspapers, magazines and on internet.
- ▶ Photographs, pictures, etc., showing damage to public property.

Tips for Teacher

- ▶ The teacher can arrange a class visit to a corporation.
- ▶ A talk by some public-spirited person for the school would be good.

Gear Up and Background

- ▶ Gear Up shows a picture of a boy breaking a streetlight. It is a very bad thing to do. Firstly, it is public property. It has been paid for by the public. People like him and his family are wasting public money and damaging public property, which is bad and against the law. Secondly, the street in that area will become dark and unsafe because the light is broken. Thirdly, more money will have to be spent to repair and replace the light.

- ▶ Explain what public utilities or civic amenities are: Drinking water, electricity, roads, schools, colleges, primary health centres, hospitals, local transport, fair price shops, markets, etc.
- ▶ What is the duty of the ordinary citizen in keeping them safe and sound?
- ▶ **Explain:** When Gandhiji suggested Satyagraha, it was against the injustice of the British Raj. It was a boycott of British goods. It was not an effort to damage our own property. What we do as random acts of violence and rioting or in a group to damage property in a strike, etc., is not Satyagraha. It is lawlessness.

/// **Municipal Committees and Corporations**

- ▶ Who provides and runs public utility services?
- ▶ Municipal committees and corporations in cities - main work is to provide comfort to people living in towns/ cities with the help of citizens.
- ▶ Elected by local people – members called Municipal Councillors or Councillors – President/Chairman heads the Committee; Mayor heads a Corporation.
- ▶ Look after the needs of people locally.
- ▶ Keep city clean; arrange drinking water; provide electricity to homes and shops; instal and repair streetlights; build and repair roads; register births and deaths and issue certificates; provide free, compulsory education to poor children; build and run primary health centres and hospitals; provide and manage local public transport; develop and maintain parks; issue ration cards and run fair price shops; clear garbage and sewage disposal.
- ▶ Funds received through taxes from local people and people entering and using the facilities of the city.
- ▶ Taxes on property, road, octroi/entry, entertainment, toll, water, Value Added Tax (VAT).
- ▶ Also get funds from the State governments for development of amenities.