Teacher's Guide

Urban Administration

Period 3

Based on the NCERT curriculum for Standard VI

JANAAGRAHA

JANAAGRAHA CENTRE FOR CITIZENSHIP & DEMOCRACY

Janaagraha's initiative to improve citizen engagement in India's democracy through their civic learning program

Developed in collaboration with Young Leaders for Active Citizenship (YLAC)

Class VI
Board – CBSE
Subject – Social Science
Textbook – Social and Political Life I (NCERT), 2006
Chapter 7 – Urban Administration
Number of periods – 03
Length – 55-60 minutes

Section I – What are we going to learn and why is it important

Learning objectives

Students will:

- Understand the importance of citizen participation in governance and being able to constructively engage with the local government representatives to address civic issues in their neighbourhood.

Learning Outcomes

- Have knowledge of different ways to approach the local government body to participate as an active citizen.

Key Terms

Grievance Cell	Right to Information Act (RTI)	Protest
Petition	Citizen Participation	Ward Sabha

Section II – How are we going to learn

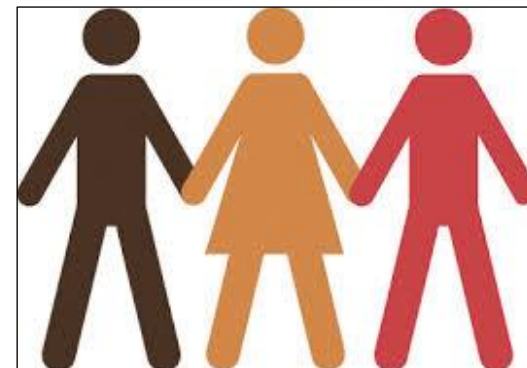### 1. Introduction- Why do citizens need to engage with Municipal governments?

Time: 5 minutes

Materials required: Blackboard and chalk

Note to the teacher: Initiate this discussion below

Facilitation Notes:

- In the previous lesson we learnt about the Municipal Corporations and the work they do. We understood how the urban administration system takes care of tasks that keep our neighborhoods clean, the street lights working, municipal schools and hospitals functioning, etc.

- Given the importance of the tasks performed by local government bodies and the impact they have on our day-to-day lives, it is important for us to engage with them on a regular basis to improve governance in the city that we live in.

- The first step to participate in local governance is voting for the right candidate in the Municipal Corporation elections. All citizens should make an informed decision while voting for the post of local ward councilor. If we have good people representing us in the ward council, it will help the development of our local area.

- Since you all are not 18 yet, you cannot vote. But next time when local elections are around the corner, you should undertake online research on backgrounds of all the candidates in your area and help your parents make an informed decision.

- The other important task for citizens is to support the Municipal Corporation in their efforts and hold them accountable.

- For example, in the monsoon season when water starts collecting in different areas, the city becomes prone to diseases like dengue, chikungunya and typhoid which can also be fatal. If citizens do not remain vigilant and work along with the municipal government to take steps to curtail the spread of these diseases by cleaning possible mosquito breeding sites regularly, we all will suffer. So, in addition to ensuring that municipal corporation is cleaning the mosquito breeding sites in public places, we as citizens also need to follow rules set by the corporation and make sure that no breeding site is developed in our house.

- Let's see an example of Mysuru city where the Municipal Corporation and citizens have taken a lead in segregating garbage and making the city cleaner and greener!
- Play the video

Video: CSE Clean City Award- Mysuru solid waste management

Link: Youtube

- Wouldn't we all want our Municipal Corporations to work like this in all aspects? As you saw in the video, the Municipal Corporation educated its citizens to segregate dry and wet waste and without the support of the citizens, the result wouldn't be possible.

- Today we will learn, what can we do as citizens to actively identify problems that need to be addressed and bring it to the notice of the Municipal Corporation. Let's take an example: we are all residents of 'ClassVI-PUR' and we have some street lights that have been broken since a long time. The dark patch on the road has become prone to crime and recently a girl was also harassed while walking on this road after dark.

- Now what can we do? let's find out in this session the options available to citizens to address this problem.

2. Engaging with the Municipal Corporation:

Time: 15 mins

(I)   Reaching out to the concerned officials

Now the first step would be reaching out to the concerned officials or officials responsible for this work. This would be your local ward office. Let them know about the problem and ask them how long it'll take to resolve. Follow up to ensure the work is done in the time-period mentioned. To reach out to them, you can find their numbers from their website or visit your local Municipal Corporation office. For example, on BBMP's (Municipal Corporation of Bengaluru) website, you can find information of the head office and all the zonal offices.

Note to teacher: Project the following screenshot for the class or open the BBMP website and browse through the 'Contact Us' section.

For the complete copy of the NCERT Lesson Plans click here