

CHAPTER III

SANKESHWAR MUNICIPALITY'S FUNCTIONING IN HEALTH SECTOR

As the Sankeshwar Municipality has handed over its primary Health unit to the Government of Karnataka in 1980, the Health Schemes of the Central Government and the State Government are being carried out through the Primary Health Centre in Sankeshwar. Though Sankeshwar is comparatively a small town, it is served by large number of qualified doctors and visiting specialists. (See Table No. 2.2, 2.3 & 2.4).

While studying the role and functioning of Sankeshwar Municipality in the field of health we mainly discuss the preventive measures such as water supply, sanitation, maintenance of Gutters and Roads, Public Urinals and Lavatories, garbage disposal etc. Lack of cleanliness in the town give birth to many diseases. Moreover how far curative measures are provided by the Governmental Medical Centre is also discussed. This will help us in understanding the existing state of affairs regarding health facility in the Town Municipal area and the problems posed to the Municipality and the ways and means adopted by the Municipality in tackling the same. For the sake of convenience this Chapter is divided into two parts.

In the first part the water supply scheme of Sankeshwar municipal Council are elaborately discussed. In the second part other programmes are discussed.

PART I

WATER SUPPLY SCHEME

Water supply and effective draining of sewerage water are the two very essential arrangements on which the whole health system depends.*¹ Without pure water supply, it is difficult to maintain good health. Provision of drinking water facilities to the residents of the town is an obligatory duty of the Town Municipal Council.

In Sankeshwar Town area 8 gallons of water is supplied per capita per day to the household when the water is available in the river (Hiranyakeshi). The Sankeshwar town face acute scarcity of drinking water from January to May ; due to dry-up of main source i.e. River. During the scarcity period, water is supplied once in a week through taps. During summer water is supplied through tankers and trucks from private and P.W.D. Departments.

The water supply scheme, with the Hirayankeshi river as the source, has been maintained by the Town Municipal Council. The total expenditure incurred on the scheme has been Rs.5,89,513/-. The water supply; scheme was started on 13.9.1954 and the filter unit has started functioning from 31.10.1970. In other words for 16 years residents of the town did not get pure drinking water. The Town Panchayat Committee took charge of the Water Supply Scheme in 1963 and the filter

unit was handed over to it by the P.H.E. Department during 1970. During 1963 to 1970 water supply was made by the Town Panchayat Committee. The town municipal council has raised from the State Government a loan of Rs.2,87,249/- towards the water supply scheme and Rs.1,50,000/- for the filter unit.

Every day 3,00,000 gallons of water is supplied to the town for a population of 27,237 (2,50,000 gallons for domestic use and 50,000 gallons only for non-domestic purposes. This works out 50 litres per individual per day. As per the public Health Department instruction 140 litres of water is required each individual per day. This indicates that not even half the quantity of required quota of water is available to an individual. In view of the non-availability of water during the summer months in 1985 a proposal has been advanced to develop a combined water supply scheme for Hukkeri-Sankeshwar and 16 surrounding villages at an estimated cost of Rs. 5 Crores. Water for the scheme is to be lifted from the Reservoir at the Hidkal Dam. The scheme has been pending with the Government of Karnataka for a long time. The scheme is showing slow progress due to bureaucratic delay and insufficient budget provision.*²

Several appeals have been made by the Town Municipal Council to the authorities at the various levels to solve the drinking water problem. A petition to the Union Health Minister was given in 1985. The president of TMC has made a fervent appeal regarding acute scarcity of water. The extract of his letter reads :

"The President of the Sankeshwar Municipality on behalf of the people of the area comprising the towns of Hukkeri and Sankeshwar, 16 villages wishes to invite your kind attention to the acute problems of drinking water. It has remained unsolved for long. Further, delay will mean further neglect of this great need of the people. The very existence of the people in the area is threatened.

Sankeshwar has continued with some old system of water supply from neighbouring river Hiranyakeshi. By February every year the river dries up. If the monsoon does not favour the people, their misery is endless.

The supply of water by tankers and trucks is not adequate and there is shortage of funds also. The new Municipality, with its other problems, has not been able to undertake any adequate projects or improvements in this regard.

Hence, for immediate relief the following action may please be initiated to solve the drinking water problem.

1. Provision of ten trucks with tankers from the P.W.D. Department.
2. Provision of special grants of Rs.5,00,000/- from the Government, from the Scarcity Fund.
3. Provision of 6 borewells by the cyclone rigs at Sankeshwar Town".*³

This letter makes it very clear that the President of Municipality grasped the problem of water supply properly and also proposed the feasible remedial measures.

In response to this letter the State Government made provision for 2 tankers from Irrigation Department and 10 hired trucks for supply of water. Provision of six bore-wells by cyclone rigs was made. But all the bore wells drilled were failed, though they were sunk upto a depth of 350 feet. This also makes it clear that in Sankeshwar area underground water source is also not available at a reasonable depth.

So far, the Town Municipal Council has deposited Rs.50,000/- (Rs.40,000/- as Survey Charges and Rs.10,000 in Reserve) towards the Combined Water Supply Scheme. The administrator is asked to pursue the matter with the Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board, Belgaum and see that the scheme is completed early.

The Town Municipal Council has made Twelve bore-well facilities for supply of drinking water in different parts of the town at the depth of 650 to 750 feet in 1993-94. All of them are functioning, but they are inadequate to meet the needs of the residents for domestic and other purposes.

Frequent power failure is also one of the important cause for inadequate supply of water in Sankeshwar Town.

The following table shows particulars of Borewells in Sankeshwar TMC area.

TABLE 3.1 STATEMENT SHOWING PARTICULARS OF BOREWELLS IN STMC AREA

Ward No.	No. of bore-wells	Depth of bore-wells	Water available
I	2	650 Feet	2.5 Inch.
II	2	700 Feet	2.5 Inch.
III	2	650 Feet	2.5 Inch.
IV	3	700 Feet	2.5 Inch.
V	3	750 Feet	2.5 Inch.

Source : Interview with Junior Engineer. Shri. A.K. Patil.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF WATER SUPPLY SCHEME

There are 1856 private tap connections provided by the Municipality. Out of which 1789 are domestic and 67 free taps provided by the TMC in various parts of the town. The council has provided only 1/2" (inch) connections for private as well as public taps. The Council is charging Rs.100/- as deposit for each connection. The Council is charging Rs.125/- and Rs.300/- per annum for domestic and non-domestic private connections respectively. The Council is expected to review the charges and enhance them where possible to bring additional revenue.

The yearly income of water supply scheme is Rs.2,43,725/- from both domestic and non-domestic connections.*⁴

The following table shows the budget provision and expenditure on water supply for the period of five years.

TABLE 3.2 STATEMENT SHOWING BUDGET PROVISION AND EXPENDITURE ON WATER SUPPLY

Year and Budget provision (in Rs.)	Actual amount spent by TMC (in Rs.)	Expenditure for supply of water through tanks in Rs.	Total
1. 1990-91			
6,37,000	4,33,000	1,85,000	6,18,000
2. 1991-92			
15,36,975	7,33,000	3,31,215	10,64,215
3. 1992-93			
7,30,000	13,07,000	6,41,710	19,84,710
4. 1993-94			
8,00,100	8,99,000	7,30,212	16,29,212
5. 1994-95			
11,80,000	9,10,000	2,08,964	11,18,964

Source : Annual Budget Reports and Audit Reports of TMC from 1990 to 1995.

The above table shows that the TMC has spent the amount sanctioned in full and some more amount than the budget provision except during 1991-92 for the supply of drinking

water. During 1991-92 less amount was spent than the budget provision due to timely and adequate rainfall. During all these four years the Town Municipal Council has received scarcity grants from the Deputy Commissioner, Belgaum and utilized the same for the supply of drinking water. The details are presented in the table ^{No.} 3.3.
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TABLE NO 3.3 STATEMENT SHOWING YEARWISE AMOUNT SANCTIONED FOR SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER

Sl. No	Year	Amount Sanctioned by DC (in Rs.)
1	1990-91	5,00,000
2	1992-93	6,00,000
3	1993-94	4,00,000
4	1994-95	5,00,000

Source : Annual Administration reports of TMC from 1990 to 95.

KURNI WATER SUPPLY SCHEME (1990)

For providing drinking water supply to the town Kurni (nearby village) pipeline project was started during 1990. Under this scheme water from five bore-wells is collected in a lift at Kurni. From Kurni to Sankeshwar (i.e. 13 kms) a pipeline is laid down for channalising water.

About 10,000 gallons of water per hour is lifted to Sankeshwar through the pumps. The total cost involved for the

project was Rs.50 lakhs which is fully provided by the State Government in the form of loan. This indicates that the State Government is fully aware of the problem and extended its helping hand to the Sankeshwar Municipality.

COMBINED WATER SUPPLY SCHEME FROM HIDKAL RESERVOIR

Another scheme which is in progress is Hidkal Reservoir Water Supply Scheme to Hukkeri-Sankeshwar and 16 villages on the way. In this regard a ground level water storage tank with a capacity of 4,00,000 lakh gallons is constructed at Sankeshwar. The work of laying pipes is in progress. The scheme is likely to be completed by 1996-97. However the scheme is facing the problem of slow progress due to two important reasons. Firstly, delay in the release of grant by the State Government. Secondly, and consequently cost escalation due to delay and fixation of contract agency by the Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board.*⁵

This indicates that there is red tapism both at the Department of Finance and Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board. The TMC has passed resolutions to press the government to speed up the water supply scheme. Further the president of TMC personally met Deputy Commissioner, Belgaum and the concerned minister and pressed for speedier actions.



**Photograph 2. Litter scattered at the
road side (Ward II)**

PART II

SANITATION

The greatest attention should be paid to the problem of sanitation. Filth should not be allowed to accumulate at any place in the town. If it happens it will affect the health of the people by becoming a source of disease. (See Photograph 2 of Ward II where litter scattered at the road side). The Sankeshwar Town Municipal Council at present is having on its pay roll 40 Paur Karmiks for sanitation purpose as per Government rule. Government ratio is one Paur Karmik for every 750 citizens. At this rate for the population of Sankeshwar which is 27,237 nearly 39 Paur Karmiks are required. Particulars of the staff and equipments maintained by the Sankeshwar TMC for sanitation work are as follows.

TABLE 3.4 STATEMENT SHOWING THE POSITION OF SANITATION STAFF

Sl. No	Staff	NO.of staff working	Vacant
1.	Sanitary Inspector	1	--
2.	Conservancy Dafedars	3	--
3.	Sweepers	36	1
TOTAL		40	1

At present one post of Sweeper is vacant since 9 months. The Chief Officer of the Town Municipal Council is asked to fill up the post.

EQUIPMENTS

The Town Municipal Council has maintained one tractor and 20 dust bins.

The dust bins are equally distributed in five wards and these are kept away from residential houses. These are vacated regularly twice in a week by lifting garbage. Normally they do not disturb the civilians due to wind as they are in good condition. None of the dustbins are broken or damaged in any manner. The RCC dustbins are circular in shape having a height of 2.5 feet.

PUBLIC LATRINES AND URINALS

Sankeshwar Town Municipal Council has constructed two community latrines (six seated) in Ward No. I (West) and No.III (Centre) of the town. These community latrines are constructed nearby residences of economically weaker section in these two wards. They are constructed recently and do not need repair work. They are cleaned properly once in a week. As per the scale prescribed under the Public Health Manual, the Town Municipal Council has to provide 15 seats of public latrines for every thousand population. Thus for 27,000 population (1991 census) total 405 public latrines are required.



**Photograph 3. Lack of Maintenance of Public urinals
(Ward IV)**

Only 5 urinals have been provided in the town and a few more will be provided soon (See Photograph 3 of Ward IV regarding the maintenance of Urinals).

The Chief Officer is entrusted with the responsibility of providing more number of latrines and urinals to the residents of the town.

Provision of latrines and urinals is an obligatory duty of the Municipal Administration. But adequate attention has not been paid so far. The possible reason that could be attributed was the acute scarcity of water during the summer.

PRIVATE LATRINES

Most of private latrines are septic tank latrines as the Town Municipal Council has not maintained the necessary scavenging staff.

Private latrines are of two types.

1. With septic tank	2458
2. Water flush latrines	937

TOTAL	3395

The Council has to see that the private latrines are maintained properly and no nuisance is caused to public. No permission should be granted to construct private latrines without septic tanks.

Out of 5200 families 1805 families have no latrines. This suggests about 65% of people having their own septic tank or lavatory facilities. 35% people will go in open air for the sanitation in nearby brook and surrounding areas of the town. This will pollute the brook and become a source of contagious disease.

PROPOSAL FOR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE FOR SANITATION

Sankeshwar Town Municipal Council has submitted a proposal in 1993-94 to the Central Government for providing individual sanitary system, under the Central Government Subsidy Scheme. The cost involved in this scheme is 6.5 Crores. Under this scheme 2500 water closets and 15 community latrines are proposed to be constructed. The proposal is under the consideration of the Central Government.

TABLE 3.5 STATEMENT SHOWING THE SCHEME OF SUBSIDY FOR LATRINES UNDER CENTRAL GOVERNMENT (FIG.INDICATE %)

Sl. No.	Size of income of the beneficiary	Subsidy	Bank Loan	Individual contribution
1.	More than Rs.18,000/- income per annum.	Nil	25	75
2.	Less than Rs. 18,000/- income per annum	25	25	50
3.	Less than Rs.8,000/- income per annum	45	50	05

Source : Excerpts from the notes of Interview Junior Engineer dated 21-8-95.



Photograph 4. Dilapidated urinal and the choked gutter with litter (Ward III)



**Photograph 5. Unclean road and unclean gutter
(Ward IV)**



Photograph 6. Open gutter adjoining the residential houses of Scheduled Caste population (Ward V)

GUTTERS

As per Karnataka Municipalities Act 1964 Clause 87 (d) the Town Municipal Council has to construct gutters by the road side and take up repair work as and when needed. To maintain cleanliness of gutters is the basic responsibility of the TMC (See Photographs 4,5 & 6 of ward III,IV and V regarding the present position of gutters(maintenance). The Sankeshwar TMC constructed two types of gutters.

1. 'U' type gutters 3,815 sq. km.
2. Gutters constructed with stones 9,089 sq. km.

The budget provision and the amount spent for the construction and repairs of the gutters for the last five years are as under :

TABLE 3.6 STATEMENT SHOWING BUDGET PROVISION AND AMOUNT SPENT

Sl. No.	Year	Budget provision	Amount spent	Balance Amount
1	1990-91	1,00,000	40,425	5,95,575
2.	1991-92	80,000	41,878	38,122
2	1992-93	1,50,000	1,15,329	34,671
3	1993-94	2,00,000	1,73,000	27,000
4	1994-95	1,80,000	1,73,000	7,000

Source : Annual Administration Reports of the STMC from 1990 to 95.

The above table shows that the TMC has not spent full amount as per budget provision due to lack of release of funds by the State Government.*⁶

It is observed that now-a-days the Government is deducting principal and interest on loans already borrowed by the TMC while releasing the municipal grants i.e. Octroi Grant, Developmental Grants, Motor Vehicle Tax, Stamp Surcharge Duty and Entertainment Tax which is almost 50% of the grants.

UNDERGROUND DRAINAGE SCHEME

Most of the medium and small towns in our Country generally does not have drainage system, and Sankeshwar Town is not an exception to it. The Town Municipal Council has not yet taken up the underground drainage scheme mainly because of the heavy interest payments on loans borrowed for the water supply head works, Kurni Water Supply Scheme and Combined Water Project.

SLUM CLEARANCE

The Secretary, Karnataka Slum Clearance Board, Bangalore in his letter No. Sankeshwar. 15/168/90-91 dated 19.8.1991 have given particulars of this scheme. But the town has made little progress in this regard mainly because of inadequate financial assistance from State Government to Karnataka Slum Clearance Board. There are 5 slums in Town Municipal area with a population of 5468 (1991 census).

The slum improvement schemes are undertaken by the Slum Clearance Board in two slum areas by making provision of drinking water, gutters, roads, street lights and community latrines. Out of five, three are declared as slum by Deputy Commissioner, Belgaum in 1993-94. Till this date Rs. 5.5 lakhs released by the State Government to the K.S.C.B. to take improvement works like community latrines, construction of gutters, stone pavement to roads, etc. Since the development took place in 2 slum areas in west and south side of the municipality they are no longer legally considered as slums. In these two slum areas permanent dwelling houses have been constructed for slum dwellers.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

There are two private slaughter houses in the town. The Municipal Council does not maintain any slaughter house, but it is expected to construct one. The private owners of slaughter house properly dispose of the bones and raw flesh etc. Bones are sold to Bone Mills. Other dirty flesh etc. are buried in the ground.

BURIAL, CREMATION GROUND

No burial grounds are maintained by the Municipal Council. There are three private burial grounds one each for Hindus, Muslims and Christians, outside the town area which are about one Km away from the residential area. Their measurement is as under.

1. Hindus burial ground measuring about 8 Acres.
2. Muslims burial ground measuring about 4 Acres.
3. Christian burial ground measuring about 1 Acre.

These burial grounds are adequate to meet the requirements of the above mentioned communities. The Town Municipal Council has maintained one cremation ground, measuring about 2 acres about one km away outside the town.

ROADS

As per Karnataka Municipality Act 1964 Sec. (97) Municipality has to construct and maintain roads. One of the important duties of the TMC is to see that the roads must be swept and kept clean. The Sankeshwar TMC has maintained the following type of roads in the municipal limits.

TABLE 3.7 STATEMENT SHOWING TYPES OF ROADS IN STMC AREA

Sl. No	Kind of roads	Length of road Maintained in Kms
1.	Water Bond	1.4
2.	Black Trap metal	8.5
3.	Cement paving	2.4
4.	Unsurfaced road (Katcha road)	2.7
TOTAL		15 kms

Source : Annual Administration Report of the STMC 1994-95.

The amount provided in the budget for the roads and the expenditure on this head during the last five years are as under :

TABLE 3.8 STATEMENT SHOWING BUDGET PROVISION AND AMOUNT SPENT

Sl. No.	Year	Budget provision (in Rs)	Expenditure (in Rs.)	Balance Amount
1	1990-91	4,00,000	1,57,192	2,42,808
2.	1991-92	4,00,000	2,44,968	1,55,032
2	1992-93	5,00,000	3,40,000	1,60,000
3	1993-94	4,50,000	4,10,000	40,000
4	1994-95	7,00,000	6,30,210	69,790

Source : Annual Administration Reports of STMC from 1990 to 95.

The above table shows that the amount provided for the purpose has not been utilized fully. It is mainly because TMC did not get more development grants from the State Government during 1990-91 to 1992-93.

STREET LIGHTS

The street lights provided by the Sankeshwar Town Municipality are as under :

TABLE 3.9 STATEMENT SHOWING KIND OF LIGHTS

Sl. No.	Kind of LightS	Numbers
1.	Tube lights	689
2.	40 Watt Bulbs (Marcuri)	47
3.	Sodium	22
TOTAL		758

Source : Annual Administration Report of STMC 1993-94.

The details of the amount provided and the expenditure incurred for lighting in the area of Municipality for the last five years are as under :

TABLE 3.10 STATEMENT SHOWING BUDGET PROVISION AND AMOUNT SPENT

Sl. No.	Year	Budget provision (in Rs)	Amount spent (in Rs)	Balance Amount
1	1990-91	2,10,000	2,00,729	9,271
2.	1991-92	3,20,000	2,96,409	23,591
2	1992-93	3,50,000	2,75,130	74,870
3	1993-94	3,75,000	3,25,240	49,760
4	1994-95	4,50,000	4,50,000	--

Source : Annual Budget Reports and Annual Administration Reports of STMC from 1990 to 95.

The Chief Officer is expected to provide adequate lighting in the municipal area. This is an obligatory function of Town Municipality. There has been adequate budget provision for this purpose; some amount of budget provision is unspent for four years except 1994-95. It is mainly due to non-release of the Development grant from the State Government. During the last five years Sankeshwar Town Municipal Council has made adequate lighting in the municipal area.

GARDENS AND PARKS

Only one garden has been maintained by the Council in the premises of the Town Municipal Council Office. The amount spent for maintenance of garden for last five years is as follows :

TABLE 3.11 STATEMENT SHOWING AMOUNT SPENT FOR GARDEN

Sl. No.	Year	Amount spent (in Rs.)
1	1990-91	17,000
2.	1991-92	21,000
2	1992-93	22,000
3	1993-94	23,000
4	1994-95	25,000

Source : Annual Administration Reports of STMC from 1990 to 95.

PUBLIC PARK

A park named as 'Jawaharlal Nehru Children's Park' is maintained by the Town Municipal Council in its premises. The Ex-President of the TMC Shri. S.S. Shirakoli, personally donated Rs.60,000 being the complete cost of materials and construction of the park. It is kept open for children and senior citizens.

TOWN PLANNING

In the town empty space between two adjoining houses is found in many areas. Thus people are habituated to use it as a garbage dumping place. Hence they have become the source of contagious diseases. This is one of the problem which leads to unhygienic conditions in STMC area.

The TMC has not prepared a town development plan. The Town Municipal Council was informed by the Deputy Commissioner, Belgaum, as per the inspection notes dated 30.12.1981, to move the Assistant Director of Town Planning, Belgaum to prepare a suitable outline development plan for the town.*⁷ Accordingly, the systematic town development plan for Sankeshwar has been sanctioned by the Town Planning Authorities, Bangalore in 1985-86. The Town Municipal Administration accepted the development plan in 1986 and took steps in that direction.

Now let us consider the working of the Health Committee with reference to the functions assigned to it. Before attempting the same let us have a look at the socio-economic and political back ground of the councillors of Health Committee. This may throw some light on the point of view expressed by them regarding the functioning of STMC in health and sanitation sector.

TABLE 3.12 SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROFILE OF HEALTH COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF SANKESHWAR T.M.C.

Ward No.	Name	Age	Caste	Education	Land holding other occupation	Annual income	Political party	Experience in years
I	SHRI. S.S. PATIL	41	Lingayat	Secondary	10 Acres	2.5 Lakh	Congress (I)	5
II	SHRI. JAYAPRAKASH N. NALAVADE	49	Maratha	B.A.	Cement Agency & Tiles	7 Lakhs	-do-	10
III	SHRI. S.B. NESARI	43	Lingayat	Secondary	3 Acres Book seller	1.2 Lakh	-do-	5
IV	SMT. S K. SAVEKAR	45	Maratha	Primary	Oil Mill	6 Lakhs	-do-	5
V	SHRI. A.R. MARADI	33	S.C.	Secondary	Electrical Repairshop	60 Thousand	-do-	5

In order to evaluate the functioning of Health Committee vis-a-vis the functions laid down as per the Act, opinions were collected from five councillors belonging to five different wards. Based on the similarity of opinions the Councillors are further segregated into three different groups to compare and contrast the opinion among them.

The socio-political background of the councillors were given due consideration because these factors influence to a great extent, their perception about the functioning of STMC. Let us analyze the opinions of the members of Health Committee taking into consideration the group as a unit.

The members of Health Committee belonging to I and III Ward had almost similar socio-political profile and the opinions expressed were identical. Both the members were belonging to a same political party (congress). These members were belonging to the age group of more than 40 years which clearly indicates their mental maturity in persuing the problems and expressing the opinions. Besides they were educated and had the work experience in managing the Local Governments.

Both Councillors were dissatisfied in respect of the cleanliness of the town. In the process of providing the information they expressed that many factors are responsible for the non-cleanliness of the town. The Councillors expressed

that to maintain cleanliness in the town it is essential to improve the efficiency of the existing Paur-karmikas. They were of the opinion that there was under utilization of the man power meant for the cleanliness of the town. Efforts should be made either through incentive or through punishment to improve working habits of Paur^{ur}-karmikas. Moreover, rapid increase of population was the major reason for the lack of cleanliness of the town. At the same time, the number of Paur-karmiks working at present (1995) is less in relation to the size of the population. As per the observation of Junior Engineer the present population of STMC is about 32,000. The members were of the opinion that efforts should be made to appoint some more Paur-karmikas either on permanent or temporary basis. They also expressed the fear that the weak financial position of Sankeshwar TMC may come in the way of attaining the objective.

Delay in lifting the garbage and lack of timely transport facility were also major constraints in maintaining cleanliness of the town. As per these Councillors at present the services of tractor was used for various purposes though it is meant for lifting of garbage. As the tractor is used for various purposes, many times the tractor was not available for lifting of garbage as a result there was spillage. Decay of garbage which produce nasty smell in surrounding areas and cause environmental hazards should be stopped forthwith.

To overcome this difficulty the members expressed two alternatives - firstly, to hire one more tractor and secondly, the purchase of a new tractor. The members also expressed the practical difficulties in respect of the first opinion that the services of the hired tractors may not be available to the T.M.C and even if they were available the municipality may not expect the timely services of hired tractors because in this area majority of tractors are owned by the farmers and used exclusively for their farming operations. Since this is a sugarcane belt having vast irrigation potential, the services of the tractors are invariably required throughout the year.

Sometimes, even if they could have spare time the owners of the tractors may prefer to hire out the services to other farmers for agriculture operations rather than hiring out for lifting of garbage. Moreover, the Municipality insist for stamped receipts for the payment of hired charges of the tractor from the owner. The owners of the tractors (majority of them) were farmers and may not come forward to give such stamped receipts because this is contradictory to Motor Vehicles Act of the Government.*⁸ The tax structure of the tractor differs from domestic use to commercial use. Almost all the farmers registered their vehicle under the clause-domestic use. At the same time the owners of tractors attach sentimental feelings in hiring out tractors to STMC for lifting garbage. They feel that it is of a mean job and society may

look down upon them. The weak financial position of Sankeshwar T.M.C. may not permit to purchase a new tractor.

In respect of spraying of phenoyal and dusting of DDT the members were of the opinion that this function was not performed satisfactorily. These chemicals are not applied in the low lying areas and dusting was done in the town in such places which could attract the attention of the public. Particularly in areas where scheduled caste and muslims and other backward communities live i.e. in ward 4 and 5 this work is not done properly. However, the members suggested to take these preventive measures in all areas at least once in 15 days.

The members express their satisfaction in respect of precautionary control measures in relate to water-borne diseases. Whenever the contagious diseases were noticed in surrounding areas of the TMC it took all measures to give publicity about diseases and precautionary measures to be taken. Steps have been taken from time to time to test the drinking water to avoid water borne diseases. Steps have also been taken for proper mixing of bleaching powder in drinking water. However, during summer season the water was directly distributed through trucks and tankers which was brought from near by reservoirs. The above mentioned measures could not be feasible because of the higher frequency of water distribution through tankers.

These two Councillors were quite happy with regard to the satisfactory work performed by the Sanitary Inspector in the area of food adulteration and hygienic conditions. No food adulteration and unhygienic conditions were reported during the last five years. This itself is an indication of efficient discharge of this function. The members also expressed their satisfaction in respect of the maintenance of slaughter houses in proper manner.

The Councillors of Ward II and Ward IV though they differ on social front; their opinions were found to be identical in nature. The Councillor of Ward II was the President for five years and in all he had 10 years experience in this field.

Both the Councillors stressed the need to extract work from the existing sanitation staff instead of increasing the staff which may lead to financial burden on the part of T.M.C. At the same time they insisted for the active involvement of Councillors in supporting officers to improve the work efficiency of the employees. Both these members alleged that the Councillors were responsible for uncleanness of the town as they do not know how to extract work from sanitation staff. They were also of the opinion that the work of cleaning of the town should given on contract basis.



Photograph 7. An old pond where sewage water merges with pond water which causes malaria and other contagious diseases in the Town area (Ward V)

For the purpose of lifting garbage instead of hiring tractor they suggested to hire bullock carts which will reduce cost. They were also of the opinion that there is a need to acquire a fresh area to dump garbage because at present the dumping area is within the town limits and as much whenever wind blows it causes adverse effects on hygienic conditions.

In respect of spraying of phenoyal and DDT these members endorsed the opinion of the members of I and III ward. Similar was the case in respect of testing of drinking water, precautionary measures regarding contagious diseases and maintenance of slaughter houses.

These members suggested to impose marginal taxes on vegetable sellers, fruit sellers, milkman so as to generate additional revenue to Town Municipal Council in order to improve the financial position.

The councillor from V ward pointed out that contageous diseases will spread due to merging of sewage water with pond water (See, Photograph 7 of old pond at Ward V).

Councillor of the V Ward was concerned, his social profile differ in some aspects as compared to other Councillors. The Councillor belong to scheduled caste and had experience in monitoring the affairs of Local Government. His opinions were found to be identical in respect of appointment of more Paur-karmiks, provision of one more tractor and testing

of drinking water. However, he differed from other Councillors in respect of extracting the work from sanitary staff. He alleged that the Paur-karmiks work mainly in other wards, where the Councillors belong to higher social status. Similar phenomenon was also found in the spray of chemicals and lifting of garbage, etc.

He also expressed that majority of paur-karmiks have been addicted to drinking and as such have spoiled their health which come in the way of discharging their duties efficiently. At the same time he expressed that no efforts were made on the part of Councillors and officials to treat these paur-karmiks suffering from health hazards. He stressed the need to make efforts in this direction. Further he suggested to take strict action against erring employees. He stated that the Administrator as well as Councillors have taken no actions even though mistakes have been committed by the paur-karmiks. These mistakes were brought to the notice of the president and municipal councillors in the meeting as well as the employed officials.

He was also not satisfied in respect of control over food adultration and hygienic conditions. He was of the opinion that stringent action were not imposed in this regard by the concerned officials.

The councillor also stressed the need for improving co-operation and co-ordination among employees and Councillors. For efficient administration he suggested decentralization of powers to Councillors in solving local problems of their ward. A paur karmika who remains absent without valid reason or without prior permission for long time, should not be allowed to work unless the councillor of that ward express satisfactory opinion regarding him or take responsibility about his future performance. So that there will be an element of control over the employees. His suggestions being sound can be implemented.

CHIEF OFFICER

The Chief Officer who is the Principal Executive Head of the S.T.M.C. has 15 years of work experience. He opined that the policy decisions of Health Committee have been implemented in toto; but some times, the Chief Officer has been vested with discretionary powers to take independent decisions depending upon prevailing situation like disposal of corpse, fire accidents, epidemics and the like.

He expressed satisfaction about regular cleaning of gutters, disposal of filth, spray of DDT etc. The work of Health and Sanitation staff was controlled through Sanitary Inspector and Mukadams. He expressed painfully the poor financial position of Sankeshwar T.M.C. Further, while making allocations on the expenditure side priortisation was made

depending upon the urgency of the item -like watersupply, sanitation and establishment. He has accepted the fault that there were some irregularities which were pointed out by the auditors in the books of accounts of T.M.C.

Some of them are as under.

1. Pump fittings- to meet out water supply requirements during the period of water scarcity prior permission of the Deputy Commissioner is not taken. They have spent Rs.40,000. Excess amount spent is Rs.35,000.
2. Repair amount of electric water pumps has crossed the permissible amount of Rs. 5,000. They have spent Rs.20,000. Excess amount spent is Rs.15,000.
3. Subscription to District Social Welfare Office has crossed the permissible limit of Rs. 500. They have spent Rs.2,000. Excess amount spent is 1,500.
4. Purchase of printing and stationery from private printing press has crossed the permissible limit of Rs. 5,000. They have spent Rs. 12,000. Excess amount spent is Rs.7,000.

However, these irregularities were not intentional and could easily be set right within the purview of TMC as per the directions of the auditors.

In respect of control and supervision, the Chief Officer is getting the reports from Sanitary Inspector in

respect of cleanliness of gutters, garbage lifting, sweeping of streets, latrines and urinals besides other aspects relating to TMC as and when the problem arises. The concerned paur karmik is directed to maintain his area and to bring reports from the residents.

With regard to the drinking water facility he stated that during summer there will be too much scarcity of water because of drying of tanks and wells. Since the water table was found to be very deep bore_wells sunk even upto 700 feet may not be feasible and economical. In addition to this, he expressed the problem of frequent power failure and meagre storage capacity of water tanks. To overcome this problem he suggested the earliest completion of combined water supply scheme from Hidkal Reservoir.

The Chief Officer gratefully acknowledged the cooperation of citizens in keeping the town clean and functioning of the TMC and discharging the functions by various officials.

Inspite of many constraints and devoid of basic amenities the citizens have extended their cordial cooperation to TMC, as the TMC employees will spend the whole night in providing water to the citizens during summer through tankers. This has been helpful in getting the required co-operation from the citizens. Further, the officials and non-officials of the

TMC do feel obligatory on their part to serve the citizens to their best.

Regarding to the question why people are visiting private doctors or hospitals the Chief Officer stated that majority of the citizens have been taking treatment from private doctors because of the modern facilities offered by them. In Government Hospital there was inadequate bed facility (12 beds). Only limited medicines are available and sophisticated instruments like X-ray, Sonography, etc. are not available in Government Hospital. Now let us turn our attention to the functioning of Sanitary inspector in STM, area.

SANITARY INSPECTOR

Sanitary Inspector presently working in Sankeshwar TMC is an Incharge Official who is not trained with reference to health and sanitary aspects. As a result, some of the functions have not been effectively performed by him due to lack of technical competence. However, he has been discharging some of the functions effectively. For eg. He has been making visits to supervise the premises of the private hospitals and dispensaries in TMC area once in 15 days. Regarding cleanliness of the town he had taken measures to transport the collected garbage regularly, cleaning of gutters, disposal of animal corpse and spraying of phenoyal and D.D.T once in 8 days. As he was not a trained person, he has not taken up the

scientific checking of food adulteration. However, he has been in close surveillance in this regard.

In the areas of preventive and curative measures relating to contagious diseases he assist the Primary Health Centre and extend all possible help from Municipality. The Sanitary Inspector whole heartedly accepted that on an average he receive two to three complaints per month from the citizens relating to lifting of garbage and cleaning of gutters. This shows that there is laxity in cleaning operation.

With regard to the difficulties encountered by him, he expressed no difficulties in the area of procedural and administrative fronts. However, he felt more of financial difficulty. He appreciated the invaluable co-operation extended by the public in implementing sanitary measures by the TMC. He opined that both officials and Councillors have made sincere efforts to serve the citizens as per their expectation.

He was also of the frank opinion that the Government Hospital was chosen by the public mainly for Family Planning Programmes. However, for other purposes. People prefer to visit private doctors because of special care and treatment, and cleanliness.

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5. On the basis of interview notes (Junior Engineer dated 10-9-95)
6. On the basis of interview notes (Junior Engineer dated 10-9-95)
7. On the basis of interview notes (Junior Engineer dated 10-9-95)
8. Karnataka State Motor Vehicle Act of 1959.