

ABSTRACT

ON

WORKING OF THE LOCAL COUNCILS IN AIZAWL

**Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfilment for the Award of the
Degree of Master of Philosophy in Public Administration
School of Social Sciences, Mizoram University**

By

**HENRY LALFAKMAWIA
MZU/M.Phil./391 of 22.5.2017**

Supervised by

PROF. LALNEIHZOVI

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

MIZORAM UNIVERSITY

AIZAWL, MIZORAM

2017

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2017**

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I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Prof. Lalneihzovi, Department of Public Administration, Mizoram University for her guidance and supervision. Her kind and helpful advice, valuable comments and suggestions has enriched this work and I am truly indebted to her for her supervision throughout the course of the research.

I am grateful to all the officials of Aizawl Municipal Corporation for providing me with vital information and materials. I would also like to thank my parents, for their continuous love and support.

I am also grateful to all the Faculty Members in the Department of Public Administration for their help and support.

Finally, I thank God for giving me strength and an ability to complete the study.

Date: 08th December, 2017

Place: Aizawl

(HENRY LALFAKMAWIA)

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ABBREVIATIONS

AMC	Aizawl Municipal Council/Corporation
ASO	Assistant Survey Officer
BDO	Block Development Officer
DC	Deputy Commissioner
LAD	Local Administration Department
LC	Local Council
LR&S	Land Revenue and Settlement
MCS	Mizoram Civil Service
SDC	State Data Centre
SEC	State Election Commission
SDO	Sub-Division Officer
SFC	State Finance Commission
VC	Village Council
UD&PA	Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation

DECLARATION

I, Henry Lalfakmawia, do hereby declare that the Dissertation entitled, **Working of the Local Councils in Aizawl** is being submitted to the Mizoram University for the award of the Degree of Master of Philosophy (M. Phil) in the Department of Public Administration (School of Social Sciences), is a record of work carried out by me, under the guidance of Prof. Lalneihzovi, Professor, Department of Public Administration, Mizoram University, Aizawl and that the contents of this Dissertation do not conform basis of the awards of any previous degree to me or the best of my knowledge, to anyone else, and that the Dissertation has not been submitted by me for any research degree in any other University or Institution.

Date: 08th December, 2017

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that Mr. Henry Lalfakmawia, Regn. No. MZU/M. PHIL/391 of dt.22.5.2017 has prepared a dissertation under my supervision on the topic **Working of the Local Councils in Aizawl** in partial fulfilment for the award of the Degree of Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) in the Department of Public Administration (School of Social Sciences), Mizoram University, Aizawl.

The dissertation has been the outcome of his original research work and it does not form a part of any other dissertation submitted for the award of any other degree.

He is duly permitted to submit his dissertation for examination.

Date: 08th December, 2017

Place: Aizawl

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Annexure- VI

Name of the Candidate : HENRY LALFAKMAWIA

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Title of Dissertation : WORKING OF THE LOCAL COUNCILS
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Annexure-VII

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CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

In India, Local Self Government occupies the third tier of governments. The first and the apex tier is the Central government functioning in accordance with the Constitution of India. The second or intermediate tier is the State or Provincial governments bounded by state Laws and Acts. The third and the bottom tier is Local Self Government subordinate to the state or provincial governments which exercise control and supervision over it. Though the origin of Local Self Government in India is hard to recognize; the institution of Local Self Government have flourished in India since time immemorial. The panchayats or village governments as they were called were ancient institution and were themselves self republic.¹

In the world of today, Local Self Government in India can broadly be categorized into two; rural and urban namely, Panchayati Raj and Municipal Government. Panchayati Raj includes the Gram Panchayat at the village level, Panchayat Samity at the block level, and Zilla Parishad at the district level. On the other hand, Municipal Government consisted of Nagar Panchayat (town councils) for transitional urban areas, Municipal Council for smaller urban areas, and Municipal Corporation for larger urban areas. These two types of local self governments were

¹ Maheshwari, S.R., Local government in India, Lakshmi Narain Agarwal Educational Publishers, Agra, 2010, P-11

enshrined in the constitution under 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Bill, 1992 which came into force on 24th April 1993.

After the passing of 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, the Government of Mizoram was not in a hurry to introduce Municipality in the urban areas. But the failure of the State Government to convince the Central Government to accept “Village Councils’ Association in Aizawl” as an equivalent of Urban Local Bodies at the grassroots level had obligated the then Councils of Ministers of Mizoram to approve “The Draft Mizoram Municipalities Bill 2002” on February 27, 2007. Ultimately, after 60 years of Indian Independence, the State Legislative assembly had passed The Municipalities Bill which received the assent of the Governor of Mizoram to become “The Mizoram Municipalities Act 2007 (Act No. 6 of 2007)” on April 16, 2007.²

After the passing of The Mizoram Municipalities Act 2007 the Government of Mizoram established Urban Local Government i.e., Aizawl Municipal Council under Mizoram Municipalities Act, 2007. The Act was amended in November 19, 2009 and after the Act was passed, the first General Election to Aizawl Municipal Council was held on 3rd November, 2010. The Aizawl Municipal Council was upgraded to Municipal Corporation on 15th October, 2015 by the Fourth Amendment of the Mizoram Municipalities Act. As per sub-section (3) of section 23 of the Mizoram Municipalities Act 2007 and the Mizoram Municipalities Ward Committee

² Lalneihzovi (ed), State and Participatory Governance in North East India, Mittal Publications, New Delhi, 2016, p-179.

and Local Council Rules, 2010 Chapter III Clause (1), the Municipality constituted Local Councils for every locality in the Municipal Wards by holding election to be conducted by State Election Commission.

In pursuance of the notification No B. 14015/31/2011-SEC/LC issued by the State Election Commission on 24th January, 2012 and sub-rule (2) of rule 34 of the Mizoram Municipalities (Election to the Local Council) Rules, 2011, the first General Election was held on 23rd February, 2012 to occupied 82 Local Councils within Aizawl³. The total numbers of voters were 1, 74,868 and the total number of Local Council seats were 522 in number. Consequently, one locality i.e., Khatla East Local Council candidates were proclaimed as uncontested winner of the election without casting votes. According to the above rules chapter I Rule no 2- clause (d) “Council” means the Local Council formed under these rules, and clause (f) of the same rule “Locality” means such area or areas which had been normally under the jurisdiction of one village council before the constitution of Mizoram Municipality or a geographically compact area or areas which had formed a part or parts of village council area before constitution of Municipality⁴.

³ The Mizoram Gazette Extra Ordinary Published by Authority, RNI No. 27009/1973, VOL-XLI, Issue No. 26, Aizawl, 24.1.2012.

⁴ The Aizawl Municipal Ward Committese and Local Council Rules, 2010 (As amended in 2015), p-3.

Review of Literatures

A thorough review of literature forms an important part of research. It helps in the success of the research. Some of the books and articles which are important for the study were reviewed as follows:

Apurba Kumar Basiston's (1986) *Urban Local Administration (Growth and Development)* highlighted the concept, nature and various problems of urbanization in India and in Orissa particularly. It also provides the power and functions of Municipal Chairman. In the last part of the book the author also gives suggestions for improving urban administration.

Animesh Ray's (1982) *Mizoram Dynamics of change* expressed the administration of the British rule in Mizoram. It also described the social, political and administrative changes during the District Council and Union Territory of Mizoram. This book also provided the impact of insurgency, developmental plans, policies and goals of administration.

Ashok Mukhopadhyay's (1984) *Municipal Government and Urban Development* study a critical account of the reforms undertaken in the field of Municipal Government and Urban Development in West Bengal between 1977-78 and 1982-83.

Bijoyini Mohanty's (1993) *Municipal system in India: Citizens Involvement* discussed the concepts that form the base of local self government, origin and prevalence of such institution in different countries of the world. It expressed various problems of municipal administration in India. It also shows an in-depth study of the awareness, interest, evaluation and participation of citizens in municipal affairs with special reference to Bhubaneswar municipality. It provides a close look at the system from citizen's angle.

H.C. Thanhranga's (2007) *Distric Councils in the Mizo Hills* is divided into 16 chapters. The introductory part deals with a profile of Mizo Hill district, Chieftainship, Political and Constitutional Development and Political Parties in Mizoram. The main part of the book deals with the formation of District Councils in the Mizo Hills. The Districts Councils are the defunct Mizo District Council including the defunct Pawi-Lakher Regional Council and the new three District Councils, viz,-Pawi (Lai), Lakher (Mara) and Chakma District Council which were formed in 1972. In the concluding part it also studies the Village Councils under District Councils and administration of justice under the chieftainship and the District councils at the village levels, sub-divisional level and District Council level as well.

Hoshiar Singh's (Ed) (1997) *Local Government (India, Britain, France and America)* is the book in which the authors of various countries have attempted to subscribe the essential materials for the study of Local Government in their own countries. This book provides the meaning of Local government given by different

scholars and practitioners. It also expresses the system of Local Government in the United Kingdom, France and United States of America.

Jagadish K. Patnaik (2016) 'Mizo identity and Indianisation: A case of conflict transformation in Mizoram' in *Indian Journal of Public Administration* examines the process of 'Mizoisation' which was responsible for bringing together all the diverse groups and elements inhabiting the Lushai Hills of the erstwhile Lushai district of the then Assam province. It also examines the process of Mizoisation has been complimentary to the process of 'Indianisation'. This article also examines the Mizoisation process by using the conceptual tool of conflict transformation.

Lalnehzovi's (2016) 'Urban Local Governing Institutions in North-East India with reference to Mizoram' in *Indian Journal of Public Administration* attempt to study urban local governing institutions in India in general and Mizoram in particular. This article briefly traced the administration of Chieftainship, District Council, Union Territory and Statehood of Mizoram with special reference to urban administration. It concluded by giving the imperative need to replace Village Councils in urban areas.

Lalrintluanga (2015) 'Democratic Decentralised Governance in Mizoram' in *Administrative Studies* discusses the aims of democratic decentralisation. It also traces the evolution of democratic governance in India as a whole and Mizoram in particular. It also describes the powers and functions of Village Councils in

Mizoram. It suggests the State Government to take necessary steps to devolve more powers to democratic governance structure for empowering the people participate in the developmental process both at the District or Village levels.

Manoj Sharma's (2004) *Local Government: Rural and Urban* is an interesting Book including theoretical concepts, nature and scope of Local Governments. It discussed the major features and structures of Local Government in India, U.K, U.S.A, and France. It also reproduced the picture of 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments Act, 1992 and expressed remarkable Committees for the inceptions of the same. It also analyses the statutory, administrative and financial relationship of local and state government.

Marina. R. Pinto's (2000) *Metropolitan city governance in India* sets out the main theories and views on Local Government. It also studies the institutional designs in America and Britain in relation to India. The book also compared Municipal corporations of Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi and Calcutta. The role of Mayor/Commissioner, State-Local relations and interaction with other unifunctional agencies, development authorities and non-governmental organizations are also discussed.

Om Prie Srivastava's (1980) *Municipal Government and Administration in India* deals with the meaning and importance of local government, its development in Uttar Pradesh as well as legislative, political and administrative and financial controls exercised by state government over municipal corporations.

P. Lalnithanga's *Emergence of Mizoram (2005)* provides the meaning, history, tradition, culture, customs and ceremonies of the Mizos. It also shows various administrative and political changes that culminating in the ultimate emergence of Mizoram as a full- fledged state from that of a district under Assam. It also includes various remarkable events in the history of Mizoram and also shows the pictures of 'choices of people' in the fifth Mizoram Legislative Assembly election.

Pardeep Sachdeva's (1991) *Dynamics of municipal government and politics in India* presents a holistic perspective in Municipal government and politics in India both in conceptual and operational terms, portraying the Punjab scenario in particular. The author has outlined the historical evolution of the municipal system, its legal and structural aspects, some notable issues, municipal functions, management of municipal personnel, role and nature of political parties in municipal government and the system of financial management.

P.C. Gupta, Babita Vedic and Ajay Kumar (2000) book *Management in Municipal Bodies* review the history and the existing organizational framework of municipal bodies. It also covers a comprehensive analysis of various heads of income and expenditure of municipal bodies with an analytical review of their borrowing operations.

P.N. Parashar's (2003) *History and Problems of Municipal Administration in India* gives the problems of Municipal Administration in the first part of the book, comparative perspective in the Municipal Administration in the central part, and the

development of Municipal Administration in India in the concluding part of the book.

Rana Tahseen's (1989) *Urban Politics and Administration* offers an insight into the realistic appraisal of the different variables involved in determining leadership pattern and political behavior as well as in configuration of the grassroots government. It provides an in-depth analysis of the key social and political forces, the inter-party and intra-party conflict as well as the latent opportunism of the political parties that played so conspicuous a role in the articulation of the city politics. Critically examining the administrative performance, the author made a modest attempt to find out the inevitably between the administration and to determine the extent to which leadership and politics impinge upon the decision-making and its execution.

R.N. Prasad's (1987) *Government and Politics in Mizoram* is the analytical study of the administration and political consciousness in Mizoram, 1947-1985. It provides a brief history of the land and chieftainships in Mizoram and their relationships with their neighboring areas in pre-British period. It also traced the administration of Mizoram during the British period, Lushai Hills District, Union Territory and the attainment of the Statehood. It also expressed the emergence of political consciousness in Mizoram, insurgency, and formation of Clan, Regional and National political Parties in the State.

Sharda Chopra's (2005) *Dynamics of Municipal Administration* tries to study the causes of local bodies, like Municipal Corporations, have not acquired as much strength as their counterparts in other democratic countries. It also suggests various ways to make Municipal Corporation more energetic in the concluding part of the book.

S.R Maheshwari's (2009) *Local Government in India* discusses both Rural and Urban Local Government in India. After tracing the history of local government, it discussed the structure, personnel, finance and functioning of rural as well as urban local government , and finally, suggesting ways and means of improving the system of local government in India.

S.R. Sharma's (1994) *Municipal Administration and Education* deals with the history of Municipal Administration in India starting from the British colonization. It stated that the municipalities were formed to serve the interest of the British Administration. It also discussed The Indian Council Acts of 1861 and 1892 and its contribution to the Municipal Administration. This book also gives the composition, power and functions, finances, etc. In short this book is an interesting book which discussed the history, philosophy and practice of the Municipal Boards in the contemporary context of educational development.

U.B. Singh's (2016) 'Preparation of Ward (Local)Plan: A necessity for urban transformation and rejuvenation' in *Nagarlok* attempt to highlight the importance of

Micro (ward) level city planning for accomplishing the cherished objectives and making cities inclusive and sustainable.

U.B. Singh's (2012) *Urban Governance in North-Eastern Region* traces the trends of urbanization, urban problems and historical development of urban local government in the North Eastern States of India. It also studies various provisions of Municipal Laws enacted and practiced in the post-74th Constitutional Amendment Act era. A study of law, governing autonomous areas has also provided.

All the above mentioned literatures did commendable work regarding Local Government in India, France, Britain and America. It also provided the political and administrative changes in Mizoram. But none of them has dealt with the role and functions of Local Councils in Aizawl. Therefore, it has been decided to take up the present study.

Statement of the Problem

Prior to the establishment of Municipality by the Government of Mizoram there were two sets of village councils functioning in both rural and urban areas over which the Government of Mizoram and the District Councils extended their jurisdiction independently. The Village Councils meant for the management of rural affairs, which had been allowed to continue functioning in Aizawl town, were unable to handle large number of civic problems and many urban facilities/services were even at the verge of collapse. Consequently, the Government of Mizoram established

Aizawl Municipal Council in 2010. In addition, the Municipality constituted Local Councils in the areas covered by an erstwhile Village Councils. So this research is conducted to study the evolution of Local Councils as it is a new institution which succeeded the erstwhile Village Councils in Aizawl.

Migration of rural population to urban areas is increasing because of various attractions. Heavy concentration of large population has taken place in many areas causing several urban problems. Solution to which is complex and costly affairs as such sustainable urban development assumes more and more significance. So, research is conducted to study the problems faced by Local Councils in sustaining urban development in Aizawl.

Local Councils are the most potential means to promote the benefits of development for all the local inhabitants in Aizawl City. It enables accessibility to local population to come in contact with urban administration to redress their grievances and facilitates many working operations of administration. It helps for economy, speed and efficiency in urban administration. It brings urban administration closure to the urbanites, which paves the way for greater public participation in urban development, which is matter of vital significance. Accordingly, the present research is conducted to study the role and functions discharged by Local Councils in Aizawl.

Scope of the Study

The present dissertation studies the evolution of the Local Councils in Aizawl, Mizoram. It also includes various role and functions, problems and challenges faced by the Local Councils. It also suggests remedial measures to tackle problems faced by the Local Councils. In 2015, General Election to the Local Councils was held for the second time within Aizawl. Today, there are 83 Local Councils within Aizawl city administration, among which the present study focuses on 10 Local Councils, such as Chanmari, Chite, Falkland, Melthum, Ramthar North, Saikhamakawn, Zarkawt, Zemabawk, Zonuam and Zotlang. While the localities of Chite, Falkland, Melthum, Ramthar North and Saikhamakawn have 5 Local Council members each, Chanmari, Zarkawt, Zemabawk, Zonuam and Zotlang have 7 Local Council members respectively. In these 10 Local Councils, there are 19,785 voters. The most populous Local Council is Zemabawk with 5,902 voters and the least populous Local Council is Chite having 362 voters. The locality of Chite, Falkland, Melthum, Saikhamkawn, Zemabawk, Zonuam and Zotlang represents all the localities on the outskirts of Aizawl city. Meanwhile, the locality of Chanmari, Ramthar North, and Zarkawt represents the localities of the central part of Aizawl.

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To study the profile of Aizawl city.
2. To trace the evolution of the Local Councils in Aizawl.

3. To study the role and functions of Local Councils in Aizawl.
4. To find out the problems and challenges of Local Councils in Aizawl.
5. To suggest remedial measures to make Local Councils more effective.

Research questions

The following questions have been formulated for the proposed study:

1. What is the profile of Aizawl city?
2. How were the Local Councils in Aizawl constituted?
3. What are the role and functions of the Local Councils in Aizawl?
4. What are the major problems and challenges faced by Local Councils in Aizawl?
5. What are the measures required to make the Local Councils more effective?

Methodology

The study is descriptive in nature. Primary and secondary sources of data collection have been used for the purpose of the study. Primary data are collected through questionnaire and interview. Structured Questionnaires are used to collect information from the Chairman and Secretaries of the representing local councils and random interview with the help of structured interview schedule are also used to collect information from members of the representing local councils. Secondary data have been collected from statistical handbook of Mizoram, original documents from concerned departments, Mizoram gazette, books, Journals, official websites.

Chapterization

Chapter- I: Introduction

The first chapter starts by indicating the three tiers of governments in India. It highlight two types of Local Self-Government institutions i.e., rural and urban. It also highlights the evolution, meaning and names of Local Councils in Aizawl city. The introductory chapter also consists of review of Literature, Statement of the problems, Scope of the study, Objectives of the study, Research questions, Methodology and Chapterization.

Chapter- II: A Brief Profile of Aizawl City

This chapter studies the profile of Mizoram including its location, boundary, climate, history etc. It also discussed a brief profile of Aizawl city. It also gives a brief report of the General Election of Local Councils 2012 and 2015. This chapter also studied about the composition, tenure, meeting, minutes and resignation of the local council members.

Chapter- III: Role and Functions of Local Councils in Aizawl

This chapter is named as role and functions of Local Councils in Aizawl. This chapter studies the evolution of Local Self-Government in India, Local

Administration during the chieftainships in Mizoram, Role and functions of Local Councils and Workings of Local Council in Aizawl.

Chapter- IV: Results and Discussion

This chapter shows various results and discussions which have been collected through questionnaire and structured interview schedule from the respondents.

Chapter- V: Conclusion

The final chapter is divided into two parts. The first part consists of the summary of the study. It highlights the entire previous chapter including the concept of Local Council. The second part contains the major findings and suggestion for solving the problems of Local Councils in Aizawl.

CHAPTER II

A BRIEF PROFILE OF AIZAWL CITY

The previous chapter deals with the three tiers of governments in India. It highlight two types of Local Self-Government institutions i.e., rural and urban. It also highlights the evolution, meaning and names of Local Councils in Aizawl city. It also consists of review of Literature, Statement of the problems, Scope of the study, Objectives of the study, Research questions, Methodology and Chapterization.

This chapter studies the profile of Mizoram including its location, boundary, climate, history etc. It also discusses a brief profile of Aizawl city. It also describes a brief report of the General Election of Local Councils 2012 and 2015. This chapter also provide about the composition, tenure, meeting, minutes and resignation of the local council members.

The State of Mizoram is situated in the North-eastern corner of India. It has an area of 21,081 square kilometers, being bounded on the north by the State of Assam and Manipur, on the west by Bangladesh and State of Tripura, on the east and south by Myanmar (Burma).⁵ The territory consisting of 8 districts, that is, Aizawl, Champhai, Kolasib, Lawngtlai, Lunglei, Mamit, Serchhip and Siaha. Mizoram is geographically situated between 92°.15' and 93°.29' (E) latitudes and 21°.58' and 24°.35' (N) longitude. The boundary with Myanmar extends 404 kilometers and with

⁵ P. Lalnithanga, Emergence of Mizoram, Lengchhawn Press, Aizawl, 2005, p-1

Bangladesh over 318 kilometers.⁶ Thus it occupies an area of great strategic importance, having a total boundary length of 722 kilometers-with Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Mizoram consists of almost entirely of ranges of hills running north to south direction, separated from one another by narrow valleys and deep gorges. The general height these ranges is about 914 meters. There are as many as fourteen peaks some of which are 1837 meters in height, while the highest peak, the Phawngpui(Blue Mountain) situated in the South-Eastern part is a climb of 2157 meters.⁷

Mizoram has a pleasant climate throughout the year. It is neither very hot in the summer nor very cold in the winter because Tropic of Cancer runs across the territory in the middle. The climate on the hilltop is much better, healthier and pleasant than that in the valleys which are humid, hot, feverish and unhealthy.⁸ The hottest season is during the months of April and May and the coldest during the months of December and January. Spring season is during February to April. In March and April, violent storms from the north-west sweep over the hills as a harbinger of summer. The temperature in summer is 20° to 29°c and in winter 11° to 21°c. There is ample rainfall in June-July and there is little or no rain in the winter.⁹

⁶ Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Statistical Handbook of Mizoram, Standard laser Print, 2016, p.vii

⁷ Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Statistical Handbook of Mizoram, Standard laser Print, 2016, Op. cit, p-161

⁸ R.N. Prasad, Government and Politics in Mizoram, Northern Book Centre, New Delhi, 1987, p-2.

⁹ H.C. Thanhranga, District Councils in the Mizo Hills, Lengchhawn Press, Aizawl,2007, p-4

The average rainfall in Mizoram during 2015 and 2016 is 2179.8mm and 2381.4mm.¹⁰

According to Mizo traditional beliefs, the Mizo came from ‘Chhinlung’ meaning a covering rock. The legend goes to say that the Mizo people belonging to various clans came out of the earth below the stone. In the opinion of some people, Chhinlung is in fact, a place called Silung which is situated in China bordering the Shan State of Burma. This led to the theory that originally, the Mizos were the residents of Silung. Later on, they migrated to India via Burma.¹¹ The history of Mizos, could at best be traced about five hundred years. During the fifteen century, they lived in the hill tracts of Burma with their main villages located in the valley between the Run and Tiau rivers.

The Mizos then move westward from Burma in the beginning of the eighteen century towards India. On the whole, the Mizos migrated from Burma for mainly two reasons- pressure of the Chins or stronger clans of Burma or pressure of over population, passing through the Chindwin valley and the Chin Hills and finally came to the present Mizoram, Tripura, and Chittagong Hill tract in Bangladesh, Manipur and north Cachar Hills (Assam). The areas inhabited by Mizos are contiguous to one another, although they are, at present under different administrative units. Thus they are Mizos not only in Mizoram but also in the state of Manipur, Cachar District of Assam Chittagong Hill tract, and Chin Hills (Burma).¹²

¹⁰ Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Statistical Handbook of Mizoram, 2016, Op. cit, p-159

¹¹ P. Lalnithanga, Emergence of Mizoram, Lengchhawn Press, Aizawl, 2005, p-3.

¹² P. Lalnithanga , Op. cit., p-100

A Brief Profile of Aizawl City

Aizawl is the largest city as well as the capital of the state of Mizoram. The city is located north of the tropic of cancer in the northern part of Mizoram and is situated on a ridge 1132 meter (3715 ft) above the sea level, with the Tlawng river valley to its west and the Tuirial river valley in the east. Aizawl has a mild, sub-tropical climate due to its location and elevation. In the summer the temperature ranges from 20°-30° Celsius and in the winter 11°-21° Celsius.¹³

When the British officers were making an inroad into the present Mizoram to suppress their marauding tribal Chiefs, they always found Aizawl as a very favourite village site. In the spring of 1890, Mr. Dally of the then Assam Police arrived there with 400 men of the Silchar Military police battalion to cooperate with a column of troops under Col. Skinner, which was struggling down the valley of the Dhaleswari River to punish Chief Lianphunga for raiding the Chittagong hills tracts. It was on the recommendations of Mr. Dally that Aizawl was selected as the site of fortified post for which Colonel Skinner had been order to construct before he left the country. However the stockades and the buildings were constructed by Mr. Dally's men. Aizawl was officially declared by the British regime as their administrative headquarter for the amalgamated Lushai Hills (now called Mizoram) on 1st April 1898. Instantly, this declaration of Aizawl as the administrative headquarters of the erstwhile 'Lushai Hills' had attracted the indigenous ethnic Mizos living in the countryside to migrate to the newly established Aizawl Township. In spite of this

¹³ aizawl.nic.in

internal migration of people from the rural areas to the new urban centers, named Aizawl and Lunglei, those two small towns did not practically face any serious problems of urbanization till the last part of the twentieth century.¹⁴

After Indian independence in 1952, Mizoram became one of the Autonomous District of Assam under the sixth schedule to the constitution of India and Aizawl continued to be the headquarters of the new district. However the elevation of the erstwhile Autonomous District of Mizo Hills into a Union Territory (UT) status in 1972 had led the trifurcation of the then Pawi-Lakher (P-L) region into three Autonomous District whose headquarters had been transformed into urban centers. In spite of the declaration of more numbers of big human settlements as new urban centers, these new urban centers were less attractive for many rural people who rather tended to migrate to Aizawl.

Today, Aizawl becomes the largest city within the state where major commercial and economic activities are carried out by the people. It is the political, commercial and cultural centre for the state in which all important government and public sector offices are located in Aizawl.¹⁵

With almost 50% of its people living in the urban centers (Notified towns) Mizoram may claim to be the most urbanized state India. Among the 23 notified towns in Mizoram, the capital town of Aizawl is the largest town accommodating 2,

¹⁴ Lalneihzovi (ed), *State and Participatory Governance in North East India*, Mittal Publications, New Delhi, 2016, P-175.

¹⁵ Lalneihzovi (ed), *Op. cit.*, p-176.

93,416 persons among which 144,913 males and 148,503 females in 2011 Census report.¹⁶ The city is divided into 19 Wards of Municipal Corporation. In 19 wards there are 83 Local Councils in 2015 General Election among which 56 local councils have 7 local council members each and 26 Local Councils have 5 members respectively.

Evolution of Local Councils in Aizawl City

a) General Election to Local Councils, 2012

The State Government had notified The Mizoram Municipalities (Election to Local Council) Rules, 2011 on 18th November, 2011 and a Gazette copy of the notifications was made available on 23th November, 2011. In pursuance to the Rule the first step which had been taken was the preparation of the first Local Council Electoral Roll.

The Directorate of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation was declared to function as Election Directorate for the revision of General Election to the Local Council, 2012. In exercise to the power conferred under sub-rule (1) and (3) of Rule 5 of the Mizoram Municipalities (Election to the Local Council) Rules, 2011, the State Election Commissioner appointed Deputy Commissioner of Aizawl District as Municipal Election officer & Appellate Authority to receive any complaints, appeals

¹⁶ Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Statistical Handbook of Mizoram, Standard Laser Print, Aizawl, 2016, Op.cit., P-4

etc., and dispose of such appeals, complaints etc., in respect of preparation of electoral rolls of Local Councils.

In exercise of power conferred under sub-rule (1) & (2) of Rule 6 of the Mizoram Municipalities (Election to the Local Council) Rules, 2011, the State Election Commissioner also appointed the following officers of the State Government of Mizoram to function as the Municipal Electoral Registration Officer and Assistant Municipal Registration Officer (as shown in Table - 1).

Table - 1

Municipal Electoral Registration Officers and Assistant Municipal Electoral Registration Officers, 2012

Sl. No	Name & designation of State Government Officers	Powers & Functions of the officers	Ward assigned
1.	J. Hmingthanmawia MCS Addl. DC (G), Aizawl	Municipal Electoral Registration Officer	I-V
2.	H. Rochungnungi, MCS Assistant commissioner (A), DC's Office, Aizawl	Municipal Electoral Registration Officer	VI-X
3.	Lalsangliana, MCS SDO (S), DC's Office, Aizawl	Municipal Electoral Registration Officer	XI-XV
4.	Rothuama, MCS Assistant commissioner (A), DC's Office,	Municipal Electoral Registration Officer	XVI- XIX

	Aizawl		
5.	Malsawmzuala, MCS SDC (A)	Assistant Municipal Electoral Registration Officer	I&II
6.	Zarzokimi, MCS Deputy Director, LR&S	Assistant Municipal Electoral Registration Officer	III&IV
7.	K. Lalhmuakliana, MCS Asst. Director, LR&S	Assistant Municipal Electoral Registration Officer	V&VI
8.	Zoremthara, MCS SDC (A)	Assistant Municipal Electoral Registration Officer	VII&VII I
9.	Paul L. Khuma, MCS Asssistant Director, RD	Assistant Municipal Electoral Registration Officer	IX&X
10.	Lallawmawma, MCS SDC (A)	Assistant Municipal Electoral Registration Officer	XI&XII
11.	B.Lalchhawntluanga, MCS ASO, DC's Office, Aizawl	Assistant Municipal Electoral Registration Officer	XIII&XI V
12.	Pinky Zosangpuii, MCS	Assistant Municipal	XV&XV

	BDO, Tlangnuam	Electoral Registration Officer	I&XIX
13.	Lalfela Sailo, MCS ASO, Dist. Revenue	Assistant Municipal Electoral Registration Officer	XVII & XVIII

Source: *Compendium of 1st General Election to Local Councils within Aizawl Municipality, 2012.*

As provided under sub-rule 2 of Rule 32 of the Mizoram Municipalities (Election to the Local Council) Rules, 2011, the Electoral Rolls used in the first General Election to Aizawl Municipal Council were used as Draft Electoral Rolls for the Local Councils of Aizawl Municipality. Details of revision of Electoral Rolls, 2012 is shown in Table - 2 below.

Table - 2

Schedule for Revision of Electoral Rolls, 2012

Sl. No	Stages of Revision	Period allowed for stages
1.	Draft publication of Electoral Rolls	1.12.2011(Thursday)
2.	Submission of claims & objection	2.12.2011 (Friday) to 14.12.2011 (Wednesday)
3.	Disposal of claims & objection	15.12.2011 (Thursday) to 6.1.2012 (Friday)
4.	Printing of Electoral Rolls	7.1.2012(Saturday) to

		17.1.2012 (Tuesday)
5.	Final Publications of Electoral Rolls	18.1.2012 (Wednesday)

Source: *Compendium of 1st General Election to Local Councils within Aizawl Municipality, 2012.*

In the Notification No.M.33025/80/2011-AMC, dated Aizawl, the 16th January, 2012. The Aizawl Municipal Council declared the Local Council shown below as Local Council Constituencies to form new Local Council from their respective parent Local Council as indicated in Table - 3.

Table - 3

Names of new Local Councils formed from their respective parent Local Councils for the General Election, 2012

Sl. No	Names of New Local Council	Names of Parent Local Council	Ward No.
1.	Chaltlang North	Chaltlang	II
2.	Khatla East	Khatla & Khatla South	XIV
3.	Model Veng	Mission Veng	XVIII
4.	Mission Veng	Mission Veng	XVIII

Source: *Compendium of 1st General Election to Local Councils within Aizawl Municipality, 2012.*

After the completion of the revision of Electoral Rolls for the General Election to Local Council, 2012, there are 82 Local Councils and 1, 74,868 voters in

the localities of Aizawl city as indicated in Table - 4. The number of seats to be elected for the Local Councils was 522.

TABLE - 4

Names of Local Councils of Aizawl in the First General Election, 2012

Sl.No	Name of Localities	Total no. of Voters	No. of seats
1.	Selesih	499	5
2.	Durtlang North	1035	5
3.	Durtlang	2490	7
4.	Durtlang Leitan	2837	7
5.	Zuangtui	2032	7
6.	Muanna Veng	591	5
7.	Chaltlang	3899	7
8.	Chaltlang North	1630	7
9.	Bawngkawn	5063	7
10.	Bawngkawn South	1641	7
11.	Ramhlun North	4101	7
12.	Ramhlun Venglai	2281	7
13.	Ramhlun Vengthar	1681	7
14.	Ramhlun Sports Complex	786	5
15.	Laipuitlang	1144	5
16.	Ramhlun South	4324	7

17.	Ramthar North	1237	5
18.	Ramthar Veng	2921	7
19.	Aizawl Venglai	1550	7
20.	Electric Veng	3704	7
21.	Chanmari	3284	7
22.	Zarkawt	1591	7
23.	Chanmari West	3559	7
24.	Edenthar	1359	5
25.	Hunthar	1619	7
26.	Zemabawk	5100	7
27.	Zemabawk North	1978	7
28.	Falkland	614	5
29.	Thuampui	2456	7
30.	Armed Veng	2700	7
31.	Armed Veng South	3289	7
32.	Chite	343	5
33.	Dawrpui	1999	7
34.	Saron Veng	1662	7
35.	Chhinga Veng	3796	7
36.	Tuithiang	1152	5
37.	Chawnpui	2434	7
38.	Zotlang	1830	7
39.	Zonuam	1663	7

40.	Government Complex	1071	5
41.	Luangmual	2246	7
42.	Chawlhmun	1995	7
43.	Tanhril	1847	7
44.	Sakawrtuichhun	1113	5
45.	Rangvamual	612	5
46.	Phunchawng	590	5
47.	Tuivamit	869	5
48.	Tuikual North	3034	7
49.	Tuikual South	3092	7
50.	Dinthar	4563	7
51.	Dawrpui Vengthar	2251	7
52.	Vaivakawn	2488	7
53.	Kanan	2142	7
54.	Khatla	3643	7
55.	Khatla South	1461	5
56.	Khatla East	1145	5
57.	Mission vengthlang	2930	7
58.	Bungkawn	3159	7
59.	Bungkawn Vengthar	1220	5
60.	Maubawk	2424	7
61.	Lawipu	372	5
62.	Nursery Veng	1653	7

63.	Bethlehem	3113	7
64.	Bethlehem Vengthlang	4359	7
65.	College Veng	2235	7
66.	Venghloi	2773	7
67.	Republic	2729	7
68.	Upper Republic	1776	7
69.	Republic Vengthlang	1578	7
70.	Mission Veng	3399	7
71.	Model Veng	844	5
72.	Tuikhuahtlang	1130	5
73.	Salem Veng	2375	7
74.	Dam Veng	812	5
75.	Venghnuai	1331	5
76.	Thakthing	739	5
77.	ITI	2993	7
78.	Kulikawn	2682	7
79.	Tlangnuam	2622	7
80.	Saikhamakawn	968	5
81.	Melthum	720	5
82.	Hlimen	1896	7
	TOTAL	174868	522

Source: *Compendium of 1st General Election to Local Councils within Aizawl Municipality, 2012.*

The State Election Commission, in consultation with the State Government published the Schedule for the First General Election to constitute 82 Local Councils within Aizawl Municipality as shown in Table -5.

Table - 5

Schedule for the First General Election, 2012

1)	Issue of Notification	24.1.2012 (Tuesday)
2)	Last date for filling nominations	1.2.2012 (Wednesday)
3)	Scrutiny of nominations	2.2.2012 (Thursday) (10:00AM-2:00 PM)
4)	Date and time for withdrawal of nominations	3.2.2012 (Friday) (up to 3:00 PM)
5)	Date and time for allotment of symbols and display of list of candidates	3.2.2012 (Friday) (3:00 PM onwards)
6)	Submission of list of validly nominated candidates and printing of ballot papers	6.2.2012 (Monday)
7)	Date of poll	23.2.2012 (Thursday)
8)	Date of re-poll, if any	24.2 2012 (Friday)
9)	Counting of votes (counting of votes shall be commence as soon as poll is over)	23.2.2012 (Thursday)
10)	Date on which election process shall be completed	27.2.2012 (Monday)

Source: *Compendium of 1st General Election to Local Councils within Aizawl Municipality, 2012.*

The first General Election to the Local Councils was conducted smoothly and efficiently as schedule made by the State Election Commission. The final report of the General Election, 2012 is shown in Table - 6.

Table - 6

The Final Report of the General Election, 2012

1.	Total Number of Local Councils.	82
2.	No. of Local Councils where Election were held.	81
3.	No. of Local Councils where Election results announced uncontested.	1
4.	Total No. of Seats / elected members.	517+5(uncontested) =522
5.	No. of Local Councils with	
	a) 5 seats	26
	b) 7 seats	56
6.	Local Council with maximum number of electors.	Zemabawk(51000)
7.	Local council with minimum number of electors.	Chite(343)
8.	No. of women contesting candidates.	96
9.	No. of women contesting candidates elected.	28

10.	Oldest elector who cast vote.	Sapchhunga(101), 1/4 Durtlang-II
11.	Total No. of votes polled.	118736
12.	Percentage of vote polled.	68.33%

Source: Compendium of 1st General Election to Local Councils within Aizawl Municipality, 2012.

b) General Election to Local Councils, 2015

To conduct the Second General Elections to the Local Councils in 2015, various steps had been taken by the Government of Mizoram. The first step was revision of Electoral Rolls which are conducted by State Election Commission. In view of the time constraint, the process of revision of electoral rolls was started from 16th February, 2015, and the final Electoral Rolls was published in 27th February, 2015. After the revision of the electoral rolls the total number of the electors was 1, 92,382.

The revision of the electoral rolls was followed by the announcement of the schedule of General Election to the Local Councils, issue of notifications, filling of nominations, Scrutiny of nominations, withdrawal of nominations, allotment of symbols to Candidates, display of list of candidates and votes was casts on 30th April, 2015 (7:00AM-5:00PM). Counting of votes was commenced as soon as poll was over and the election process was completed on 8th May, 2015.

There are two memorable things happened in the General Election to Local Councils, 2015. The first one was the extension of the term of Local Councils from 3 to 5years. The Second one was the reservation of seats for women in the Local Councils Election. One third of seats in the election were reserved for women.

Composition of the Local Council¹⁷

- 1) The number of members in the Local Council shall be as indicated below:
 - a) Five members in a locality comprising 1500 voters or less.
 - b) Seven voters in a locality comprising more than 1500 voters.
 - c) One-third of the members in a Local shall be reserved for women. That is, in a Local Council with 5(five) members, 1(one) member shall be Women, and in a Local Council with 7 (seven) members, 2(two) members shall be Women.
- 2) The Local Council shall have a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, a Treasurer and Secretary. The first meeting of the elected members shall be held within 10(ten) days and shall elect a Chairman, a Vice Chairman and a Treasurer and also the two members who will represent the Local Council in the Ward Committee.
- 3) There shall be a Secretary of the Local Council who may be appointed or dismissed by the municipality on the advice of the Chairman of the Local Council.
- 4) The Secretary shall not be a member of the Local Council member.

¹⁷ The Aizawl Municipal Ward Committee and Local Councils Rule, 2010 (As amended in 2010), p-8

- 5) There shall be a Tlangau (Local crier) in each Local Council to be appointed by the Council. The remuneration of Tlangau may be determined from time to time by the concerned Municipality.
- 6) The Duties of Tlangau shall be as follows:
- (i) He shall bring to the notice of the public all orders and notifications as the Local Council may direct to be notified.
 - (ii) He shall performed as such other duties as the Local Council may direct or required in the general interest of the public or for the smooth functioning of the Council.

Tenure of the Local Council¹⁸

- (1) The tenure of the Local Council shall be 5(five) years from the date of the first meeting of the first committee referred to under sub-rule (2) of rule 16 of these rules.
- (2) In the Case of casual vacancy in the membership for any reason, the council may nominate any prominent person residing in the locality to fill the vacancy for the remaining period of the tenure.

¹⁸ The Aizawl Municipal Ward Committee and Local Councils Rule, 2010 (As amended in 2010), p-10

Meeting of the Local Council¹⁹

- (1) The Chairman may convene a meeting of Local Council whenever the occasion demands.
- (2) Quorum for meeting shall be one-third of the total Members including Chairman.

Minutes²⁰

The Secretary shall records the minutes of the meeting of the Local Council in the minute's book which shall be signed by the Chairman and the Secretary.

Dissolution of Local Council²¹

- (1) The Municipality for good and sufficient reasons, to be recorded in writing and after discreet inquiry by a duly authorized and responsible officer, may order dissolution of any Local Council.
- (2) In the event of such dissolution, the Municipality may appointed the prominent person of the locality to be designated as Administrator to take over the charge of the Local Council till such time fresh election is held. Provided that in the event of such dissolution, afresh election shall be held within sixty days from the date of dissolution of the Local Council. Provided

¹⁹ Ibid, p-10

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ The Aizawl Municipal Ward Committee and Local Councils Rule, 2010 (As amended in 2010), Op. cit., p-12

further that the municipality may retain the service of The Secretary of the Local Council to assist the administrator till a new Local Council is formed.

Mass Resignation of the Members²²

The provision sub-rule (2) of rule 24 shall apply mutatis mutandis in the case of mass resignation of Members of the Local Council.

Miscellaneous Provisions:

Remuneration²³

Members and Secretary of the Local Council shall receive remuneration from the concerned Municipality at such rate as may be fixed by the Municipality from time to time.

Provisions of Stationary Articles²⁴

When the Municipality or any Department office of the State Government requires the services of the Ward Committee or the Local Council to do certain works or duties, it shall provide to such Committee or Council all stationary articles or materials as may be required for such works or duties.

²² Ibid, p-12

²³ The Aizawl Municipal Ward Committee and Local Councils Rule, 2010 (As amended in 2010), p-14

²⁴ Ibid, p-14

CHAPTER III

ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL COUNCILS IN AIZAWL CITY

The previous chapter studies the profile of Mizoram including its location, boundary, climate, history etc. It also discusses a brief profile of Aizawl city. It also describe about a brief report of the General Election of Local Councils 2012 and 2015. It also provide about the composition, tenure, meeting, minutes and resignation of the local council members.

This chapter will examines the process of evolution of Local Government in India and then focuses on the power and functions practically assigned to the Local Councils by The Mizoram Municipalities (ward Committee and Local Council) Rules, 2010 as amended in 2015. It will briefly study the administration of Chieftainship, Village Councils. This chapter will also provide various workings of local councils in their day to day administration.

I. EVOLUTION OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT IN INDIA

A beginning of Local Government in Modern India may be said to have been made in 1687 when, for the first time, a local governing body-a municipal corporation-was set up for the city of Madras.²⁵The evolution of local government in India had to wait until 1793 when it acquired its statutory base. The Charter Act of

²⁵ S.R. Maheshwari, Local Government in India, Agra, Lakshmi Narain Agarwal , 2010, Op. cit., P-14.

1793 established Municipal administration in the three presidency towns of Madras, Calcutta and Bombay by authorizing The Governor- General of India to appoint Justices of the Peace in these three towns.²⁶

In 1870, Lord Mayo, Viceroy of India issued an order in the form of a resolution of financial decentralisation. The Main object of Lord Mayo's resolution was to promote education, public health, sanitation, medical relief and local civic works and also give facilities to self-government for strengthening municipal institutions. To make success of Lord Mayo's resolution, several new municipal laws were passed in various provinces.²⁷

In 1882, Lord Ripon paid his personal attention to providing better opportunities of participation in the management of the public affairs. He laid down the principles for organising the workings of local self-government on the basis of non-official majority by reducing the element of one-third.²⁸ A significant development since Ripon's Resolution came up in the publication 1909 of the report of Royal Commission upon decentralization, set up in 1906.

The Government of India Act 1919 came into force in 1920, which introduced the dyarchical system of government. In 1937, The Government of India Act 1935 was enforced, which replaced the dyarchical system of government at the provincial level and the system of provincial autonomy was introduced.

²⁶ Opcit., p-15.

²⁷ U.B. Singh, Urban Administration in India, New Delhi, Serials Publication, 2004, P-4.

²⁸ P.N. Parashar, History and problems of Municipal Administration in India, Volume-1, New Delhi, Sarup & Sons, 2003, P-3.

Keeping in view the importance of local bodies the Union Government introduced in Lok Sabha (Seventy-Third Amendment) Bill, 1991. It was passed by Lok Sabha on December 1992 and by the upper house on the same month. Following its rectification by more than half the state assemblies, it received the assent of the President on 20 April 1993 and is known as the Constitution (Seventy-fourth Amendment) Act, 1992.²⁹

II. LOCAL ADMINISTRATION IN MIZORAM

The meaning of the word Mizo itself has been given many interpretations. According to some scholars, the word 'Mi' in Mizo means 'Person or people' and 'Zo' means 'highland or 'upland region'.³⁰ Thus the word Mizo means 'Highlander' or 'Hill People'. Therefore, Mizoram would mean the land of the hill people.

a) Administration under Chieftainship

Even though there is no definite record on the origin of the chieftainship institution in the Mizo society. The exact year of its origin could not be mentioned but it be reasonably ascertained from the traditional life of the Mizos that Lushei chieftainship originated in the 16th century in the process of their migration to their present habitat.³¹

²⁹ S.R. Maheshwari, Op. cit, P-216.

³⁰ Laltluangliana khiangte, Mizos of North East India, L.T.L.Publications, Aizawl, 2008, P-123.

³¹ V.S. Lalrinawma, Mizo Ethos: Changes and Challenges, Lengchhawn Press, Aizawl, 2005, P-4, 5.

During the pre-British period the mizo had a well established system of administration through the chiefs. Each village was under the complete control of a chief. The chief position in the village was indeed that of a benevolent ruler. All those who lived in the village were look after as his children. He was bound to help them in their adversities, counsel them in their difficulties, reward them in their achievements and punished them when they were found guilty of misdeeds or infringement of established customs. The villagers, on their turn were to obey his orders implicitly, carry out errands assigned to them individually and collectively and help the chief in all possible ways.³²

The chieftainship was heritable. Normally the son of a chief on marriage was given a certain number of households from his father's village to set up a new village of his own. Such a son then ruled as an independent chief and was not required to pay tribute or any other form of dues to his father. However they were expected to help one another especially in times of quarrel with other chiefs. The youngest or eldest son depending upon the clan to which the chief belonged would remain with the father to succeed him and all his property on death. Hereditary was through the youngest son among the Sailo whereas in the case of Paite, it was through the eldest son.

In the administration of his domain, the chief was assisted by Lal Upa (Chiefs Elder) who advised the chief, discussed all the matters of the village and decided all disputes in the village. The chiefs had also some village officials to assists him, such

³² N. Chatterji, *The Earlier Mizo Society*, Deepak Enterprise, Kolkata, 2008, P-35.

as, Zalen or Ramhual (the privileged class of farmers in the village), Tlangau (the village crier), Thirdeng (the village blacksmith) and Puithiam (the village priest).

The British reigned over the Mizoram from 1880 when they abandoned the policy of periodical visits for friendly contact and the Mizoram was annexed as their colony. In that year a permanent fort was also established at Aizawl. They left Mizoram on India's Independence on 14th August, 1947. During this period of fifty seven years of British rule the position of the chiefs was not only consolidated but their number increased considerably.³³

b) Administration of Village Council

The Government of Assam under pressure from the then Autonomous District Council of Mizo Hills District abolished Chieftainship in Mizoram in 1955-56 by Virtue of the provision of the Assam Lushei Hills District (Acquisition of Chiefs' Rights) Act, 1955. The Pawi Regional Council also abolished the chieftainships within its jurisdiction under the said Act.

Under the provisions of Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India the autonomous District Councils and autonomous Regional Council was given powers to establish Village Councils and Village Courts within their jurisdiction, and to make laws or rules for the administration of village or of justice at the village level.

³³ L.B. Thanga, Socio Political Processes Associated with Abolition of Chieftainship in Mizoram, Reed Mount, Aizawl, 1993

The village administration, after the abolition of chieftainship was carried on through a democratic institution known as village Councils (VCs) which started functioning from August 1954 within the respective jurisdiction of the Councils.

The Village Council has a very limited functions and Powers mostly administrative and Judicial of petty nature under the village Councils Act 1953 and 1954. The Government of Union Territory of Mizoram adapted the Lushai Hills Distric (Village Councils) Act 1953 in 1972 to carry out the village administration in its respective areas. The Village Council is a democratically elected body whose provisions can be amended by the executive/administrative orders of the Government of Mizoram. The villages Councils are rural structures to manage the rural affairs. The administration of Village Councils meant for rural governance have been allowed by the Government to continue functioning in twenty three (23) notified towns, without constituting urban structures to manage the urban affairs/problems of the urbanites of the notified towns, which are contrary to the fundamental/principles of Urban Local Self Government.

The functions of Village Council may be broadly group into 2, which are Executive and Judicial. The executive functions of the Village Councils includes distribution of Jhum-land within its jurisdiction, enforcement of 'Hnatlang' whenever occasion arises in the Villages, collection of land revenue, taxes, etc., in the village and aspects of sanitation of the village. The Village Council is also function as the Village Council Court constituted under the Administration of Justice Rules, 1953 and the members of the Village councils are to function as members of

the Village Council Court as a bench. The Village Council court can try suits and petty cases in which both the parties belong to Schedule Tribes or Tribes resident within its jurisdiction (village) in accordance with customary law, but the court should not try in offences in respect of which the punishment of imprisonment is obligatory under Indian Penal Court. The Court also has no power to try cases of severe crimes like murder, rape, sexual intercourse with minor girl and sodomy.

c) Local Councils in Aizawl City

Local Council is basically the mechanism through which the members of the community brought their different views to bear on all matters of common interest. The role and functions of local council may differ from one country to the next. In Costa Rica, smaller councils below the lowest tier of local government units were informally organized. Such smaller councils served as useful mechanisms through which community problems were given a hearing in the first instances, and appropriate measures taken at the possible level. The Redcliffe-Maud Royal Commission in the United Kingdom- provision for optional local councils below the formal structure of “unitary” and “metropolitan” councils was recommended. The councils were then conceptualized in such a way that they might carry out certain minor functions on the behalf of the immediate community. In Aizawl, local councils below Municipal Corporation are responsible to carry out various role and functions given by the State Government or the Municipal Corporation or the Ward Committee.

General Functions³⁴

The general functions of Local council shall have such as may be entrusted to it by the Municipality for the common civic services and common benefit of the community and other matters in accordance with the Mizo traditions, customs and practices as provided under sub-section(3) of section 23 of the Mizoram Municipalities Act, 2007.

Other Functions³⁵

- 1) The State Government or the municipality or the Ward Committee, may entrust the Local council with one or more functions of the ward committee under Rule 11 of these Rules within the area of the locality.
- 2) The Local council, subject to general supervision of the ward committee or the Municipality, as the case may be, shall, within the ward, supervise and monitor-
 - (a) detection of violation of various provisions of the acts such as illegal construction, encroachment on municipal and public properties, public nuisance, evasion of taxes, unlicensed activities, and the like;
 - (b) Arresting wasteful uses of various municipal services like tap water, street hydrant, streetlight, parks and playgrounds, community centre, and the like;

³⁴ The Aizawl Municipal Ward Committee and Local Councils Rule, 2010 (As amended in 2010), p-10

³⁵ The Aizawl Municipal Ward Committee and Local Councils Rule, 2010 (As amended in 2010), p.10,
11

- (c) Detection of unclean premises and accumulated garbage, with powers and require the owner or the occupier of such premises to clean and to dispose of such garbage's;

Role of Local Council in Planning³⁶

- (1) The Local Council shall render all possible assistance to the ward committee in the discharge of its role under sub-rule (1) of Rule 12 of these Rules.
- (2) If and when the Ward Committee entrusts particular role or function within the locality to the local Council, it shall be the duty of the Local Council to discharge such role or functions satisfactorily.
- (3) The Local Council may and is expected to identify any unidentified works of poor quality or materials of inferior quality used for any work within the ward and report such matter to the authority concerned for n action.

Power of Local Council to enforce Hnatlang³⁷

- (1) The Local Council shall have power to enforce Hnatlang in their respective areas in the interest of public whenever occasion so demand.
- (2) It shall be the duty of every household to render Hnatlang service, and there shall be no discrimination on grounds of religion, caste or class.

³⁶ The Aizawl Municipal Ward Committee and Local Councils Rule, 2010 (As amended in 2010), p-11

³⁷ Opcit., p-13

Regulation of Hnatlang³⁸

- (1) The Local Councils in their respective areas shall have power to impose a fine (Runna) on any household which does not comply with Hnatlang order at a rate fixed under Rule 29 of these Rules.
- (2) A household may commute its obligation to render Hnatlang service of exemption fees (Phatna) in lieu of it, at a rate to be fixed under Rule 29 of these Rules.
- (3) A person not below the age of 18 years may present household in a Hnatlang, but any person above 60 years of age shall be exempted from Hnatlang.

Workings of Local Councils in their day to day Administration

In the world of today Local government has been undertaking new activities which either regulates the conduct of the citizens or are in nature of services such as provisions of mass transport, construction of houses for the poor supply of electricity, health centers, parks, Water etc. In fact, Local Government is today much more important than the state or central government.

While investigating the workings of Local Councils in Aizawl, it has been found that the Local Councils are working various functions in their respective localities given as follows:

³⁸ Ibid., p-13

- 1) Solid waste management: Solid waste management is one of the functions of the Local Councils in Aizawl. Local Councils makes contract with the local operator to collect and transport solid waste to the dumping ground. The expenditure of the solid waste management is made through collection of sanitation fee from the local inhabitants.
- 2) Maintenance of burial grounds: During the practiced of Village Councils administration in the city of Aizawl, the maintenance of burial or burial grounds was remained under the authority of Local Administration Department (LAD) which delegated this function to the Village Councils of different localities in Aizawl. After the replacement of Village Councils by Local Councils within Aizawl, the State Government had transferred this function to the Municipality which had been carrying out this function through Local Councils.
- 3) Maintenance of street lights: Putting new street lights and repairing the unsuited one.
- 4) Excavating new roads, extending and resurfacing the existing roads.
- 5) Construction of public urinal, pavement, retaining wall, culvert, footpath etc.
- 6) Repairing Local Council house, Sub center, Community hall, Anganwadi center.
- 7) Maintenance of public wells.
- 8) Announcement of important orders and information given by the concern authorities to the local inhabitants.
- 9) Helping and monitoring departmental works in the locality.

10) Monitoring all the developmental works in their respective locality.

11) Assisting the government in the revision of Electoral Rolls.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The previous chapter examined the process of evolution of Local Government in India and then focuses on the power and functions practically assigned to the Local Councils by The Mizoram Municipalities (ward Committee and Local Council) Rules, 2010 as amended in 2015. It also briefly studied the administration of Chieftainship, Village Councils. It also provided various workings of local councils in their day to day administration.

In This chapter, an attempt has been made to assess the issues and challenges of Local Councils in Aizawl City. For this purpose 10 local councils has been studied.

Responses of the Respondents to Questionnaire and Interview Schedule

Data has been collected from the Chairman, Secretaries, and Members of the Local Councils. The questionnaire and interview schedule was framed with a hope to collect information concerning the power, cooperation, remuneration, training, finance, role and responsibilities, etc., of the Local Councils. So, the respondents who are concerned with such matters have been selected. The total size of the Local Councils is 83. The present study is focused on 10 Local Councils, out of which 10 Chairmen, 10 Secretaries and 3 members, a total of 23 samples are selected to

represent the Local Councils. The locality of Chite, Falkland, Melthum, Saikhankawn, Zemabawk, Zonuam and Zotlang represents all the localities on the outskirts of Aizawl city. Meanwhile, the locality of Chanmari, Ramthar North, and Zarkawt represents the localities of the central part of Aizawl. Simple Random sampling technique is used to collect sample data.

a) Responses of the respondents relating to the developmental roles in their Local Councils

The following question was asked to know whether their Local Councils play developmental roles- as shown in Table - 7.

Table - 7

Does the Local Council play developmental roles in your locality?

Designation	Yes	%	No	%
Chairman	10	43.48	0	0
Other Member	3	13.04	0	0
Secretary	10	43.48	0	0
Total	23	100	0	0

The above Table - 7 shows that 100% of the respondents accepted the Local Councils play developmental roles in their localities.

b) Response of the respondents regarding the agencies or person who carried out developmental works in their localities

Table - 8

Who carried out the developmental works in your locality?

Designation	Contractor	%	Local Council Board	%
Chairman	6	26.09	4	17.39
Other Member	0	0	3	13.04
Secretary	2	8.69	8	34.79
Total	6	34.78	15	65.22

As shown in Table – 8, the responses reveal that 65.22% of the respondents concluded that the Local Councils carried out developmental works in their localities. Only 34.78% of the respondents concluded that the Contractor carried out developmental works in their localities.

c) Question relating to good cooperation among Local Council Members

Table - 9

Do you have good cooperation among Local Council Members?

Designation	Yes	%	No	%
Chairman	10	43.48	0	0
Other Member	3	13.04	0	0
Secretary	10	43.48	0	0
Total	21	100	0	0

The above Table - 9 show that 100% of the respondents accepted that they have good cooperation among Local Council members.

d) Sources of revenue

With a hope to collect reliable data regarding the source of revenue of Local Councils, the following question was generated.

Table - 10

What is the source of revenue of your Local Council?

Designation	Government funding	%	Fees	%	Self Finance	%
Chairman	10	43.48	0	0	0	0
Other Member	3	13.04	0	0	0	0
Secretary	10	43.48	0	0	0	0
Total	23	100	0	0	0	0

The above Table - 10 reveals that 100% of the respondents are of opinion that the source of revenue of their Local Councils is Government funding.

e) Lack of financial sanction

The increasing population in urban centers is creating a lot of problems. The existing infrastructure is failing to support the growing population. The services are qualitatively and quantitatively inadequate. They are not up to the satisfaction of the customers. Financially as well, these grassroots institutions are not self supporting. There is a nexus between poor finances and inadequate services.

The main sources of Local Council finance can be divided into two, which is, locally-raised fund and transfer of funds. Locally-raised fund is collected mainly from the exemption fee of Hnatlang. The main sources of transfer of funds of Local Councils include funds from the Aizawl Municipal Corporation (AMC), Local Area Development Scheme of Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) and Member of Parliament (MP), Department of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation (UD&PA), and State Finance Commission (SFC).

With a view to understand the perceptions of the Local Councils Members and Secretaries regarding the adequacy of fund receive from various sources, the following table represents the results of their responses.

Table - 11

Do you think that the financial assistance extended by the Government of Mizoram is sufficient enough?

Designation	Yes	%	No	%	No Idea	%
Chairman	0	0	10	43.48	0	0
Other Member	0	0	3	13.04	0	0
Secretary	0	0	10	43.48	0	0
Total	0	0	23	100	0	0

The above Table - 11 reveal that 100% of the respondents are of the opinion that the financial assistance extended by the Government of Mizoram is not sufficient enough.

f) Lack of Remuneration

While, Aizawl Municipal Ward Committee and Local Council Rules, 2010 factually placed greater responsibilities and urban management tasks in the hands of Local Councils. It has also been found that the remuneration of the Local Councils is very less in compare to the responsibilities given to them. A detail of remuneration of Local Council is shown in Table – 12.

Table - 12

Designation and Remuneration of the Local Councils

Designation	Remuneration (per Month)
Chairman	1500
Vice Chairman	1200
Members	1000
Treasurer	1100
Secretary	900
Local Crier	300

Source: Record taken from Aizawl Municipal Corporation

Table - 13

Do you think that remuneration of the Local Councils is very less?

Designation	Yes	%	No	%
Chairman	10	43.48	0	0
Other Member	3	13.04	0	0
Secretary	10	43.48	0	0
Total	23	100	0	0

The above Table - 13 shows that 100% of the respondents accepted that the remuneration of the Local Council is very less. The additional answer taken from the respondents also shows that the Members, Secretaries and Local Criers received their remuneration quarterly from the Municipality.

g) Time of Remuneration

The following question was framed with a hope to know whether the members of Local Councils get their remuneration in time.

Table - 14

Do you get remuneration in time?

Designation	Yes	%	No	%
Chairman	10	43.48	0	0

Other Member	3	13.04	0	0
Secretary	10	43.48	0	0
Total	23	100	0	0

The above Table - 14 shows 100% of the respondents accepted that they get their remuneration in time.

h) Responses of the respondents relating to the training

With a view to understand the perception of the respondents regarding the adequacy of proper training received from the concern authorities, the following table represents the results of their responses.

Table - 15

Do you get proper training from the concern authorities?

Designation	Yes	%	No	%
Chairman	10	43.48	0	0
Other Member	3	13.04	0	0
Secretary	10	43.48	0	0
Total	23	100	0	0

The above Table - 15 shows 100% of the respondents accepted that they get proper training from the concern authorities.

i) Transfer of Functions to the Local Councils

Under chapter III, rule number 20 of The Aizawl Municipal (Ward Committee and Local Council) Rules, 2010, the Municipality has power to entrust general functions to the local council for civic services and common benefits of the community and other matters in accordance with the Mizo traditions, customs and practices as provided under sub-section (3) of section 23 of The Mizoram Municipalities Act, 2007. Under rule number 21 of the same rule has given power to the State Government or the Municipality or the Ward Committee to entrust Local Council one or more functions.

While, Aizawl Municipal Ward Committee and Local Council Rules, 2010 factually placed greater responsibilities and urban management tasks in the hands of Local Councils. It has also been founded that the power of the Local Councils is very less in compare to the responsibilities given to them.

Table - 16

Do you think that your power is facilitating your responsibilities?

Designation	Yes	%	No	%
Chairman	0	0	10	43.48
Other Member	0	0	3	13.04
Secretary	0	0	10	43.48
Total	0	0	23	100

None of the respondents accepted that their power is facilitating their responsibilities as indicated in the above Table - 16.

j) Decentralization of power to the Local Councils

The control of Aizawl Municipal Corporation over Local Council is numerous. The Local Council does not have the right to make use of its own power and run the administration of the localities. In many cases the concern government departments at the state level still have monopoly over developmental works and are handling them directly rather than operating through the concerned local unit. This reveals shown in Table – 17.

Table - 17

Do you think that decentralization of power is given to Local Councils?

Designation	Yes	%	No	%
Chairman	0	0	10	43.48
Other Member	0	0	3	13.04
Secretary	0	0	10	43.48
Total	0	0	23	100

k) Question relating to Village Councils and Local Councils for the Administration of Aizawl City

Table - 18

Do you think Local Council is better than Village Council to manage the affairs of Aizawl City?

Designation	Village Council	%	Local Council	%	No Idea	%
Chairman	7	30.43	3	13.04	0	0
Other Member	1	4.35	1	4.35	1	4.35
Secretary	6	26.09	1	4.35	3	13.04
Total	14	60.87	5	21.74	4	17.39

The above Table - 18 shows that 60.87% of the respondents prefer Village Council to manage the affairs of Aizawl City. Only 21.74% prefer Local Councils and another 17.39% has no idea.

d) Question relating to the area of Local Councils

Table - 19

Which one is better for making an area of Local Councils?

Designation	Household base	%	Population base	%	No Idea	%
Chairman	3	13.04	4	17.39	3	13.04
Other Member	0	0	1	4.36	2	8.69

Secretary	3	13.04	4	17.39	3	13.04
Total	6	26.08	9	39.14	8	34.78

The above Table - 19 shows that 39.14% of the respondents prefer to make Local Councils area on the basis of population. Whereas 26.08% prefer the basis of household and 34.78% has no idea about it.

m) Question relating to the problem faced by the members of the Local Councils in updating themselves with the rules and regulations enacted by the Government of Mizoram from time to time

Table - 20

Do you face problems in updating yourselves with the rules and regulations enacted by the Government of Mizoram from time to time?

Designation	Yes	%	No	%
Chairman	3	13.04	7	30.44
Other Member	1	4.35	2	8.69
Secretary	1	4.35	9	39.13
Total	5	21.74	18	78.26

The responses of the respondents shown in the Table - 20 shows that 21.74% of the respondents have some problems in updating themselves with the rules and regulations enacted by the Government of Mizoram from time to time. Another

78.26% of the respondents have opinion that they have no problems in updating themselves

n) Question relating to the need of proper Administrative office

Table - 21

Do you think Local Councils is in need of proper office with administrative staff?

Designation	Yes	%	No	%
Chairman	7	30.43	3	13.05
Other Member	1	4.35	2	8.69
Secretary	6	26.09	4	17.39
Total	14	60.87	9	39.13

The above Table - 21 shows that 60.87% of the respondents thinks that they need proper office with administrative staff, while, 39.13 % of the respondents thinks that they need no proper office with administrative staff.

o) Question with regards to the participation of Women in the Local Councils

Table - 22

Do you think that the participations of women in Local Councils help a smooth functioning of the Local Councils?

Designation	Yes	%	No	%
Chairman	6	26.09	4	17.39

Other Member	2	8.69	1	4.35
Secretary	7	30.43	3	13.05
Total	15	65.21	8	34.79

The above Table - 22 shows 65.21% of the respondents accepted that the participation of women in Local Councils help a smooth functioning of the Local Councils.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

The final chapter is divided into two parts- Part I and Part II. The first part contains a brief summary of the previous chapters. The second part contains the major findings and suggestion for solving the problems of Local Councils in Aizawl.

PART I

The Dissertation has been divided onto five chapters. The first chapter introduces the present study in brief. This chapter starts by indicating the three tiers of governments in India. It highlights two types of Local Self-Government institutions i.e., rural and urban. It also highlights the evolution, meaning and names of Local Councils in Aizawl city. The introductory chapter also consists of review of Literature, Statement of the problems, Scope of the study, Objectives of the study, Research questions, Methodology and Chapterization.

The second chapter studies the profile of Mizoram including its location, boundary, climate, history etc. It also discussed a brief profile of Aizawl city. It also gives a brief report of the General Election of Local Councils 2012 and 2015. This chapter also studies about the composition, tenure, meeting, minutes and resignation of the Local Council members.

The third chapter is named as role and functions of Local Councils in Aizawl. This chapter studies the evolution of Local Self-Government in India, Local Administration during the chieftainships in Mizoram, Role and functions of Local Councils and Working of Local Councils in Aizawl.

Chapter four provides an analysis of the responses obtained through questionnaire and structured interview schedule from the Chairman, Members and secretaries of the representing local councils. This questionnaire and interview schedule has been framed to give answers to the research questions on the problems of Local Councils.

The last chapter deals with summary of the study, major findings and suggestions for solving the problems of the Local Councils in Aizawl. An attempt has been made to discuss the research questions followed by issues and challenges.

PART II

This Dissertation is the first study relating to the Working of Local Councils in Aizawl. The present study reveals that the Local Councils has undertaken various developmental works in the Local units.

In the world of today Local government has been undertaking new activities which either regulates the conduct of the citizens or are in nature of services such as

provisions of mass transport, construction of houses for the poor, supply of electricity, health centers, parks, Water etc. In fact, Local Government is today much more important than the state or central government.

While investigating the workings of Local Councils in Aizawl, it has been found that the Local Councils are working various functions in their respective localities.

- 1) Solid waste management: Solid waste management is one of the functions of the Local Councils in Aizawl. Local Councils makes contract with the local operator to collect and transport solid waste to the dumping ground. The expenditure of the solid waste management is made through collection of sanitation fee from the local inhabitants.
- 2) Maintenance of burial grounds: During the practiced of Village Councils administration in the city of Aizawl, the maintenance of burial or burial grounds was remained under the authority of Local Administration Department (LAD) which delegated this function to the Village Councils of different localities in Aizawl. After the replacement of Village Councils by Local Councils within Aizawl, the State Government had transferred this function to the Municipality which had been carrying out this function through Local Councils.
- 3) Maintenance of street lights: Putting new street lights and repairing the unsuited one.
- 4) Excavating new roads, extending and resurfacing the existing roads.
- 5) Construction of public urinal, pavement, retaining wall, culvert, footpath etc.

- 6) Repairing Local Council house, Sub center, Community hall, Anganwadi center.
- 7) Maintenance of public wells.
- 8) Announcement of important orders and information given by the concern authority to the local inhabitants.
- 9) Helping and monitoring departmental works in the locality.
- 10) Monitoring all the developmental works in their respective locality.
- 11) Assisting the government in the revision of Electoral Rolls.

Findings

An attempt is made to answer to the first research question: *What is the profile of Aizawl City?* Aizawl is the largest city as well as the capital of the state of Mizoram. The city is located north of the tropic of cancer in the northern part of Mizoram and is situated on a ridge 1132 meter (3715 ft) above the sea level. The coordinates of Aizawl is 23⁰43'38"N and 92⁰43'04"E. The area of the city is 457 km² (176 sq miles). Aizawl has a mild, sub-tropical climate due to its location and elevation. In the summer the temperature ranges from 20^o-30^o Celsius and in the winter 11^o-21^o Celsius.

In the capital of Aizawl, there are 2, 93,416 persons among which 144,913 males and 148,503 females. The city is divided into 19 Wards of Municipal Corporation. In 19 wards there are 83 Local Councils in 2015 General Election

among which 56 Local Councils have 7 Local Council members each and 26 Local Councils have 5 members respectively.

The second research question is: *How were the Local Councils in Aizawl constituted?* The State Government had notified The Mizoram Municipalities (Election to Local Council) Rules, 2011 on 18th November, 2011 and a Gazette copy of the notifications was made available on 23th November, 2011. In pursuance to the Rule the first step which had been taken was the preparation of the Local Councils Electoral Rolls. The Directorate of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation were declared to function as Election Directorate for the revision Electoral Rolls and Conduct of General Election to the Local Councils, 2012.

In pursuance of the notification No B. 14015/31/2011-SEC/LC issued by the State Election Commission on 24th January, 2012 and sub-rule (2) of rule 34 of the Mizoram Municipalities (Election to the Local Council) Rules, 2011, the first General Election was held on 23rd February, 2012 to occupied 82 Local Councils within Aizawl. The total numbers of voters were 1, 74,868 and the total number of Local Council seats were 522 in number. Consequently, one locality i.e., Khatla East Local Council candidates were proclaimed as uncontested winner of the election without casting votes.

The third research question is: *What are the role and functions of Local councils in Aizawl?* The Local Councils are responsible to render all the possible assistance to the Ward Committee, of the Municipal Corporation, in the discharge of

its role. It is also the role of the Local Councils to discharge if and when the Ward Committee entrusts particular role or functions. The Local Councils are also responsible to identify any uncompleted work or works of poor quality or materials of inferior quality used for any work within the Ward and report such matter to the authority concerned for them.

The Local Councils perform the functions entrusted by the Municipality with regards to the common civic services and common benefit of the community and other matters in accordance with the Mizo traditions, customs and practices. The Local Councils is also responsible to discharge the functions given by the State Government or the Municipality or the Ward Committee. It is also the functions of the Local Councils to detect the violation of various provisions of the acts such as illegal construction, encroachment on municipal and public properties, public nuisance, evasion of taxes, unlicensed activities, unclean premises and accumulated garbage, with powers and require the owner or the occupier of such premises to clean and to dispose of such garbage's, The Local Councils have functions to arrest the wasteful uses of various municipal services like tap water, street hydrant, streetlight, parks and playgrounds, and community centre.

The fourth research question is: *What are the major problems and challenges faced by Local Councils in Aizawl?* The major problems and challenges faced by the Local Councils as response given by the respondents are lack of financial assistance extended by the State Government, lack of remuneration, lack of decentralization of power and disproportion of power and responsibilities.

The last research question is: *What are the measures required to make the Local Councils more effective?* This answer can be met by looking the suggestions for solving the problems of the Local Councils which are indicated below.

Suggestions for solving the problems

1. Insufficient financial assistance for developmental works is one of the problems faced by Local Councils in Aizawl. The questionnaire reveals that 100% of the respondents are accepted that the financial assistance extended by the Government of Mizoram is not sufficient enough. So, to enable Local Councils to discharge their services they need efficient financial support. Therefore, the extension of financial assistance by the State Government is suggested.

2. The remuneration of the Local Councils is very less. As per the standing Government order the remuneration of the members of Local Councils is fixed as follows- Chairman-Rs.1500, Vice Chairman-Rs.1200, Members-Rs.1000, Treasurer-Rs.1100, Secretary-Rs.900 and Local Criers-Rs.300, which are given on quarterly basis. The response of the respondent shows that 100% respondents are accepted that the remuneration of Local Councils is very less. It is suggested that the remuneration of the Local Councils should be enhanced in keeping in view of the prices of the basic necessities.

3. The control of Aizawl Municipal Corporation over Local Council is numerous. The Local Council does not have the right to make use of its own power

and run the administration of the localities. The Aizawl Municipal Corporation, if it is not satisfied with it, can reject the decision or proposal made by the Local Councils. Moreover, the Local Councils have no power to pass its own resolution, and every decision has to be approved by the Municipal Corporation. This lack of power causes problems in the functioning of Local Councils. The investigation shows that 100% of the respondents are of opinion that the decentralisation of power is not given to the Local Councils. Therefore it is suggested that decentralisation of power should be given to the Local Councils.

4. The Aizawl Municipal Ward Committee and Local Council Rules, 2010 Chapter III Rule No. 20,21,22 and sub-section (3) of section 23 of The Mizoram Municipalities Act, 2007 factually placed greater responsibilities and urban management tasks in the hands of Local Councils. But the responses collected from the respondent's shows that 100% of the respondents accepted that their power is not facilitating their responsibilities. So, it is suggested that more power should be given to the Local Councils to facilitate their responsibilities.

5. The above Table: 21 show that 60.87% of the respondents think that they need proper office with administrative staff, while, 39.13 % of the respondents thinks that they need no proper office with administrative staff. So it is suggested that Local Councils should be given proper office with administrative staff.

This study is the first attempt to focus the Working of Local Councils in Aizawl. It is the first study in the state of Mizoram and will be useful for researchers, academicians, policy makers, and administrators.

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APPENDIX

QUESTIONNAIRE AND STRUCTURED INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Date _____.

Locality _____.

Designation _____.

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(This data given by the respondents will be used for research purpose)

1. Does the Local Council play developmental roles in your locality?

Yes No No Idea

2. Who carried out the developmental works in your locality?

a) Contractors

b) Local Council Board

3. Do you have good cooperation among Local Council Members?

Yes No

4. What is the source of revenue of your Local Council?

a) Government Funding

b) Fees

c) Self Finances

5. Do you think that the financial assistance extended by the Government of Mizoram is sufficient enough?

Yes No No Idea

6. Do you think that remuneration of the Local Councils is very less?

Yes No

7. Do you get remuneration in time?

Yes No

8. Do you get proper training from the concern authorities?

Yes No

9. Do you think that your power is facilitating your responsibilities?

Yes No

10. Do you think that decentralization of power is given to Local Councils?

Yes No

11. Do you think Local Council is better than Village Council to manage the affairs of Aizawl City?

Yes No No Idea

12. Which one is better for making an area of Local Councils?

a) Household base

b) Population base

13. Do you face problems in updating yourselves with the rules and regulations enacted by the Government of Mizoram from time to time?

Yes No

14. Do you think Local Councils is in need of proper office with administrative staff?

Yes No

15. Do you think that the participations of women in Local Councils help a smooth functioning of the Local Councils?

Yes

No

ANNEXURE

INTRODUCTION

In India, Local Self Government occupies the third tier of governments. The first and the apex tier is the Central government functioning in accordance with the Constitution of India. The second or intermediate tier is the State or Provincial governments bounded by state Laws and Acts. The third and the bottom tier is Local Self Government subordinate to the state or provincial governments which exercise control and supervision over it. Though the origin of Local Self Government in India is hard to recognize; the institution of Local Self Government have flourished in India since time immemorial. The panchayats or village governments as they were called were ancient institution and were themselves self republic.¹

In the world of today, Local Self Government in India can broadly be categorized into two; rural and urban namely, Panchayati Raj and Municipal Government. Panchayati Raj includes the Gram Panchayat at the village level, Panchayat Samity at the block level, and Zilla Parishad at the district level. On the other hand, Municipal Government consisted of Nagar Panchayat (town councils) for transitional urban areas, Municipal Council for smaller urban areas, and Municipal Corporation for larger urban areas. These two types of local self governments were enshrined in the constitution under 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Bill, 1992 which came into force on 24th April 1993.

¹ Maheshwari, S.R., Local Government in India, Lakshmi Narain Agarwal Educational Publishers, Agra, 2010, p-11

After the passing of 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 the Government of Mizoram was not in a hurry to introduce Municipality in the urban areas. But the failure of the State Government to convince the Central Government to accept “Village Councils’ Association in Aizawl” as an equivalent of Urban Local Bodies at the grassroot level had obligated the Councils of Ministers of Mizoram to approve “The Draft Mizoram Municipalities Bill 2002” on February 27, 2007. Ultimately, after 60 years of Indian Independence, the State Legislative Assembly had passed The Municipalities Bill which received the assent of the Governor of Mizoram to become “The Mizoram Municipalities Act 2007 (Act No. 6 of 2007)” on April 16, 2007.²

After the passing of The Mizoram Municipalities Act 2007 the Government of Mizoram established urban local government i.e., Aizawl Municipal Council under Mizoram Municipalities Act, 2007 which was notified on 20th April, 2007. The Act was amended in November 2009 and two years after the Act was passed, the first General Election to Aizawl Municipal Council was held on 3rd November, 2010. Recently, the Municipal Council was elevated to Municipal Corporation. As the authority provided to the Municipality under sub-section (3) of section 23 of the Mizoram Municipalities Act 2007 and the Mizoram Municipalities (Ward Committee and Local Council) Rules, 2010 Chapter III Clause (1), the Municipality constituted local councils for every locality in the Municipal Ward by holding election to be conducted by State Election Commission

² Lalneihzovi (ed), State and Participatory Governance in North East India, Mittal Publications, New Delhi, 2016 , p-179.

In pursuance of the notification No B. 14015/31/2011-SEC/LC issued by the State Election Commission on 24th January, 2012 and sub-rule (2) of rule 34 of the Mizoram Municipalities (Election to the Local Council) Rules, 2011, the first General Election was held on 23rd February, 2012 to occupied 82 Local Councils within Aizawl. The total numbers of voters were 1, 74,868 and the total number of Local Council seats were 522 in number. Consequently, one locality i.e., Khatla East Local Council candidates were proclaimed as uncontested winner of the election without casting votes. According to the above rules chapter I Rule no 2- clause (d) “Council” means the Local Council formed under these rules, and clause (f) of the same rule “Locality” means such area or areas which had been normally under the jurisdiction of one village council before the constitution of Mizoram Municipality or a geographically compact area or areas which had formed a part or parts of village council area before constitution of Municipality.

Scope of the Study

The present study will cover the evolution of the Local Councils in Aizawl, Mizoram. It will include various role and functions, problems and challenges faced by the Local Councils. It will also suggest remedial measures to tackle problems faced by the Local Councils. In 2015, General Election to the Local Councils was held for the second time within Aizawl. Today, there are 83 Local Councils within Aizawl city administration, among which the present study will focus on 10 Local

Councils, such as Chanmari, Chite, Falkland, Melthum, Ramthar North, Saikhamakawn, Zarkawt, Zemabawk, Zonuam and Zotlang. While the localities of Chite, Falkland, Melthum, Ramthar North and Saikhamakawn have 5 Local Council members each, Chanmari, Zarkawt, Zemabawk, Zonuam and Zotlang have 7 Local Council members respectively. In these 10 Local Councils, there are 19,785 voters. The most populous Local Council is Zemabawk with 5,902 voters and the least populous Local Council is Chite having 362 voters. The locality of Chite, Falkland, Melthum, Saikhamkawn, Zemabawk, Zonuam and Zotlang will represent all the localities on the outskirts of Aizawl city. Meanwhile, the locality of Chanmari, Ramthar North, and Zarkawt will represent the localities of the central part of Aizawl.

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the proposed study are as follows:

1. To study the profile of Aizawl city.
2. To trace the evolution of the Local Councils in Aizawl.
3. To study the role and functions of Local Councils in Aizawl.
4. To find out the problems and challenges of Local Councils in Aizawl.
5. To suggest remedial measures to make Local Councils more effective.

Research questions

The following questions have been formulated for the proposed study:

1. What is the profile of Aizawl city?
2. How were the Local Councils in Aizawl constituted?
3. What are the role and functions of the Local Councils in Aizawl?
4. What are the major problems and challenges faced by Local Councils in Aizawl?
5. What are the measures required to make the Local Councils more effective?

Methodology

The study is descriptive in nature. Primary and secondary sources of data collection have been used for the purpose of the study. Primary data are collected through questionnaire and interview. Structured Questionnaires are used to collect information from the Chairman and Secretaries of the representing local councils and random interview with the help of structured interview schedule are also used to collect information from members of the representing local councils. Secondary data have been collected from statistical handbook of Mizoram, original documents from concerned departments, Mizoram gazette, books, Journals, official websites.

Findings

An attempt is made to answer to the first research question: *What is the profile of Aizawl City?* Aizawl is the largest city as well as the capital of the state of Mizoram. The city is located north of the tropic of cancer in the northern part of Mizoram and is situated on a ridge 1132 meter (3715 ft) above the sea level. The coordinates of Aizawl is 23⁰43'38"N and 92⁰43'04"E. The area of the city is 457 km² (176 sq miles). Aizawl has a mild, sub-tropical climate due to its location and elevation. In the summer the temperature ranges from 20°-30° Celsius and in the winter 11°-21° Celsius.

In the capital of Aizawl, there are 2, 93,416 persons among which 144,913 males and 148,503 females. The city is divided into 19 Wards of Municipal Corporation. In 19 wards there are 83 Local Councils in 2015 General Election among which 56 Local Councils have 7 Local Council members each and 26 Local Councils have 5 members respectively.

The second research question is: *How were the Local Councils in Aizawl constituted?* The State Government had notified The Mizoram Municipalities (Election to Local Council) Rules, 2011 on 18th November, 2011 and a Gazette copy of the notifications was made available on 23th November, 2011. In pursuance to the Rule the first step which had been taken was the preparation of the Local Councils Electoral Rolls. The Directorate of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation was

declared to function as Election Directorate for the revision of Electoral Rolls and conduct of General Election to the Local Councils, 2012.

In pursuance of the notification No B. 14015/31/2011-SEC/LC issued by the State Election Commission on 24th January, 2012 and sub-rule (2) of rule 34 of the Mizoram Municipalities (Election to the Local Council) Rules, 2011, the first General Election was held on 23rd February, 2012 to occupied 82 Local Councils within Aizawl. The total numbers of voters were 1, 74,868 and the total number of Local Council seats were 522 in number. Consequently, one locality i.e., Khatla East Local Council candidates were proclaimed as uncontested winner of the election without casting votes.

The third research question is: *What are the role and functions of Local councils in Aizawl?* The Local Councils are responsible to render all the possible assistance to the Ward Committee, of the Municipal Corporation, in the discharge of its role. It is also the role of the Local Councils to discharge if and when the Ward Committee entrusts particular role or functions. The Local Councils are also responsible to identify any uncompleted work or works of poor quality or materials of inferior quality used for any work within the Ward and report such matter to the authority concerned for them.

The Local Councils perform the functions entrusted by the Municipality with regards to the common civic services and common benefit of the community and other matters in accordance with the Mizo traditions, customs and practices. The Local Councils is also responsible to discharge the functions given by the State Government or the Municipality or the Ward Committee. It is also the functions of

the Local Councils to detect the violation of various provisions of the acts such as illegal construction, encroachment on municipal and public properties, public nuisance, evasion of taxes, unlicensed activities, unclean premises and accumulated garbage, with powers and require the owner or the occupier of such premises to clean and to dispose of such garbage's, The Local Councils have functions to arrest the wasteful uses of various municipal services like tap water, street hydrant, streetlight, parks and playgrounds, and community centre.

The fourth research question is: *What are the major problems and challenges faced by Local Councils in Aizawl?* The major problems and challenges faced by the Local Councils as response given by the respondents are lack of financial assistance extended by the State Government, lack of remuneration, lack of decentralization of power and disproportion of power and responsibilities.

The last research question is: *What are the measures required to make the Local Councils more effective?* This answer can be met by looking the suggestions for solving the problems of the Local Councils which are indicated below.

Suggestions for solving the problems

1. Insufficient financial assistance for developmental works is one of the problems faced by Local Councils in Aizawl. The questionnaire reveals that 100% of the respondents are accepted that the financial assistance extended by the

Government of Mizoram is not sufficient enough. So, to enable Local Councils to discharge their services they need efficient financial support. Therefore, the extension of financial assistance by the State Government is suggested.

2. The remuneration of the Local Councils is very less. As per the standing Government order the remuneration of the members of Local Councils is fixed as follows- Chairman-Rs.1500, Vice Chairman-Rs.1200, Members-Rs.1000, Treasurer-Rs.1100, Secretary-Rs.900 and Local Criers-Rs.300, which are given on quarterly basis. The response of the respondent shows that 100% respondents are accepted that the remuneration of Local Councils is very less. It is suggested that the remuneration of the Local Councils should be enhanced in keeping in view of the prices of the basic necessities.

3. The control of Aizawl Municipal Corporation over Local Council is numerous. The Local Council does not have the right to make use of its own power and run the administration of the localities. The Aizawl Municipal Corporation, if it is not satisfied with it, can reject the decision or proposal made by the Local Councils. Moreover, the Local Councils have no power to pass its own resolution, and every decision has to be approved by the Municipal Corporation. This lack of power causes problems in the functioning of Local Councils. The investigation shows that 100% of the respondents are of opinion that the decentralisation of power is not given to the Local Councils. Therefore it is suggested that decentralisation of power should be given to the Local Councils.

4. The Aizawl Municipal Ward Committee and Local Council Rules, 2010 Chapter III Rule No. 20,21,22 and sub-section (3) of section 23 of The Mizoram Municipalities Act, 2007 factually placed greater responsibilities and urban management tasks in the hands of Local Councils. But the responses collected from the respondent's shows that 100% of the respondents accepted that their power is not facilitating their responsibilities. So, it is suggested that more power should be given to the Local Councils to facilitate their responsibilities.

5. The above Table: 21 show that 60.87% of the respondents think that they need proper office with administrative staff, while, 39.13 % of the respondents thinks that they need no proper office with administrative staff. So it is suggested that Local Councils should be given proper office with administrative staff.

This study is the first attempt to focus the Working of Local Councils in Aizawl. It is the first study in the state of Mizoram and will be useful for researchers, academicians, policy makers and administrators.

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