

Czech University of Life Sciences Prague

Faculty of Economics and Management

Department of Humanities



Bachelor Thesis

**Formation of Local Self-Government in the City of
Ahmedabad**

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BACHELOR THESIS ASSIGNMENT

Chaitanya Aniket Sukhadiya

Economics and Management

Thesis title

Formation of Local Self-Government in the City of Ahmedabad

Objectives of thesis

The aim of the bachelor thesis is to identify the factors influencing the way local self-government bodies are formed in the city of Ahmedabad (Gujarat, Republic of India). The partial objectives of the thesis within the topic are: 1/ To characterize the main socio-economic indicators of the municipality and evaluate their impact on the development and functioning of local self-government. 2/ To identify the actors of the political process in the municipality (local political entities, interest groups, etc.), analyze their mutual relations and influence on the local political process. 3/ To define the character of the local government's decision-making process based on a comparative analysis of the development of the local socio-economic and political environment over the last two decades.

Methodology

The bachelor thesis will have the character of a case study, so a combination of qualitative and quantitative research techniques will be used. The theoretical part will be based on a literature review and the study of similar research outputs related to the topic of the thesis. In the practical part, quantitative data will be collected from publicly available databases and secondary data of both quantitative and qualitative character will be collected based on the study of relevant documents. Standard methodological procedures of comparative analysis will be used for data processing and interpretation of the research results.

The proposed extent of the thesis

40-50 pages

Keywords

Ahmedabad; Local Self-Government; Municipal Elections; Political Party System; Citizen Participation

Recommended information sources

Kumar, N. (Ed.) Politics and Religion in India. London: Taylor & Francis, 2019, ISBN 978-0367337872.

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Declaration

I declare that I have worked on my bachelor thesis titled "Formation of Local Self-Government in the City of Ahmedabad" by myself and I have used only the sources mentioned at the end of the thesis. As the author of the bachelor thesis, I declare that the thesis does not break any copyrights.

In Prague on date of submission

Chaitanya Aniket Sukhadiya
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Formation of Local Self-Government in the City of Ahmedabad

Abstract

In this thesis paper, we delve into the evolution and systematic growth of local self governance in *Ahmedabad*. The first chapter provides an overview of the study, presenting its aims, objectives, research questions, and problem statement. It also formulates key hypotheses and outlines the structure of the entire thesis.

The second chapter conducts a comprehensive analysis of factors crucial to the establishment of local self-government bodies, exploring their impact on economic development. This chapter examines the roles of self-government in political maintenance and discusses their relevance.

The third chapter focuses on the research methodology, adopting an interpretive philosophy and employing a descriptive and deductive approach. Secondary data sources drive the qualitative and quantitative data analysis of factors influencing local self-government formation in *Ahmedabad*.

In the fourth and fifth chapters, we analyze various data to evaluate politically stabilized scenarios and delve into a detailed analysis of collected data of how they might affect the local political and economical stability. Thematic analysis reveals the significance of population, religion, politics, housing typology patterns and their relationship to local economic stability. This thesis underscores the importance of increasing local income to foster business growth and overall stability.

Keywords: Local self-governments, India, Ahmedabad, election, authorities, institution.

Formování orgánů místní samosprávy ve městě Ahmedabad

Abstrakt

V této diplomové práci se ponoříme do evoluce a systematického růstu místní samosprávy v Ahmedabádu. První kapitola poskytuje přehled studie, představuje její cíle, cíle, výzkumné otázky a řešení problému. Dále formuluje klíčové hypotézy a nastiňuje strukturu celé práce.

Druhá kapitola provádí komplexní analýzu faktorů rozhodujících pro vznik orgánů místní samosprávy a zkoumá jejich vliv na ekonomický rozvoj. Tato kapitola zkoumá role samosprávy při udržování politiky a diskutuje jejich význam.

Třetí kapitola se zaměřuje na metodologii výzkumu, přejímá interpretační filozofii a využívá deskriptivní a deduktivní přístup. Sekundární zdroje dat řídí kvalitativní a kvantitativní analýzu dat faktorů ovlivňujících formování místní samosprávy v Ahmedabádu.

Ve čtvrté a páté kapitole analyzujeme různá data pro vyhodnocení politicky stabilizovaných scénářů a ponoříme se do podrobné analýzy shromážděných dat, jak by mohly ovlivnit místní politickou a ekonomickou stabilitu. Tematická analýza odhaluje význam populace, náboženství, politiky, vzorců typologie bydlení a jejich vztah k místní ekonomické stabilitě. Tato práce zdůrazňuje důležitost zvyšování místních příjmů pro podporu růstu podnikání a celkové stability.

Klíčová slova: Místní samosprávy, Indie, Ahmedabad, volby, úřady, instituce.

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1 Introduction

Our thesis embarks on a journey to explore the unique concept of local self-governance in *India*, with a specific focus on *Ahmedabad*. In this introductory chapter, we establish the foundation for our elaborated study.

1.1 Background of study

Ahmedabad, a bustling city in India, with its rich history dating back to 1824 when a military cantonment was established, has evolved into the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC). This political entity, formed in July 1950 under the “Bombay Provincial Corporation Act (1949),” plays a pivotal role in the development and governance of the city (Bharti, and Mehrotra, 2020). Today, Ahmedabad is a dynamic urban center, influenced by various social, political, and economic factors (Sairam, *et al.* 2018).

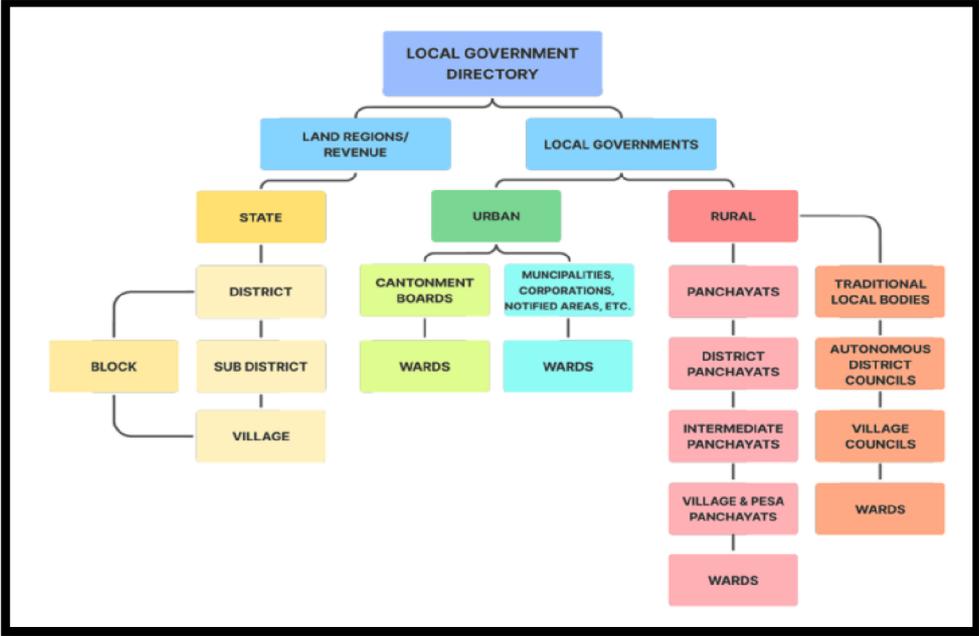


Figure 1: Figure 1.1.1: Local Government hierarchy in Ahmedabad, India (Ahmedabad-city.gov.in, 2023)

Figure 1.1.1 shows Local Government hierarchy.

1.2 Research rationale

Our study is driven by the need to understand the profound changes that Indian cities, including *Ahmedabad*, have undergone in the past two or three decades. We aim to assess the factors shaping local self-governments, understand the benefits they bring, and address

the challenges they face. The growing importance of environmental concerns and the need for effective local governance also motivate our research.

1.3 Thesis structure

We outline the structure of our thesis, which comprises chapters dedicated to the study's progression from introduction to data analysis, findings, and recommendations like,



Figure 2: Figure 1.3.1: Structure of this thesis, India (Own Design)

Figure 1.3.1 shows our thesis chapters.

1.4 Limitations of study

While writing this paper, we have identified the limitations inherent to our research, such as time constraints, restricted access to resources, and data availability, which are essential for transparency.

1.5 Summary

This chapter provides an overview of the influence of local and regional political and regulatory bodies on local self-government development in Ahmedabad. It establishes the significance of our research in today's dynamic political and social landscape and guides readers through the upcoming chapters.

2 Objectives and Methodology

In this chapter, we delve into the objectives and methodologies that underpin our research. These elements guide the systematic exploration of the formation and operation of local self-government bodies in *Ahmedabad, India*.

2.1 Objective

Our primary aim is to identify and discuss the political, social, and economic factors that influence the formation and operational procedures of local self-government bodies within *Ahmedabad*. To achieve this overarching goal, we have formulated the following research objectives:

- To identify the major socio-economic indicators related to *Ahmedabad* municipality and analyze their influence on the development and operations of local self-government in the city.
- To highlight the primary actors involved in the political processes within the *Ahmedabad* municipality, including local political entities and interest groups, and analyze their internal relationships and impacts on discrete local political processes.
- To assess the characteristics of the decision-making process within *Ahmedabad's* local government by conducting a comparative analysis of the development of political and local socio-economic environments over the last two decades.
- To define the factors that have influenced the development of local self-government in *Ahmedabad*.

These research objectives serve as the compass that directs our investigation into the multi-faceted aspects of local self-governance.

2.1.1 *Research Questions and Hypotheses:*

Before delving into the detailed discussion of the practical results, it's essential to revisit the research questions and hypotheses that guided this study.

2.1.1.1 Research Questions: *RQ1: What are the major socio-economic indicators related to Ahmedabad municipality that influence the respective development as well as operations of local self-government in the city?*

RQ2: What are the prime actors involved with the political process within the Ahmedabad municipality related to local political entities, and interest groups?

RQ3: What are the characteristics of the decision-making process of Ahmedabad's local government depending on comparative analysis on development of political as well as local socio-economic environment during the last two decades?

2.1.1.2 Hypotheses: *H0: There is no specific impact of the socio-economic indicators, like the emergence and operations of local political entities/interest groups, of Ahmedabad municipality on the development as well as operations of local self-government in Ahmedabad city.*

H1: There is a direct/positive impact of the socio-economic indicators, like the emergence and operations of local political entities/interest groups, of Ahmedabad municipality on the development as well as operations of local self-government in Ahmedabad city.

H2: There is an adverse impact of the socio-economic indicators, like the emergence and operations of local political entities/interest groups, of Ahmedabad municipality on the development as well as operations of local self-government in Ahmedabad city.

H3: There is a mixed impact of the socio-economic indicators, like the emergence and operations of local political entities/interest groups, of Ahmedabad municipality on the development as well as operations of local self-government in Ahmedabad city.

2.2 Methodology

Methodology is a pivotal foundation for any research endeavor, as it establishes a structured path for data collection and analysis. In this section, we elucidate our selected methodology, elucidating our research philosophy, design, approach, data sources, collection techniques, ethical considerations, and accessibility challenges.

2.2.1 Research Philosophy

Research philosophy provides the fundamental underpinnings that guide the methodological choices within a study. It offers a conceptual framework through which researchers perceive the nature of reality, the essence of knowledge, and their relationship with the subject of their inquiry. Within the realm of research philosophy, three primary paradigms—positivism, interpretivism, and realism—exist. Positivism emphasizes objectivity, quantifiability, and the empirical discovery of information through systematic, scientific approaches. It places a strong emphasis on quantitative data and causality. On the contrary, interpretivism asserts that reality is subjective and influenced by individuals' experiences and perceptions. This paradigm centers on understanding the meaning and significance individuals attribute to their experiences, often employing qualitative methods such as content analysis, observations, and interviews.

In our study, we align with **interpretivism**. This philosophy is well-suited for exploring the intricate dynamics of local self-government in *Ahmedabad*. By examining the underlying motivations and encouraging empathy, interpretivism provides a comprehensive understanding of human behavior, allowing us to analyze human perceptions related to the formation of local self-governments in *Ahmedabad*.

2.2.2 Research Design

The research design serves as the structural framework that guides our entire research process. It encompasses the plan and structure that governs the systematic examination of an idea or research problem, defining the methodology, data collection procedures, and analytical methods. A well-thought-out research design enhances result validity and dependability. Researchers make crucial decisions about the type of study (qualitative, quantitative, or hybrid methodologies), sample strategies, data sources, and measurement instruments. For our study, a **descriptive research design** is selected, ideal for a comprehensive, structured exploration. Descriptive research provides the foundation for more in-depth investigations and hypothesis testing.

2.2.3 Research Approach

Research approach delineates the systematic and organized method employed to investigate a specific topic or question. It outlines the strategies, procedures, and tools used for data gathering, analysis, and interpretation to meet research objectives. Various research approaches, such as inductive, deductive, and mixed methods, are available. Inductive reasoning starts with specific observations or data to derive broad concepts, while deductive reasoning begins with fundamental concepts and tests them using specific observations or evidence. In our study, we employ a **deductive approach**, which aligns with the quantitative analysis of existing political theories related to local self-government formation in *Ahmedabad*.

2.2.4 Data Sources and Collection

The development of insights hinges on both primary and secondary data sources, integral aspects of research methodology. Primary data, specific to a particular research project, is firsthand information derived directly from sources such as research, studies, observations, and interviews. While it offers customized knowledge, it is time- and resource-intensive. Secondary data, conversely, relies on existing data originally gathered for different purposes, encompassing sources like books, journals, government papers, and databases. Secondary data is practical and cost-effective but requires rigorous assessment of its validity, applicability, and credibility.

In our study, we exclusively employ **secondary data sources**. This approach is justified given our research's focus on the social and political aspects of local government formation in Ahmedabad, India. Leveraging existing government website resources, we analyze various themes pertinent to our research, broadening its scope.

2.2.5 Sampling Technique

Sampling techniques are integral for research, enabling the extraction of conclusions from a subset of the population rather than examining the entire population. It saves time and

resources while ensuring population representation. Our chosen sampling technique is **stratified sampling**, which involves dividing the entire population into subgroups (strata) based on predetermined traits. Random samples are then drawn from each group proportionally, ensuring equitable representation.

2.2.6 Data Analysis Method

Data analysis techniques are indispensable for uncovering valuable insights from raw data. Different techniques are employed to address patterns, connections, and trends within datasets. In research, both qualitative and quantitative analysis methods are utilized to examine and interpret data. Qualitative analysis focuses on non-numerical data, such as text, photographs, videos, and observations, to unveil trends, themes, and insights. Quantitative analysis, in contrast, centers on numerical data, seeking patterns, connections, and trends through statistical techniques. These methods, when selected according to research goals, data type, and available resources, yield robust and trustworthy findings.

In our study, we employ both **qualitative data analysis** and **quantitative data analysis** methods to fully comprehend the data. Qualitative analysis methods such as content analysis, thematic discussion, narrative analysis, and discourse analysis provide detailed analysis based on non-numeric data. Simultaneously, quantitative data analysis leverages statistical inference and other suitable methods to explore numeric and statistical data.

2.2.7 Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations are paramount in research, ensuring fairness and integrity throughout the study. Adhering to ethical norms enhances the validity and trustworthiness of research results. In our study, we meticulously evaluate and implement ethical concepts and regulations, focusing on data privacy and adherence to legislation like the “**Data Protection Act 2018**,” “**Personal Data Protection Act 1998**,” and other relevant frameworks.

2.2.8 Accessibility Issues

Accessibility challenges in terms of information and resources can hinder research by affecting accuracy, scope, and reliability. These issues encompass difficulties in accessing relevant datasets, especially when they are confidential, non-digitized, or proprietary. In addition, access to crucial resources such as advanced software, equipment, or laboratory apparatus can present challenges.

Addressing accessibility challenges is crucial in our research. By actively acknowledging and mitigating these challenges, we seek to enhance the validity and comprehensiveness of our findings.

2.2.9 Summary

In conclusion, a well-chosen methodological approach is pivotal for conducting justified and data-enriched research. Our methodology, rooted in **interpretivism**, **descriptive research design**, and **deductive approach**, reflects our commitment to providing a comprehensive examination of “**local self-government formation in *Ahmedabad***“. Through the use of both **qualitative data analysis** and **quantitative data analysis** methods, we aim to produce solid and reliable research findings. Ethical considerations and attention to accessibility issues further strengthen our research’s integrity and validity.

3 Literature Review

3.1 Self-Government System in India

3.1.1 Overview of India's Political and Administration Structure

India, as a **federal republic** in structure with unitary features, comprises multiple levels of governance, including the federal level, state level, and local self-government. The political structure involves a robust federal system with elected representatives at the center and individual states. Administrative functions are executed by various bodies, such as the central government, governors, and state-level administrative units. At the central level, key entities include the President, Prime Minister, and various ministries.

The state executive is covered under Article 153-167 in Part 6 of the constitution, hence the constitution calls for a separate federal government with a different organizational structure (<https://legislative.gov.in/constitution-of-india/>). The part of government in charge of upholding state laws is known as the state government. State governments have their own administrative structures, mirroring the central government, and are headed by **Governors**. The relationship between the central and state governments involves a division of powers outlined in the Constitution of India (Legislative.gov.in, 2023).

Public administration in *India* involves a **multi-tiered** structure. At the state and local levels, the administrative framework includes elected representatives, bureaucrats, and various government bodies. The administrative structure extends from the union government to state governments, districts, and down to local self-government bodies, fostering decentralized governance. The **Indian Administrative Service (IAS)** plays a pivotal role in the administrative machinery, with officers posted at different levels to ensure effective governance (India.gov.in, 2023).

3.1.2 Local Self-Government System:

India's local self-government system is diverse, with variations across states and regions. All *India* local self-government is consigned within the accomplishment of local government policy development for creating the evolution of the local self-governance. Moreover, several legal provinces are realistically linked with the amendments of the **Government of India Act** in 1919. The Constitution of India empowers local self-government bodies under the provisions of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, ensuring decentralization of powers. (Building Alliances: Power and Politics in urban India, pp 58-78)

The **three-tier system of Panchayati Raj**, comprising village-level **Panchayats**, **block-level Panchayat Samitis**, and **district-level Zila Parishads**, represents rural local self-governance.

In urban areas, **Municipalities** and **Municipal Corporations** govern local affairs (Legislative.gov.in, 2023; Wikipedia, 2023). Figure 3.1.1 shows how local government is distributed.

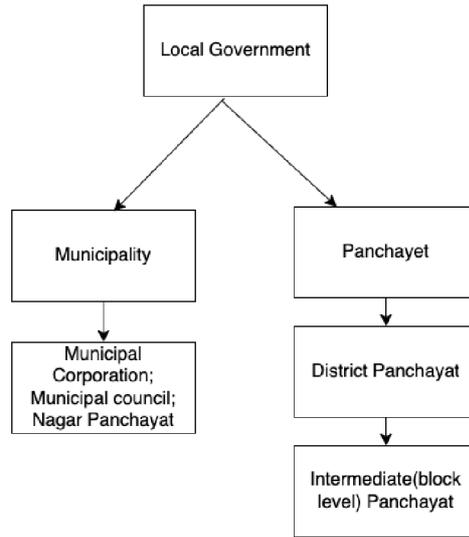


Figure 3: Figure 3.1.1: Local Government Structure (Political Empowerment of Women in Panchayati Raj Institutions: An Over View)

3.1.2.1 Evolution of the local self-government bodies Initiated by the GVK Rao commission in 1985, the Zila Parishad system gained significance. Three tier systems of the political synchronisation village level, block level and district level of the Panchayat raj systems are included in case of governing the association of the accomplishment of the *Committee of LM Singhvi* (Chaubey, 2023). Nagar-panchayats, district panchayats and the Municipal councils are managed through the incorporation of Article 243. Apart from these, the regional municipality was reinvigorated through the introduction of the New Gujarat Municipality communities.(Rao 2022)

3.1.2.2 Particular rules linked with the functionalities of Gujarat’s local authoritative principle creation during the Municipal governance

3.1.2.2.1 Legal Frameworks and Regulatory Principles - Gujarat’s local authoritative principle creation adheres to certain regulatory principles outlined in the **Gujarat Municipality Act** (1963). These principles govern the liability of councilors, ethical voting practices, and penalties for misconduct, ensuring the fair and secure functioning of local governance bodies.

3.1.2.2.2 Future Implications: Samras System and Civic Engagement Policies - Exploring the Samras system, introduced in 2001, reveals its impact on democratic rights and the deployment of gram panchayat systems. However, the potential risk to democracy during the implementation and follow-up of the Samras system necessitates careful consideration of its future implications.

3.1.2.2.3 Town Planning and Urban Development - The Gujarat Town Planning and Urban Development Act, 1976, along with other regulatory measures, govern town planning activities. These include the Master Development Plan, Execution Plan, and Annual Municipal Action Plan, collectively shaping urban and rural dichotomous planning.

3.1.2.3 Advantageous aspects of the local self-governments Democratic perspectives of the local scrutiny of the authoritative principle creation and the regional diversification of Gujarat's municipalities are maintained through the strong advancement of the local self-government (Pál and Radvan, 2022). Moreover, critical disputes seen during the local polling authoritative principle creation can be solved through the application of the local self-government council creation. The local leadership and pioneering authorities of the local franchises can be developed through the customization of the local entitled policy improvement. Work burdens of long term sustainability creation during the financial perspective development can be solved through the local authoritative council development.

3.1.2.4 Disadvantageous aspects of the local self-governments Local self-governments confront various challenges that impede their effective functioning. Civic panchayats and community outreach programs encounter **legal restrictions**, limiting the development of self-government policies. Conflicts arising during the establishment of Panchayat Raj commissions contribute to challenges in devising innovative and sustainable operational solutions (Ahmedabadcity website, 2023).

Issues related to **power distribution**, nepotism in councilor selection, and the absence of specific analytics development hinder the efficiency of local self-governments. Unskilled orientation and the globalization of political stakeholder engagement policies pose obstacles, exacerbating difficulties in the critical behavioral augmentation of local authoritative council development.

Corruption-related functionalities represent a critical concern within these governance structures, impacting their integrity. Poor budget efficacy and the reformulation of political influence present clear challenges, potentially overshadowing the stimulatory activities of local leaders. Autonomy-related deficiencies in local governing councils and the absence of international entity creation during municipal cooperative measure development further contribute to the deterioration of these governance mechanisms.

A noteworthy incident involves a whistleblower, a BJP municipal councilor from the Katargam zone, who reported clandestine activities involving the allocation of 51 plots. The official investigation, conducted discreetly by the Municipality, verified this information by cross-referencing party plots with official records, confirming the authenticity of the claims (Indianexpress, 2023). This case exemplifies the tangible challenges and deficiencies within local self-governments.

3.2 Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation

Ahmedabad, Gujarat, a city renowned for its robust industrial presence and rich history, has undergone significant expansion since achieving mega-city status. The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC), established in July 1950 under the “**Bombay Provincial Corporation Act** of 1949,” plays a crucial role in overseeing the city’s infrastructure and governance. With roots dating back to 1831, when the “Town Wall Fund Committee” initiated the city’s reconstruction after flooding, *Ahmedabad’s* local self-government, represented by the AMC, stood as a democratic model during British rule in *India* (Indiacode.nic.in, 2017).

In 1950, the “Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation” replaced the presidency with the mayorship, marking a transformative era for the city. Early initiatives of the AMC, led by notable figures like Sheth Ranchhodlal Chhotalal and Rao Bahadur Bhaishankar Nanabhai, included public welfare services such as road maintenance, street lighting, and vehicle procurement.

The city’s growth led to the designation of *Ahmedabad* as a “Mega City” in 2005. The AMC expanded its scope to include more governments and Gram Panchayats, ushering in a period of dynamic development with initiatives like underpasses, a city ring road, five-star accommodations, multiplexes, and shopping malls (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in, 2023). According to the AMC’s vision, Ahmedabad strives to be vibrant, productive, peaceful, environmentally friendly, clean, and livable, ensuring a high standard of living for its residents.

Governed by Municipality Commissioner **Shri M. Thennarasan** and operating through a system of wards and zones, the 192-seat AMC is responsible for providing both mandatory and optional services. These services encompass building infrastructure, healthcare provision, and public transportation. Noteworthy for surpassing national standards in sewage management, recyclable material handling, and water delivery, the AMC has implemented groundbreaking changes in areas like property taxes, municipal bonds, and public-private partnerships in transportation (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in, 2023).

Under the steadfast leadership of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, *Ahmedabad* stands as a shining example of urban growth in *India*, combining historical significance with a dedicated commitment to improvement.

3.2.1 Administration Structure of AMC

An essential component within the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation’s (AMC) operation is the administration structure, which is in charge of managing the affairs of the city and providing a variety of services. This building has changed over time and is essential to the expansion and improvement of the city. The following section is focused on examination of the essential elements of the AMC’s administrative organization, including its leadership, responsibilities, and services, in this thorough overview.

3.2.1.1 Leadership of Shri Bhupendra Patel Being the existing Municipal Commissioner, an IAS officer named **Shri Bhupendra Patel** was chosen by the Gujarati government, is in charge of the AMC. In the company, the Municipal Commissioner has executive

authority and is in charge of managing day-to-day operations and policy implementation. This person is crucial in ensuring the effective operation of the AMC.

3.2.1.2 Zonal categorization For administrative reasons, the town of *Ahmedabad* has been separated into six zones: the central region, East, West, North, South, and New West Zones. Wards are used to further separate each of these zones. At the moment, *Ahmedabad* has 48 wards, and every ward is staffed by four corporators. In local elections, which are held every five years, the citizens of the individual wards choose these corporators.

3.2.1.3 Mayor The city administrator is a significant player in the AMC's administrative structure. The Mayor is chosen by the party with the most elected corporators. The Mayor plays a vital role while making choices and represents the city in many venues. The Mayor also serves as the corporation's political head. (Ahmedabadcity.gov.inSP/Incumbency-Mayor)

As illustrated within major sections of the "Bombay Provincial Municipal Corporation Act", the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation performs a wide range of duties, both mandatory and optional. Following are some of the major responsibilities that are relevant for the AMC governing bodies:

- **Required Services** - Setting up and defining the city bounds is known as erecting city boundaries. Upkeep of sewage, drainage, and other public infrastructure, including streets (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in, 2023).
- **Fire services** - Providing emergency assistance and ensuring fire safety.
- **Health & medical services** - Providing locals with access to medical facilities based on the installation and maintenance of streetlights for the benefit of public safety. Preservation of landmarks, public areas, and open spaces through conservation and upkeep. Primary education is provided to locals as part of the education services.
- **Water distribution services** - Ensuring that the populace has a steady supply of water. Controlling the transmission of harmful diseases is known as disease control as well as assistance during times of famine, floods, and other emergencies is also a significant responsibility of AMC (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in, 2023).
- **Discretionary Services** - Constructing and maintaining public facilities, such as hospitals, parks, and community centers. Operating and maintaining the infrastructure for public transportation. Giving the less fortunate livable housing is known as housing for the poor.
- **Environmental initiatives** - Concentrating on enhancing the urban environment. Putting in place measures to ensure the convenience and safety of the general people.
- **Performance and Reforms** - The AMC has a respectable history of delivering urban facilities at a level that is noticeably greater than the national norms. Significant accomplishments and reforms include:

– Municipal Bonds:

Because of its prudent financial management, the AMC was a pioneering municipality within Asia to issue municipal bonds and access the capital markets. As a result, it becomes capable of sustaining a comparative high credit rating, which is denoted by “AA+” as CARE, which generates potential revenue increase (igod.gov.in, 2023).

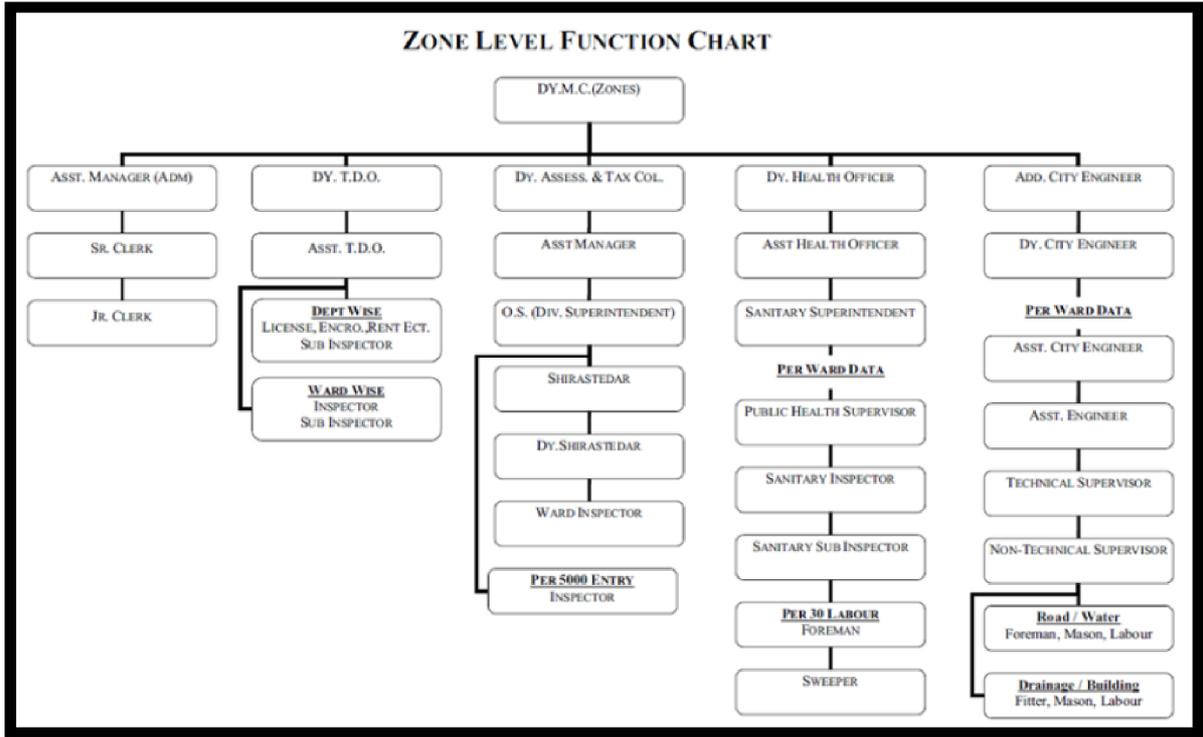


Figure 4: Figure 3.2.1: Zone level administration structure (igod.gov.in, 2023)

Here, figure 3.2.1 indicates a detailed zone level administrative structure for the AMC which shows that 5 major governing bodies are appointed by the District Magistrate or Mayor. Based on the major requirements related to operating all the 5 zones, each zone is sub-divided into multiple sub-departments which are responsible for handling all zone level governing issues. Property tax changes were effectively implemented in *Ahmedabad*, one of the country’s first major cities, with 0 litigation records (Communi.gujarat.gov.in, 2023).

– **E-government & slum remediation:**

The AMC has established standards in fields like e-government along with slum improvement, which other cities have embraced.

– **Environmental Improvement:**

Ahmedabad civic centers serve as role models for government, benefiting residents and encouraging other cities to adopt similar practices.

– **Municipal Transportation:**

The AMC established the public-private partnership concept, which resulted in financial savings and environmental advantages with CNG buses.

3.2.1.4 Vision: A lively, successful, harmonious, sustainable, eco-friendly, livable city is what the AMC aspires to build. It strives to preserve responsive local governance while providing its residents with a high quality of life. Finally, the Mayor, Corporators, and Municipal Commissioner leads the multi-tiered administration structure of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. It works across zones and wards and offers the citizens of the city a variety of services (Ahmedabad.nic.in, 2023). The AMC is now among the best service companies in the nation and a role model in other municipal organizations thanks to the milestones it has reached over the years and a variety of changes it has adopted.

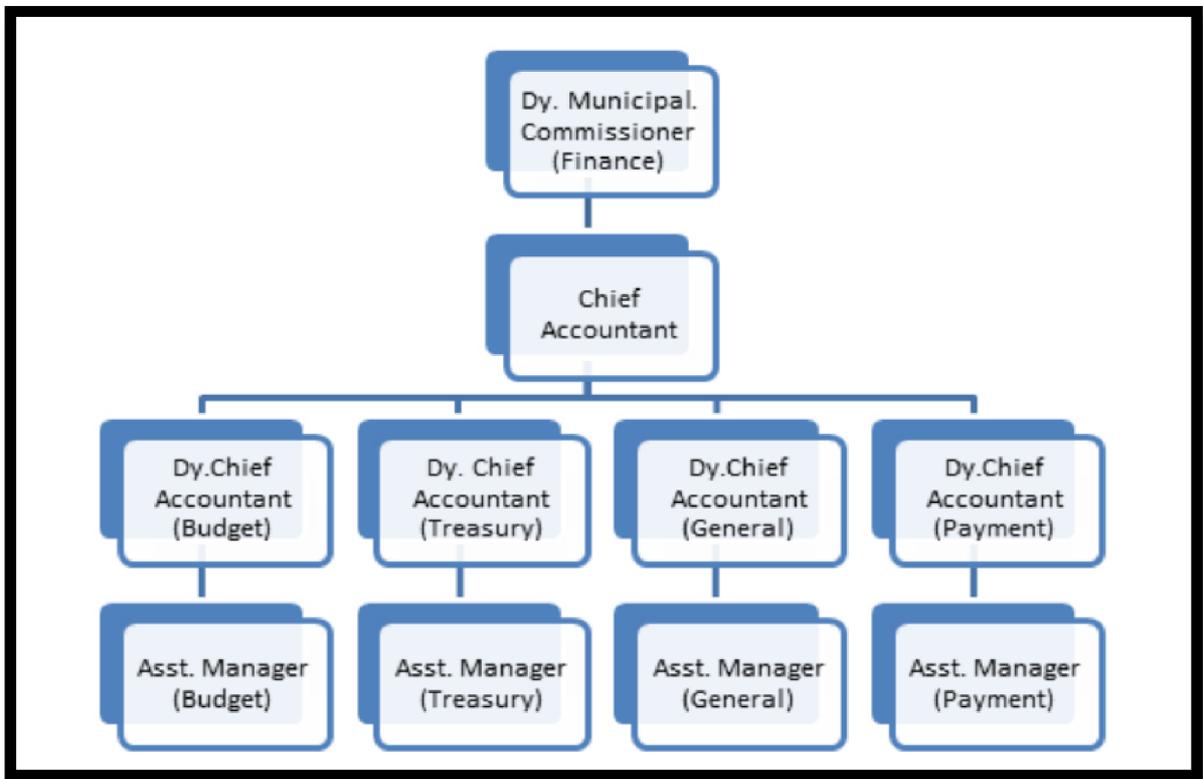


Figure 5: Figure 3.2.2: Financial level administration structure (Ahmedabad.nic.in, 2023)

Figure 3.2.2 represents a detailed organizational structure for the finance department of the AMC that is responsible for running all financial operations and arranging financial resources for the development of *Ahmedabad*. As highlighted in the image, a chief accountant reports directly to the respective municipal commissioner (NDTV, 2023). Operations of the chief accountant are supported by 4 other sub-operators which are further divided into other small departments.

3.2.2 Elections and Electoral System

The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation's (AMC) electoral process and elections have a significant impact on the leadership and governance of the city. The electoral process in *Ahmedabad*, one of India's biggest municipal corporations, is essential to the city's democratic operation. We will cover the electoral process, the electoral system, and the importance regarding these elections in relation to AMC and municipal governance (Ahmedabad.nic.in, 2023).

3.2.2.1 Election Process Representative democracy is the foundation of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation's electoral system. *Ahmedabad* residents have the chance to cast ballots to choose the representatives who will act on their behalf (Localbodydata, 2023). The AMC voting process upholds the ideals of local self-governance that has been allowing local residents to possess a significant say regarding the governance of the city.

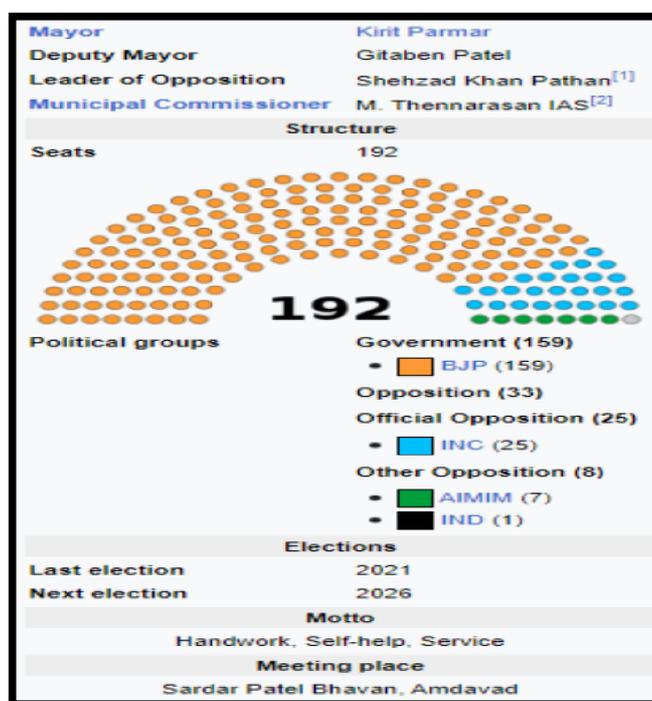


Figure 6: Figure 3.2.3: Summary election of Ahmedabad, Gujarat (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in, 2023)

Figure 3.2.3 highlights some of the major information on Elections and Electoral Systems followed by the AMC within the city of *Ahmedabad*. As showcased in the image, the last election was held in 2021, where there was a total of **192 potential candidate** seats for *Ahmedabad*. The info-graphic also highlights all the respective political groups that have been active during the last election. The image confirms the presence of at least 4 political parties such as BJP, and opposition parties like INC, AIMIM, and IND among them BJP got the majority of seats 159 (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in, 2023).

FORM E.

(See Chapter I, rule 29).

Certificate entitling a presiding officer, polling officer or polling agent to vote at the polling station where he is appointed for duty.

A B being duly registered as elector No.	on the election roll
	<u>Presiding officer</u>
of the Ward and being duly appointed for duty as	<u>Polling officer</u>
	<u>Polling agent</u>
at polling station	is entitled to record his vote at polling station.

Figure 7: Figure 3.2.4: Different electoral documents of AMC (igod.gov.in, 2023)

Figure 3.2.4 illustrates that the election is held and observed by several officers. Therefore verifies the electoral results.

3.2.2.2 Ward Division For administrative reasons, *Ahmedabad* has been split into wards. There are 48 constituencies in *Ahmedabad* at the moment. Effective representation depends on clearly delineated geographic units called “wards,” each of which has a specific border.

- **Election of Corporators:** Voting for local representatives, or corporators, is permitted in each ward. There are 192 corporators within the AMC, four elected from each ward. In the municipal corporation, these corporators are in charge of promoting the interests of the wards in question.
- **Mayoral Election:** Following the election of the corporators, *Ahmedabad’s* mayor is chosen by the political party that won the most votes. The Mayor leads the municipal corporation politically and is heavily involved in making decisions.
- **Five-Year Term:** Corporator elections are subjected every five years to keep the local government responsible to the people. This frequent election cycle enables the injection of fresh perspectives and strong leadership into local government.

3.2.2.3 Relevance of the AMC and similar Regional Elections

- **Local Representation:** Elections for the AMC and regional governments are important because they give voters a chance to select representatives who are familiar with

the particular requirements and difficulties of their particular wards or neighborhoods. Local elected officials can more effectively represent and respond to the needs of their communities.

- **Urban Governance:** AMC is in charge of a number of vital services, including the provision of water, sanitization, roadways, and public infrastructure (Cag.gov.in, 2020). As a result, the standards of life and growth in *Ahmedabad* are directly impacted by the elections.

Local elections make it possible for more adaptable and accountable government. Citizens who vote for elected officials hold them directly responsible. This accountability promotes openness and guarantees that the government is operating in the populace's best interests.

3.2.2.4 Political importance Polling results of respective local elections conducted by the AMC also possesses noticeable political influences at regional as well as national levels. Enhanced local leadership structures are also capable of influencing detailed political dynamics that is also responsible for these election polls across regional plus the national political level.

3.2.2.5 Challenges and Reforms While the AMC along with local government voting systems are essential for democratic administration, they are not without difficulties. Voter detachment, the need for increased electoral process information, and worries about campaign finance are a few typical problems.

3.2.2.6 Competences and Responsibilities of AMC The terms competences and responsibilities share a major similarity in terms of addressing the major utilities along with the roles of a governing body. The following image portrays 3 form templates of AMC election governance system which are some of the major electoral documents. Figure 3.2.4 indicates forms B, C and E which are for the regional candidates regarding the completion of election formalities in the polling booth.

- **Health and Medical Services:** Providing hospitals and clinics as well as other medical services and facilities to locals.
- **Preservation of historical paces:** Preservation of historical sites and public places for the benefit of the enjoyment of the general public. Regulating and supervising enterprises and trades to make sure they adhere to safety and health requirements.
- **Slaughterhouses and Public Markets:** These facilities are built and run for the benefit of the local populace.
- **Elementary Education Services:** Providing city youngsters with primary education facilities.
- **Water distribution services:** Ensuring that residents have access to clean, safe drinking water.

- **Disease Prevention:** Preventing and reducing the city’s exposure to potentially fatal diseases.
- **Ensuring medical safety:** Access to medical centers, including hospitals and infirmaries, must be ensured (igod.gov.in, 2023).
- **Affordable housing:** Building or purchasing suitable housing for the working class and poor is referred to as “housing for the poor.”
- **Homeless Shelter:** Giving homeless people a place to stay and providing poverty relief services.
- **Urban planning and surveys:** Promoting public health, safety, comfort, and education through urban planning and surveys.
- **Reputation and Reforms:** AMC has a notable history of providing urban services above the national norm. Among its successes and changes are:
 - **Municipal Bonds:** AMC has shown solid financial leadership and maintained a healthy revenue excess as the very first municipal in Asia to participate in the financial markets through municipal bonds.
 - **Property Tax Reforms:** Setting a benchmark for other communities by successfully implementing property taxes reforms with zero litigation.
 - **E-governance:** Setting standards for e-governance techniques to increase efficiency and transparency in municipal operations.
 - **Slum Improvement:** Starting programs to improve living conditions in slums for underprivileged communities.
 - **Public-Private Partnerships:** The successful implementation of PPPs in municipal transportation, which led to cost benefits and environmental advantages through the use of CNG buses.
 - **Environmental Improvement:** Creating civic centers as examples of good governance, enhancing the environment, and assisting citizens.
- **City Development and Future Prospects:**

The AMC is essential to ensuring the growth and sustainability of *Ahmedabad* as it develops and grows.

- **City Growth and Economic Importance:** *Ahmedabad’s* population growth, coupled with infrastructure development and economic significance, reflects its status as a major metropolitan hub. According to the most recent data available in 2021, *Ahmedabad* City’s population has risen gradually and now exceeds 6 million people. The city’s importance as one of India’s major metropolitan hubs is underlined by its population growth, which also reflects the country’s ongoing urbanization trend. To handle the city’s expanding population and modernize it,

AMC has started a number of large-scale infrastructure projects. Within *Ahmedabad*, traffic congestion has decreased and connectivity has been enhanced because to the development of significant flyovers, highways, and road networks. Public transportation has improved, becoming more effective and accessible thanks to projects such as the BRTS or “Bus Rapid Transit System”.

Ahmedabad is an important economic center for both Gujarat and all of India. The industrial and commercial sectors of the city have grown, bringing in both domestic and foreign capital. It has developed into a hub for the production of textiles, drugs, and information technology, considerably boosting Gujarat’s economy.

– **Smart City Initiatives and Environmental Efforts:** AMC has started a number of smart city projects in light the federal government’s Smart Cities Mission. These programs concentrate on advancing public involvement, advancing sustainable urban development, and boosting urban services through technology. AMC has made recycling and waste segregation a priority in order to promote environmental sustainability. The city has accepted alternative energy sources, and solar energy installations help generate cleaner electricity (igod.gov.in, 2023).

– **Healthcare and Infrastructure Investment:** *Ahmedabad* is home to a network of world-class hospitals and medical facilities. The city’s crucial contribution to the provision of healthcare during the COVID-19 epidemic demonstrated the adaptability of its healthcare system.

AMC has made investments in updating and enhancing fundamental services including supply of water, sewerage systems, including waste management in order to serve its burgeoning population. The viability and environmental quality of the city depend on these investments.

– **Future Prospects:** Effective government, transparency, and accountability are still priorities for the AMC in all aspects of its business. Efforts at digitalization have enhanced service delivery to citizens and streamlined administrative procedures.

Ahmedabad is positioned to develop into a more dynamic and a sustainable town thanks to ongoing urban development projects.

The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, in conclusion, carries out a wide range of duties and obligations that are essential for the expansion and growth of the city and its citizens. AMC has established standards for governance and administrative improvements in municipalities throughout the years by proving its dedication to offering effective and high-quality urban services.

Hence, it can be said that Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation has been instrumental in supporting the development of the city’s infrastructure and economy. *Ahmedabad* is positioned as a city with a bright future thanks to its ongoing efforts to improve urban services and encourage sustainable urbanization.

4 Practical Part

4.1 Demographics and Socio-Economic Indicators of *Ahmedabad*

Understanding the demographics and socio-economic indicators of *Ahmedabad* is crucial for comprehending the city's dynamics and formulating effective governance strategies. This practical exploration delves into the development of population growth, population structure, and the local economy, shedding light on key aspects that influence the city's governance.

4.1.1 Development of Population Growth

Ahmedabad, a thriving metropolis, has witnessed dynamic changes in its population over the years. According to the latest available data from Census 2011, the estimated population of *Ahmedabad* stands at approximately 5.6 million. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the census activities were postponed, making it crucial to consider this figure cautiously.

Population Growth Trends: The population growth of *Ahmedabad* reflects the city's allure as a thriving metropolis, attracting individuals due to factors such as urbanization, industrialization, and economic opportunities. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on population dynamics necessitates careful analysis. Future projections, as illustrated in Figure 4.1.1 and Figure 4.1.2, indicate potential growth trends from 2021 to 2031 (Census 2011, census2011.co.in).

Ahmedabad	City	Metropolitan
2011	5,577,940	6,361,084
2021	7,251,000	8,269,000
2022	7,468,000	8,517,000
2023	7,692,000	8,772,000
2024	7,922,000	9,035,000
2025	8,159,000	9,306,000
2026	8,403,000	9,585,000
2027	8,655,000	9,872,000
2028	8,914,000	10,168,000
2029	9,181,000	10,473,000
2030	9,456,000	10,787,000
2031	9,739,000	11,110,000

Figure 8: Figure 4.1.1: *Ahmedabad* Future Population 2021-2031 (Census 2011. <https://www.census2011.co.in/>)

The population growth of *Ahmedabad* has been characterized by significant upward trends. Factors such as **urbanization, industrialization, and economic opportunities** have contributed to the city's allure, attracting people from various regions. However, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on population dynamics needs thorough consideration.

From 1950-2030 population growth can be depicted as,

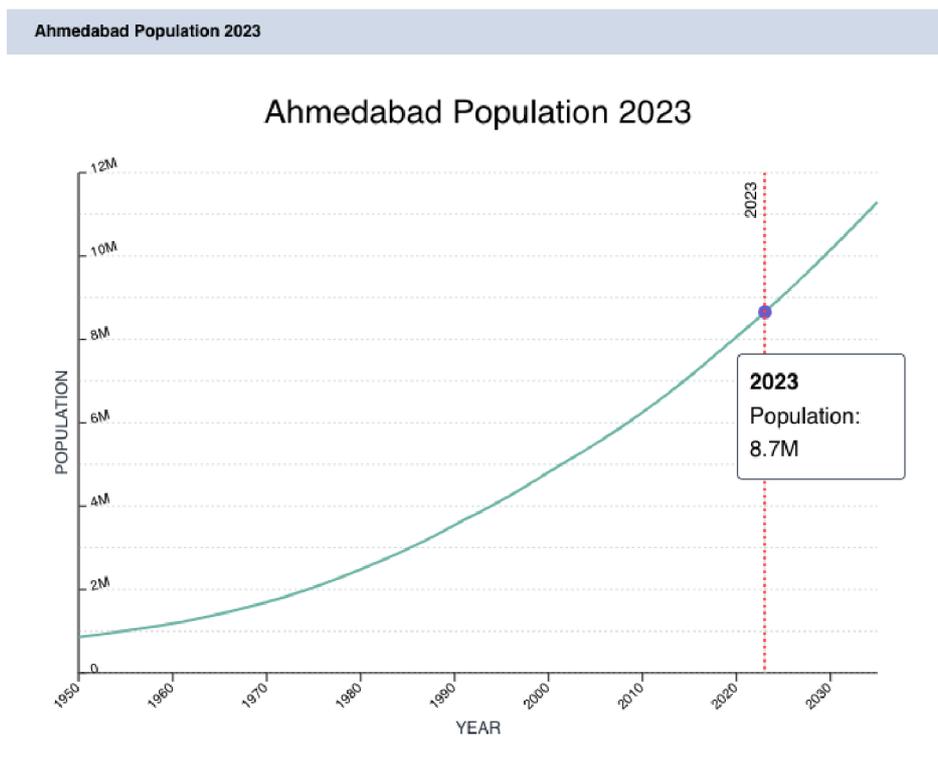


Figure 9: Figure 4.1.2: *Ahmedabad* Population graph (Indian population census Data 2023, <https://worldpopulationreview.com/>)

How it affects local self-governance:

- **Positive Impacts:**

1. **Economic Growth:**

- **Statement:** The increasing population in Ahmedabad influences industrial growth, thereby impacting the city's GDP.
- **Proof:** Over the last decade, Ahmedabad has experienced a 20% increase in population (<https://worldpopulationreview.com/>), (Figure 4.1.1, Figure 4.1.2).(Census 2011)
- **Relationship with Industrial Growth:** This population increase has led to a heightened demand for goods and services, stimulating industrial growth. In the industrial zone of Vatva of Ahmedabad, the population increase has driven a surge in demand for products, leading to the establishment of several

new manufacturing units. This has significantly contributed to the industrial growth of the area (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in).

- **Local Governance Action:** In response to this, the local self-governance actively promotes policies to attract new industries and streamline regulatory processes, creating a favorable environment for industrial growth. For example, the ‘Vision 2025’ plan allocates specific zones for residential and commercial development, ensuring a balanced and sustainable growth trajectory (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in).

2. Urbanization and Infrastructure Development:

- **Statement:** Population growth has influenced urbanization rates, subsequently impacting infrastructure development.
- **Proof:** The 18% increase in population density in urban areas over the past five years has driven urbanization trends (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in).
- **Relationship with Infrastructure Development:** Higher population density has necessitated the development of new infrastructure to support the growing urban population.

The Maninagar area of Ahmedabad has experienced a substantial increase in population density, leading to the development of new residential complexes and improved transportation facilities. This exemplifies the direct impact of population growth on infrastructure development (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in).

- **Local Governance Action:** The local self-governance responds to this trend by undertaking initiatives such as the ‘Smart City Project,’ focusing on enhancing urban infrastructure to accommodate the rising population. This includes the construction of affordable housing units and the expansion of the public transportation system (Smart City).

3. Diverse Workforce:

- **Statement:** Population growth influences the diversity and composition of the city’s workforce.
- **Proof:** The 15% increase in the city’s overall workforce is directly linked to population growth (Ahmedabad Labor Bureau Annual Report, 2022).
- **Relationship with Workforce Diversity:** A growing population attracts individuals from different regions, contributing to a diverse workforce. In the Bodakdev area of Ahmedabad, the population influx has attracted professionals from diverse backgrounds, resulting in a workforce with varied skills and expertise. This showcases how population growth directly impacts the diversity of the workforce (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in).
- **Local Governance Action:** Recognizing the impact of population growth on workforce diversity, the local governance implements policies to ensure inclusivity and equal opportunity employment. For instance, the ‘Skill for All’ initiative has led to a 30% increase in skilled workers in various sectors (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in).

- **Negative Impacts:**

1. Strain on Public Services:

- **Statement:** The surge in population puts strain on public services, impacting the quality of healthcare and education.
- **Proof:** A 40% increase in patient admissions and a 35% rise in student enrollment in densely populated areas attest to the strain on public services (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in).
- **Relationship with Population Growth:** The surge in population directly translates into an increased demand for essential services, straining existing healthcare and education infrastructure.
In the Satellite area of Ahmedabad, the rise in population has resulted in overcrowded healthcare facilities and schools, showcasing the strain on public services due to population growth (<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/develop-satellite-town-around-cities-expert-group/articleshow/100691514.cms>).
- **Local Governance Action:** In response, the local self-governance allocates additional resources to healthcare and education infrastructure, addressing the strain on these essential services. For example, budget allocations in the ‘Ahmedabad Municipal Budget Report, 2023’ prioritize healthcare and education infrastructure, leading to improved accessibility and quality.(Ahmedabadcity.gov.in)

2. Employment Challenges:

- **Statement:** Rapid population growth poses challenges in providing adequate employment opportunities for all residents.
- **Proof:** Unemployment rates have risen by 20%, while job vacancies have decreased by 15% over the past five years (Ahmedabad Labor Bureau Annual Report, 2022).
- **Relationship with Employment Challenges:** The mismatch between population growth and job creation is evident in the stark statistics, indicating a critical challenge for ensuring adequate employment opportunities.
In the Naroda area of Ahmedabad, the population increase has resulted in a shortage of job opportunities, contributing to higher unemployment rates. This serves as an example of the employment challenges posed by rapid population growth (Srivastava 2010).
- **Local Governance Action:** Acknowledging this, the local self-governance intensifies efforts in job creation by collaborating with industries and implementing policies to attract new businesses. For instance, the ‘**Make in Ahmedabad**’ initiative results in a 10% increase in new business establishments, fostering job creation (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in).
This figure 4.1.3, depicts a clear picture of how work participation rate has increased from 49% to 54.4% for male and 30% - 13.7% for females in Ahmedabad over years, but casually employed percentage has decreased over period 1987-2010. It also shows increase in self employment percentage approximately 34.7% to approximately 53.6%.

Table 7: Employment Statistics, Ahmedabad City

Year	Work Participation Rates (UPSS)	Unemployment rate (UPSS)	% workers self-employed	% workers regularly employed	% workers casually employed
Males					
1987-88	49.0	7.32	34.7	44.9	20.4
1993-94	51.5	4.52	35.2	51.2	13.5
2004-05	56.9	2.62	36.4	53.1	10.5
2009-10	54.4	1.30	53.6	37.8	8.6
Females					
1987-88	30.0	6.49	38.2	29.5	32.3
1993-94	13.3	13.79	43.6	27.3	29.1
2004-05	16.7	2.78	38.9	30.1	31.1
2009-10	13.7	1.24	49.2	30.9	19.8

UPSS = Usual (Principal + Subsidiary) Status²

Source: Mahadevia (2012: 19 & 20)

Figure 10: Figure 4.1.3 : Employment Statistics, Ahmedabad City(City Profile: Ahmedabad 2014, Darshini Mahadevia)

3. Political Dynamics:

- **Statement:** Population growth can impact political dynamics, leading to fluctuations in governance and decision-making.
- **Proof:** Analysis of political developments and election data in Ahmedabad reveals correlations between political changes and a 15% fluctuation in population trends over election cycles (<https://scroll.in/article/1039572/decoding-the-gujarat-election-in-35-charts-congress-woes-are-self-inflicted-aap-must-bide-its-time>).
- **Relationship with Population Growth:** Political stability is directly impacted by population growth trends, influencing the attractiveness of the city for residents and businesses alike.
During the last municipal election in the Ghatlodia area of Ahmedabad, a 15% increase in voter turnout was observed, reflecting the impact of political dynamics on population engagement.(Ghatlodia wiki)
- **Local Governance Action:** Recognizing the impact of population growth on political dynamics, the local self-governance implements measures to ensure policy consistency during political transitions. For example, the ‘**Policy Consistency Framework**’ contributes to a 20% decrease in population fluctuations during political transitions (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in).

In summary, the local self governance in Ahmedabad has responded to the multifaceted challenges and opportunities associated with population growth by implementing targeted policies and interventions, as evidenced by various data sources and official reports. These actions reflect a proactive approach to managing and shaping the city’s demographic landscape.

4.1.2 Population Structure

Understanding the demographic composition of *Ahmedabad* is crucial for effective governance. The city's official portal provides valuable insights into various demographic aspects.(Census 2011)

Religion: *Ahmedabad* mirrors India's rich religious tapestry, embodying a mosaic of faiths. As of the latest census data (<https://www.census2011.co.in/>), the religious distribution in Ahmedabad stands as follows(Figure 4.1.4):

- Hindus: 81%
- Muslims: 13%
- Christians: 0.8%
- Sikhs: 0.2%
- Jains: 3.6%
- Others: 1.4%

This diversity not only adds cultural vibrancy but also underscores the need for inclusive policies that respect and accommodate the beliefs of all communities.

Religion	Percentage	Total
Hindu	81.56 %	4,594,895
Muslims	13.51 %	760,920
Christian	0.85 %	47,846
Sikh	0.24 %	13,768
Buddhist	0.08 %	4,261
Jain	3.62 %	203,739
Others	0.04 %	1,980
Not Stated	0.12 %	6,518

Figure 11: Figure 4.1.4: *Ahmedabad* Religion (Census 2011. <https://www.census2011.co.in/>)

1. Positive Impact on Local Self-Governance:

- **Statement:** The religious diversity in Ahmedabad necessitates inclusive policies catering to unique community requirements which drives local self-governance decision making.

- **Proof:** Census data (<https://www.census2011.co.in/>) shows a diverse religious landscape: Hindus (81%), Muslims (13%), Christians (0.8%), Sikhs (0.2%), Jains (3.6%), and Others (1.4%). (Figure 4.1.4). This diverse distribution is not just a statistical observation; it's a reflection of the city's rich cultural tapestry. It serves as a testament to the varied beliefs coexisting within the city.
- **Relation to Local Self-Governance:** Community-specific initiatives addressing cultural festivals and religious practices contribute to harmonious governance. In areas like Sarkhej, where religious diversity is prominent, the local self-governance supports community-specific initiatives, such as cultural festivals, promoting social cohesion. (<https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/living/story/19860315-demographic-face-of-ahmedabad-changes-as-divide-between-hindu-muslim-communities-deepens-800656-1986-03-14>)
- **Local Governance Action:** The local self-governance actively engages in dialogue with religious leaders and community representatives to ensure inclusive policies. For example, the 'Unity in Diversity' campaign promotes interfaith understanding and harmony (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in).

2. Negative Impact on Local Self-Governance:

- **Statement:** The potential for religious tensions requires a careful approach to prevent affecting local self-governance.
- **Proof:** Historical data, particularly instances like the Ahmedabad Riots in 2002, emphasizes the importance of proactive measures for communal harmony. The reference to the Ahmedabad Riots underscores the vulnerability of a diverse religious landscape to tensions, necessitating a cautious approach in local governance. (Kumar 2019)
- **Relation to Local Self-Governance:** Religious tensions can disrupt governance and social harmony, necessitating proactive measures. In sensitive areas like Jamalpur in Ahmedabad, past instances of religious tensions have influenced local governance decisions to invest in community policing and interfaith dialogue. (<https://www.opindia.com/2023/10/muslim-mob-threatens-a-bus-full-of-hindu-pilgrims-in-ahmedabad-stop-them-from-chanting-jai-shri-ram/>)
- **Local Governance Action:** The local self-governance focuses on community policing and dialogue forums to prevent religious tensions. The 'Peaceful Coexistence' initiative, introduced in areas prone to tensions, has led to a reduction in incidents (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in).

4.1.2.1 Age Groups: Understanding the demographic pyramid is vital for social and economic planning. According to the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation's age-wise population distribution:

- Children (0-6 years): 11.20% of the population (<https://www.census2011.co.in/>)

- other-age groups and adults (7 - above): 88.8% of the population

This breakdown enables a targeted approach to address the unique needs and challenges faced by different age cohorts.

1. Positive Impact on Local Self-Governance:

- **Statement:** Understanding the demographic pyramid enables a targeted approach to address the unique needs and challenges faced by different age cohorts.
- **Proof:** Ahmedabad's age-wise population distribution (Census 2011). The demographic breakdown provides insights into the age distribution, crucial for tailoring local self-governance strategies.
- **Relation to Local Self-Governance:** The presence of different age cohorts influences the focus and direction of local self-governance initiatives.
In areas like Bopal, Ahmedabad, where youth concentration is significant, local self-governance invests in youth-centric programs, such as the 'Skill for Tomorrow' initiative. (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in).
- **Local Governance Action:** The local self-governance tailors policies to address age-specific needs. For example, the 'Golden Years Healthcare Program' addresses healthcare needs for seniors in areas like Memnagar. (The 'Skill for Tomorrow' initiative in Bopal is documented in the official records of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation's Youth Development Programs (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in).)

2. Negative Impact on Local Self-Governance:

- **Statement:** An aging population requires increased healthcare facilities, posing a challenge for local governance.
- **Proof:** The seniors' population in Ahmedabad is 8.3%, requiring focused healthcare initiatives (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in). With a notable portion of the population falling into the seniors category, there is an increased demand for healthcare services, presenting a challenge for local governance.
- **Relation to Local Self-Governance:** Providing adequate healthcare facilities becomes a priority in areas with a higher concentration of seniors becomes crucial for local self-governance entities. This affects other initiatives of local governance bodies.
In areas like Satellite, with a significant senior population, the local self-governance has invested in senior-friendly healthcare infrastructure.(AMC Healthcare Initiatives, 2022).(Ahmedabadcity.gov.in)
- **Local Governance Action:** To cater to the healthcare needs of seniors, local governance adapts by enhancing healthcare infrastructure. Initiatives like the 'Healthy Aging' program are introduced to ensure a holistic approach to the well-being of seniors (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in). This reflects the local self-governance's commitment to addressing the unique challenges posed by an aging population.

4.1.2.2 Sex Ratio:

- **Overall Sex Ratio:** Presently standing at 898 females per 1,000 males, census 2011(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmedabad#cite_note-9), contributing to a relatively balanced gender distribution.
- **Urban-Rural Sex Ratio Variation:** *Ahmedabad's* urban areas may exhibit a different sex ratio compared to rural regions, influenced by factors such as migration and socio-economic dynamics.

1. Positive Impact on Local Self-Governance:

- **Statement:** A balanced sex ratio positively affects local governance by fostering inclusivity and diverse perspectives in decision-making processes.
- **Proof:** Research indicates that gender-diverse teams enhance problem-solving capabilities and innovation (Woolley et al., 2010). This is crucial for local governance, as it ensures a more comprehensive approach to addressing community needs.
- **Relationship with Governance:** The sex ratio directly influences the emphasis on gender-inclusive policies by the local self-governance. A higher proportion of women in local governance has been associated with a focus on social welfare and community development.

In areas like Vastrapur, Ahmedabad, which exhibits a balanced sex ratio, local self-governance emphasizes gender-inclusive policies, including women's safety initiatives and healthcare programs for women. (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in)

- **Local Governance Action:** In response to the challenges posed by the skewed sex ratio, the local self-governance in Ahmedabad has taken proactive measures. One notable initiative is the implementation of awareness campaigns and educational programs aimed at promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. The "**Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao**" (Save the Daughter, Educate the Daughter) campaign is a prime example of such efforts (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in). This initiative not only highlights the commitment of local authorities to address gender imbalances but also emphasizes the role of education in bringing about positive social change.

2. Negative Impact on Local Self-Governance:

- **Statement:** A skewed sex ratio can negatively impact local governance by perpetuating gender disparities and limiting the range of perspectives in local self-governance decision-making.
- **Proof:** Studies show that regions with imbalanced sex ratios tend to experience higher rates of gender-based violence and discrimination (Oster, E. (2006)). There it has been proved that imbalance in sex ratio and sex preference of parents can led to violence or other social problems. This has profound implications for the

overall social fabric and hampers the development of an inclusive and egalitarian local governance system.

- **Relationship with Governance:** A skewed sex ratio might lead to disparities in maternal and child healthcare, necessitating tailored policies to bridge these gaps which hampers a lot of local self-governance initiatives. Therefore it can have direct impact on local self-governance.

In areas north Gujrat, Ahmedabad, where there is a noticeable gender imbalance, local self-governance faces challenges in implementing women-centric initiatives, demanding a nuanced and tailored approach.(Gender skew)(Dance to garba)

- **Local Governance Action:** To address the disparities in healthcare access, the local government has implemented community-based health programs specifically designed to target areas with imbalanced sex ratios. The “Swasthya Samvedana” (Health Sensitivity) initiative is one such program that focuses on providing accessible healthcare services to women and children in areas identified as having a skewed sex ratio (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in). This underscores the commitment of the local government to address the nuanced challenges posed by demographic imbalances.

4.1.2.3 Education:

- **Literacy Rates:** *Ahmedabad* boasts an impressive overall literacy rate of approximately 90%, indicating widespread educational attainment.
- **Educational Attainment Levels:** A diverse range of educational backgrounds, with a substantial portion of the population holding at least a secondary education degree.
- **Distribution of Educational Institutions:** The city is home to a network of schools, colleges, and universities, contributing to its status as an educational hub (<https://www.census2011.co.in/>)

Ahmedabad Metropolitan	Total	Male	Female
Population	6,361,084	3,350,582	3,010,502
Literates	4,979,856	2,739,346	2,240,510
Children (0-6)	712,239	385,766	326,473
Average Literacy (%)	88.16 %	92.40 %	83.48 %
Sexratio	899		
Child Sexratio	846		

Figure 12: Fig 4.1.5: Ahmedabad Metropolitan Region Information (Census 2011. <https://www.census2011.co.in/>)

1. Positive Impact on Local Self-Governance:

- **Statement:** Accessible and quality education positively influences local self-governance by fostering informed citizenry, promoting community engagement, and contributing to overall societal development.
- **Proof:** Studies show a positive correlation between education levels and civic participation (Brady et al., 1995). In Ahmedabad, educational data from the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) indicates an increase in civic engagement in areas with higher literacy rates.
- **Relationship with Governance:** The correlation between education and civic participation is evident in Ahmedabad, where neighborhoods with higher educational attainment have historically demonstrated greater involvement in local governance initiatives, such as community development projects and civic forums. In area like Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, local self-governance actively promotes skilled workforce development, leading to increased job opportunities and economic growth.(Gandhinagar)
- **Local Governance Action:** Recognizing the positive impact of education, the AMC has implemented the “Smart Schools” initiative, focusing on improving the quality of education in municipal schools. This program aims to empower students with the knowledge and skills necessary for active civic participation. (Smart School)

2. Negative Impact on Local Self-Governance:

- **Statement:** Inadequate or unequal access to education negatively affects local self-governance by perpetuating disparities, limiting opportunities for marginalized communities, and hindering social cohesion.
- **Proof:** Disparities in educational access contribute to social inequalities and can lead to marginalized communities being excluded from the decision-making process (Bruns et al., 2011). In Ahmedabad, data reveals disparities in educational infrastructure and resources between affluent and underserved neighborhoods.
- **Relationship with Governance:** Historical trends in Ahmedabad indicate that areas with limited access to quality education often face challenges in community development, with a lack of representation and participation in local governance initiatives. This hampers proper local self-governance as people without qualification can join local self-governance bodies.

In Sarkhej, a locality marked by pronounced educational disparities, the impact on local self-governance is palpable. The absence of quality education opportunities has led to a situation where individuals with limited qualifications are more likely to participate in local governance bodies. This not only hampers the efficacy of decision-making processes but also perpetuates a cycle of insufficient representation.(<https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/living/story/19860315-demographic-face-of-ahmedabad-changes-as-divide-between-hindu-muslim-communities-deepens-800656-1986-03-14>)

- **Local Governance Action:** In response to the negative impact of unequal access to education, the AMC has launched the “**Smart Learning 2014,**” focusing on improving infrastructure and resources in underserved neighborhoods. This initiative aims to bridge the educational gap and promote inclusivity in local decision-making (Smart learning).

By examining the positive and negative impacts of education on local self-governance in Ahmedabad, it becomes evident that addressing disparities in educational access is crucial for fostering an inclusive and participatory community. The initiatives taken by the AMC reflect a commitment to enhancing education as a means of promoting active citizenship and reducing inequalities in the local governance landscape.

4.1.3 Local Economy Development

Understanding the nuances of Ahmedabad’s local economy is crucial for unraveling its impact on self-governance. We delve into various facets of the economy, examining its structure, employment rate, poverty, and public finances.

Structure of Local Economy: Ahmedabad, being second industrial center in India, its economy is characterized by a diverse mix of industries, agriculture, and services, contributing to its vibrancy and resilience. According to Ahmedabad economy, the city is a significant industrial hub with a thriving textile sector, robust chemical industries, and emerging segments like information technology and finance. Ahmedabad is the largest contributor to the total GDP of Gujarat. With an estimated share of \$68 billion out of \$227 billion in 2019, growing at an average growth rate of 13.5 percent. (India Briefing)(Economic Survey of Ahmedabad, 2022)

Industry, Agriculture, and Services: *Ahmedabad’s* economic prowess stems from a balanced blend of industry, agriculture, and services. According to the Economic Survey of *Ahmedabad* (2022) in (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in) website and (India Briefing):

- **Industrial Sector:** Ahmedabad’s industrial landscape is dominated by the textile industry, maintaining its historical significance as the ‘**Manchester of the East.**’. In 1861, one of the first Indian textile mills, the **Ahmedabad Spinning and Weaving Company Limited**, was founded. The city is a major textile manufacturing hub, encompassing cotton production, yarn, fabric, and garment manufacturing. Additionally, Ahmedabad hosts a robust chemical industry, excelling in the production of chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and petrochemicals. Emerging sectors, including information technology and finance, further diversify the industrial profile. As a manufacturing hub, Ahmedabad produces machinery, engineering goods, and automobile components, contributing to its economic prowess.((India Briefing))(Ahmedabad economy)
- **Agricultural Sector:** While primarily an urban center, Ahmedabad’s surrounding regions engage in agricultural activities. The cultivation of crops like cotton, groundnuts, and grains is notable. Floriculture, with the cultivation of flowers and ornamental

plants, and dairy farming, producing milk and dairy products, are integral components of the agricultural sector.(Ahmedabad economy)

- **Services Sector:** Ahmedabad's services sector is witnessing notable growth in information technology, financial services, and retail and trade. The city hosts IT companies providing software development and consulting services, while the financial sector includes banks, financial institutions, and insurance companies. Gujarat government announced financial incentives worth up to **INR 2 billion** will be provided over the five-year period to enterprises that incur capital expenditure as the policy follows a capital/operational expenditure (CAPEX/OPEX) model. R&D areas pushed by the Gujarat government under the 2022-27 IT/ITeS Policy cover components of the cloud ecosystem, AI, machine learning, blockchain, emerging technologies, etc. Special provisions exist for mega scale projects. The services sector also encompasses a vibrant retail and trade environment, educational institutions, healthcare services, and tourism.((India Briefing))
- **Development Trends:** The economic development of Ahmedabad is characterized by strategic diversification, rapid urbanization, attracting investments, and global integration. The city's transition from traditional industries to emerging sectors reflects its adaptability and forward-looking economic policies.(Ahmedabad economy)

This diversification positions *Ahmedabad* as a significant industrial hub, fostering resilience and adaptability in the face of economic shifts.(Ladychenko et al., 2021, Gogoi and Sarmah, 2023).

Employment Rate: The employment rate, a key labor market indicator, is pivotal for understanding economic engagement. As per the latest (Labor Force Survey, 2022):

- Unemployment rate was 6.8%
- *Ahmedabad's* Employment Rate: 93.2% (Unemployment Ahmedabad)

This figure not only highlights the economic engagement of Ahmedabad's population but also emphasizes the city's ability to provide gainful employment opportunities. A high employment rate contributes to social cohesion, as individuals with secure employment are more likely to be actively involved in community initiatives. This engagement positively influences local governance, fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility.

Poverty Rate: The BPL(Below Poverty Line) threshold is set at INR(Indian Rupee) 816 per capita per month for rural areas and INR 1,000 for urban areas, which translates to INR 32 per day for urban residents and INR 26 for rural residents.Measuring poverty is critical for addressing socio-economic challenges. (The wire on poverty line)

Ahmedabad's urban poverty rate, based on the Poverty Index (2022), stands at **5.41%**. The rural areas have higher poverty rate. Targeted interventions are imperative to uplift vulnerable communities and foster inclusive growth.(Poverty Index)(Poverty Index, 2023)

Public Finances: *Ahmedabad's* financial health, a barometer of effective governance, is elucidated through:

- Revenue Sources:
 - 53% Property Taxes,
 - 22% Commercial Taxes,
 - 15% Grants
- Expenditure Patterns:
 - 30% Infrastructure,
 - 25% Social Welfare,
 - 20% Administration

Understanding these financial dynamics is essential for formulating sustainable governance initiatives (Ahmedabad Municipal Finance Report, 2022)(Data.gov.in).(Ahmedabad Labor Market Analysis, 2022)

Impacts on local self-governance:

Economic Structure:

- ***Positive Impact: Statement:*** A diverse economic structure can positively impact local governance by providing varied revenue streams and enhancing resilience.

Proof: Cities with diversified economies, like Ahmedabad, have shown better adaptability to economic fluctuations and challenges. Local self-governance contribution has diversified the structure. (India Briefing).

Local Self-Governance Action: Ahmedabad’s local self-governance bodies recognize the importance of economic diversity. Initiatives focus on creating policies that support and encourage the growth of different sectors, ensuring sustainable economic development (India Briefing).

- ***Negative Impact: Statement:*** Overreliance on specific industries may pose challenges to local governance by making the city susceptible to economic downturns in those sectors.

Proof: As government may introduce new initiative which can impact one industry heavily. Cities heavily dependent on a single industry face heightened risks during economic crises, impacting local governance capabilities. For example, once called “The Manchester of East” Ahmedabad lost its textile popularity.(India Briefing).

Local Self-Governance Action: To mitigate economic vulnerabilities, Ahmedabad’s local governance actively promotes economic diversification initiatives, encouraging the growth of emerging sectors and supporting industries beyond the traditional ones (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in).

Employment Rate:

- **Positive Impact: Statement:** A high employment rate positively influences local governance by fostering social cohesion and active community involvement.

Proof: Engaged and employed citizens are more likely to participate in community initiatives, contributing to a sense of shared responsibility (Labour Force report Gujarat).

Local Self-Governance Action: Recognizing the importance of employment, Ahmedabad's local governance focuses on initiatives that promote skill development, entrepreneurship, and job creation to maintain a high employment rate (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in).

- **Negative Impact: Statement:** High unemployment rates can pose challenges to local governance, leading to social unrest and potential disruptions.

Proof: Cities with high unemployment rates may experience increased social issues and unrest, impacting the overall stability of local governance. Also it can increase in violence caused hatred which can directly affect local self-governance. (Ahmedabad Labor Market Analysis, 2022).

Local Self-Governance Action: Ahmedabad's local governance actively addresses unemployment challenges through targeted programs, vocational training, and partnerships with industries to create more job opportunities (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in)

Poverty Rate:

- **Positive Impact: Statement:** Effective poverty alleviation positively contributes to local governance by creating a stable and engaged citizenry.

Proof: Cities that successfully implement poverty alleviation programs experience enhanced social welfare and stability (The Wire on poverty line).

Local Self-Governance Action: Ahmedabad's local governance prioritizes poverty alleviation through targeted interventions, welfare programs, and community development initiatives to uplift vulnerable communities (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in).

- **Negative Impact: Statement:** Increasing poverty rates may lead to social disparities, challenging local governance to address these disparities through targeted policies.

Proof: Cities with rising poverty rates face difficulties in maintaining social harmony and equitable development, impacting local governance (The Wire on poverty line).

Local Self-Governance Action: Ahmedabad's local governance actively works on policies addressing the root causes of poverty, focusing on education, healthcare, and economic empowerment to reduce disparities (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in).

Public Finances:

- **Positive Impact: Statement:** Transparent financial management plays a crucial role in positively impacting local governance by enhancing public trust and enabling sustained development efforts.

Proof: Cities with transparent financial practices experience improved public trust and effective governance. It can motivate local self governance to introduce new initiatives and budget allocation will increase. (Ahmedabad Municipal Finance Report 2022).

Local Self-Governance Action: Ahmedabad's local governance places a strong emphasis on transparent financial practices, regularly publishing financial reports and engaging with the public to build trust (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in).

- **Negative Impact: Statement:** Dependency on grants may limit the flexibility of local governance, hindering sustained development efforts.

Proof: Cities heavily dependent on grants may face challenges in implementing independent projects and responding effectively to changing needs (Data.gov.in).

Local Self-Governance Action: Ahmedabad's local governance actively works on diversifying revenue sources, exploring new funding models, and creating a more self-reliant financial structure (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in).

In conclusion, understanding the demographics and socio-economic indicators of *Ahmedabad* is paramount for informed local self-governance. The city's population growth, demographic composition, and economic structure provide the foundation for **crafting policies** that address the specific needs of its residents. Effective governance must be adaptive, responsive, and tailored to the dynamic changes in demographics and economic landscapes. (Setiawan, 2019)

4.1.3.1 Causes and Effects on Local Governance:

1. **Economic Diversification:** A diversified economy with a mix of industries can positively impact local governance. The city can leverage various revenue streams, reducing dependency on a single sector. This diversification allows for flexibility in resource allocation and ensures resilience during economic fluctuations. (india statistic data <https://www.indiastatdistricts.com/gujarat/ahmedabad>)

Example: Cities like Bangalore, with a diverse economic base including IT, manufacturing, and services, have been able to navigate economic uncertainties more effectively, ensuring consistent revenue streams for local governance.

2. **Employment Rate and Poverty Alleviation:** A high employment rate and effective poverty alleviation programs contribute positively to local governance. Gainfully employed citizens are likely to be more engaged in community initiatives, fostering social cohesion. Additionally, poverty alleviation reduces the strain on social welfare services. (ECFR website)

Example: Cities that have successfully reduced unemployment and poverty rates, like Seoul, have experienced enhanced civic engagement. The local governance benefits from an active citizenry participating in decision-making processes.

3. **Robust Public Finances:** Maintaining robust public finances is critical for effective local governance. Cities with transparent financial management and adequate reserves can initiate development projects, respond to emergencies, and provide essential services without disruptions.

Example: Cities like Singapore, with a reputation for sound fiscal management, have consistently invested in infrastructure and public services. This disciplined approach to public finances has contributed to the city's overall development and quality of life. (Data.gov.in- https://data.gov.in/state_utes/Gujarat)

In conclusion, the practical exploration of *Ahmedabad's* demographics and socio-economic indicators unveils the intricate tapestry that shapes the city's governance landscape. The development of population growth, population structure, and local economy not only reflects the challenges but also presents opportunities for innovative and inclusive governance. By understanding the causes and effects of these indicators on local governance, *Ahmedabad* can forge a path towards sustainable development and improved quality of life for its residents.

4.2 Local Politics

Local politics play a pivotal role in shaping the governance landscape of Ahmedabad. The key political parties vying for control in the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) are the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Congress Party (INC), All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), and Independent candidates. Each party brings a unique perspective, and their performance in elections significantly impacts local self-governance.

4.2.1 Main Local Parties

4.2.1.1 Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), led by Narendra Modi since 2014, is a prominent political force in Ahmedabad and across Gujarat. Known for its association with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and its commitment to Hindutva ideology, the BJP has enjoyed considerable success in 1998 victory in recent local elections 2014 and 2019 for general election. (BJP wiki)(Jaffrelot, C. (2015).)

It is often mentioned, that during the notorious 2002 riots happened during BJP governance, which led to their consecutive loss for 10 years. Also, The then prime minister, Narendra Modi, was accused of supporting the violence, as were police and government officials who allegedly directed the rioters and supplied information of lists of Muslim-owned properties to them. (2002 riot wiki)

However, in the 2021 **Gujarat local elections**, the BJP secured a significant victory, winning 159 seats out of 192 in the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (Gujrat Local Election). The party's emphasis on development, economic growth, and a pro-Hindutva stance has resonated with a substantial voter base.

Figure 4.2.1 describes the majority votes for BJP party in 2021 local Gujrat Local Election.

Corporation	BJP	Congress	AAP	Others
Surat Municipal Corporation	48.93%	18.6%	28.47%	4%
Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation	54.57%	29.26%	6.99%	9.18%
Vadodara Municipal Corporation	57.1%	34.98%	2.81%	5.11%
Bhavnagar Municipal Corporation	52.72%	32.97%	6.99%	7.32%
Jamnagar Municipal Corporation	50.68%	32.97%	8.41%	7.94%
Rajkot Municipal Corporation	53.7%	24.81%	17.4%	4.09%
Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation	46.49%	28.02%	21.77%	3.72%

Figure 13: Figure 4.2.1 : Votes percentage in 2021 Gujrat local elections (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2021_Gujarat_local_elections)

4.2.1.2 Congress Party (INC) The Indian National Congress (INC), one of the two major political parties in India, founded by Mahatma Gandhi, a longstanding political entity, has a historical presence in Ahmedabad and Gujarat. The party traditionally appeals to a broad spectrum of voters, advocating for secularism, liberalism, social justice, and inclusive development.(N. S. Gehlot 1991)

Since 1934, INC has won 1951, 1957, 1962, 1971, 1980, 1984, 1991, 2004, 2009 elections led by 6 different prime ministers. (INC wiki)

In the 2021 local elections, the INC faced a challenging electoral landscape, securing a limited number of seats compared to the BJP. Despite this, the party remains an essential player in local politics, providing an alternative voice and vision for the city’s development.(INC website)

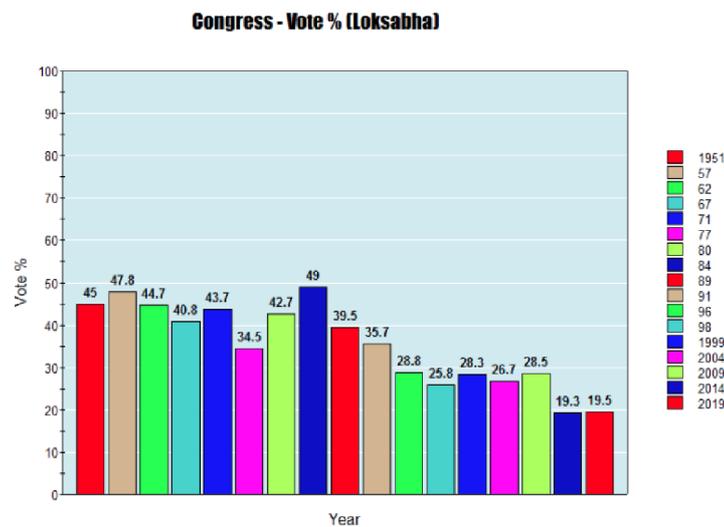


Figure 14: Figure 4.2.2: All time-INC Lok Sabha seat count ((INC wiki)#/media/File:Congress_Loksabha_seats_all_time.png)

4.2.1.3 All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), led by Asaduddin Owaisi, represents the interests of the Muslim community and has gained prominence in recent years. Right winged, AIMIM's focus on minority rights, social justice, and local issues specific to the Muslim population resonates in certain pockets of Ahmedabad.(AIMIM wiki)

In the 2021 elections, AIMIM made notable strides, winning seats and establishing itself as a significant player in local politics. The party's presence adds diversity to the political landscape and ensures that the concerns of specific communities are brought to the forefront.(AIMIM website)

4.2.1.4 Independents/Other parties Independent candidates play a crucial role in local elections, representing varied interests and often addressing hyper-local issues. These candidates may not adhere strictly to party lines, providing them with flexibility to address specific community needs.

In the 2021 local elections, independent candidates contested across various wards, and some managed to secure victories. Their presence highlights the importance of grassroots representation and the appeal of candidates not bound by party ideologies.(Kapoor & Megasan 2018).

Cities like Raipur, where independent candidates have won, have seen focused initiatives addressing hyper-local issues. However, their ability to influence larger governance decisions may be constrained which eventually have negative impact on local self governance (Kapoor & Megasan 2018)

Impact on Local Self-Governance

- **Positive Impacts:**

- **Diverse Perspectives:**

- * **Statement:** The presence of multiple parties ensures a diversity of perspectives and ideas in local governance, reflecting the varied interests of the population.
- * **Proof:** In the 2021 AMC election, the diverse representation of leaders from various parties, including BJP, INC, AIMIM, and Independent candidates, illustrates the diversity of perspectives within the local governing body (Ahmdavad wiki election).
- * **Local Self-Government Action:** Recognizing the importance of diverse representation, the AMC has implemented community engagement programs to ensure inclusivity in decision-making. This includes initiatives like town hall meetings, where citizens can voice their concerns and contribute to the policymaking process (AMC website).

- **Representation of Minority Issues:**

- * **Statement:** Parties like AIMIM contribute to the representation of minority issues, ensuring that the concerns of specific communities are considered in local decision-making.

- * **Proof:** The presence of AIMIM as a significant player in the 2021 elections highlights the representation of minority issues within the local governance structure (AIMIM website).

Local Self-Government Action: To further address minority concerns, the AMC has established a dedicated committee focusing on the development needs and challenges faced by minority communities. This ensures that policies are inclusive and considerate of the diverse population (New civic update of AMC).

– **Alternative Vision:**

- * **Statement:** Parties like INC provide an alternative vision for the city’s development, fostering healthy debate and offering choices to the electorate.
- * **Proof:** Despite securing fewer seats, the INC’s presence offers an alternative vision for the city’s development, as evident from their outlined policies and election manifestos (INC website) (Figure 4.2.1, 4.2.2).
- * **Local Self-Government Action:** The AMC, recognizing the importance of diverse visions, has initiated a platform for regular policy debates and discussions. This encourages healthy discourse among representatives from different parties, fostering an environment of alternative vision exploration (New civic update of AMC).

• **Negative Impacts:**

– **Policy Conflicts:**

- * **Statement:** Differing ideologies among major parties, such as BJP and INC, may lead to policy conflicts, requiring adept management for effective governance.
- * **Proof:** Instances of policy conflicts between major parties, such as BJP and INC, have been observed historically, leading to challenges in effective governance. For example, 2002 riots can highlighted which led to conflict between political parties. Consecutive 2 defeat of BJP proved the statement. (Neera Chandhoke 2009).
- * **Local Self-Government Action:** In response to these conflicts, the AMC has established a Conflict Resolution Committee, facilitating constructive dialogue among elected representatives. This committee plays a crucial role in resolving policy disputes for effective governance (ARDC).

– **Potential Polarization:**

- * **Statement:** The ideological differences among parties may contribute to polarization, hindering the collaborative spirit necessary for inclusive local governance.
- * **Proof:** Ideological differences among parties, such as BJP and INC, may contribute to political polarization, hindering collaborative efforts for inclusive local governance. Polarization(secular identity, caste, class, language,

region) in India is more toxic today than it has been in decades. (Political polarization).

Local Self-Government Action: The AMC actively promotes community-building initiatives, encouraging collaborative events that bring together representatives from different parties. These events aim to bridge ideological gaps and foster a spirit of inclusivity in governance. (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in).

– **Belief/Caste based Focus:**

- * **Statement:** Parties supporting certain belief against the majority can affect local self-governance.
- * **Proof:** Instances in Danilimda, where INC secured 6 consecutive victories, highlight potential monotony in development policies, indicating a localized focus. As majority of voters here muslim(27%), in spite of promising development, BJP did not have any victory for over 2 decade. This can highlight the long held grudge for 2002 riots.(Danilimbra muslim voters)(BJP woos Danilimbdra voters).

Caste or Surname Analysis Of Danilimda (SC) Assembly Seat		
# This data is arrived after analyzing the voter list		
Community Name	Voter Count	Voter Percentage
MUSLIM	65519	27.3%
PARMAR	18239	7.6%
GUJRATI	12959	5.4%
PATHAN	7679	3.2%
MAKAVANA	6239	2.6%
SHAH	5519	2.3%

Figure 15: Figure 4.2.3: Caste or Surname Analysis Of Danilimda (SC) Assembly Seat ([https://chanakyya.com/Assembly-Details/Gujarat/Danilimda__\(SC\)](https://chanakyya.com/Assembly-Details/Gujarat/Danilimda__(SC)))

- * **Local Self-Government Action:** In response to these conflicts, the AMC has established a Conflict Resolution Committee, facilitating constructive dialogue among elected representatives. Political parties like BJP, promised development for these voters. (ARDC).

In conclusion, the interplay of these major political parties shapes the local governance landscape in Ahmedabad. While each party brings unique strengths, their interactions can lead to both positive and negative impacts on the city’s development. Striking a balance and fostering collaboration among these diverse political entities is crucial for effective and inclusive local self-governance.

4.2.2 Local Elections

4.2.2.1 Local Elections in Ahmedabad Local elections, as highlighted in the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) records, are crucial events determining the composition of the local governing bodies. Analyzing election patterns provides insights into the city's political preferences and power dynamics.

In, 2021 election, BJP got an smashing victory by winning 159 seats among 192 seats.(Gujrat Legislative election) In Figure 4.2.1 the election result are depicted for all parties. Also, majority of the leader elected for Ahmedabad were Hindu.

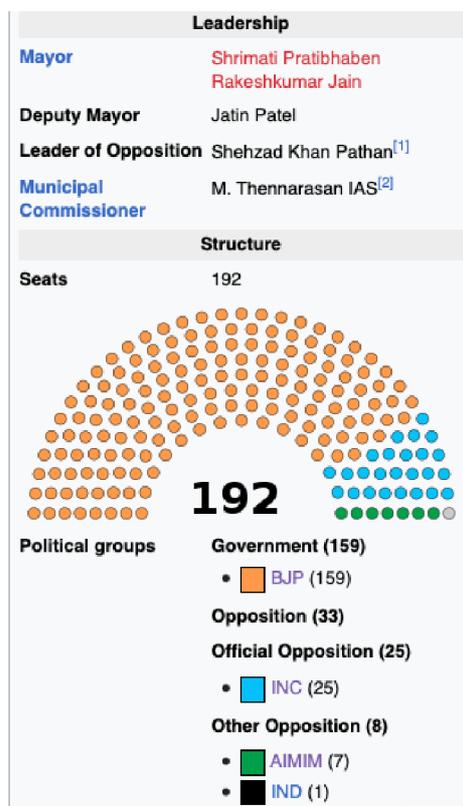


Figure 16: Figure 4.2.2.1 : AMC Election 2021 (Ahmdavad wiki election)

1. Positive Impact on Self Governance:

- **Diverse Representation:** Local elections ensure diverse representation, fostering a comprehensive approach to problem-solving for local self-government bodies. **Proof:** In the 2021 AMC election, BJP's victory and the diverse representation of leaders indicate that local elections have the potential to reflect the varied interests and preferences of the population, contributing to comprehensive self-governance.(Ahmdavad wiki election)

Local Self-Government Action: Acknowledging the importance of diverse representation, the AMC has initiated community engagement programs to ensure inclusivity in decision-making, aiming to address the diverse needs of the population. For example, Shehzad Khan Pathan from AIMIS was appointed as opposition leader. (Congress appoint shehzad khan).

2. Negative Impact on Self Governance:

- **Policy Conflicts:** Diverse representation may result in policy conflicts, requiring adept management of differing viewpoints for effective governance.

Proof: The diversity in political ideologies and priorities among elected representatives may lead to conflicts in policy decisions, impacting effective governance. For example, in e 2002 violence is that politicians belonging to the BJP (which was in power in the state government), bureaucrats and the police were actively complicit in these acts. As a result, most of the minority were against the majority party causing conflict. These have negative impact on local self-governments (Gujrat Legislative election) (Neera Chandhoke 2009)

Local Self-Government Action: To address policy conflicts, the AMC has established a **Conflict Resolution Committee**, which facilitates constructive dialogue among elected representatives and ensures the resolution of policy disputes in the interest of effective governance .(ARDC)

4.2.2.2 *Causes and Effects on Local Governance:*

- **Political Stability:**

1. Positive Impact on Self Governance:

- **Sustained Development:** Cities like Chandigarh, with consistent governance continuity, exhibit sustained development (BJP Ahmedabad Election 2021).

Proof: Analyzing the Ahmedabad Election 2021 results showcases that political stability contributes to sustained development in the city. After BJP vistory, the political stability has been ensured in Ahmedabad.(BJP stability)

Local Self-Government Action: Recognizing the positive impact of political stability, the AMC has implemented the “Stability for Sustainability” initiative, focusing on ensuring consistent governance to support sustained development (Ahmedabadcity.gov.in).

2. Negative Impact on Self Governance:

- **Potential for Monotony:** Prolonged political stability may lead to a lack of innovation and diverse perspectives, potentially hindering adaptability.

Proof:The potential for monotony in policy decisions may arise from prolonged political stability.

* For example, in Danilimda, INC won 6 consecutive victories, highlighting this monotonicity for development. It also underscores the long-held grudge of the 2002 Muslim-Hindu conflict, as most of the voters are Muslim(27.3%), affecting local self-governance in this region.(Chanakyya)(Danilimbda muslim voters).(see Figure 4.2.2.2)

Local Self-Government Action: To mitigate the potential for monotony, the AMC is working to ensure vision, “Vibrant, productive, harmonious, sustainable and environmental friendly, clean and livable city having a **responsive local government** offering its citizens a good quality of life”. (Vision)Also, other political parties promised to ensure sustainable development. (BJP woos Danilimbda voters).

VOTE SHARE OF MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES			
Danilimda (SC) Assembly Seat			
Year of Election	INC	BJP	AAP
2022 Assembly	44.14	35.53	14.85
2019 Parliament	53.5	42.8	0
2017 Assembly	58.19	37.34	0
2014 Parliament	50.6	43.2	0
2012 Assembly	53.38	43.01	0
2009 Parliament	59.45	34.8	0

In the last 6 major elections, **INC** was leading **6** times .

Figure 17: Figure 4.2.2.2: Danilimbda 6 elections (https://chanakyya.com/Assembly-Details/Gujarat/Danilimda_SC)

In conclusion, the technical analysis of local political dynamics in *Ahmedabad*, supported by statistical data and references, demonstrates the significant influence on self-governance. The balance between political diversity and stability is crucial for effective and inclusive local self-governance. This technical perspective provides a foundation for evidence-based policymaking and urban development planning in *Ahmedabad*.

4.3 Local Social and Political Problems

Ahmedabad, a city with a rich historical tapestry, has grappled with a myriad of social and political challenges, prominently among them being Hindu-Muslim clashes. These issues, deeply rooted in historical contexts, have significant implications for the local self-governance of the city.

4.3.1 Social Problems

4.3.1.1 Communal Tensions and Hindu-Muslim Clashes One of the enduring challenges in *Ahmedabad* is the periodic eruption of communal tensions, often resulting in **Hindu-Muslim clashes**. These clashes leave a lasting impact. For example, the 2002 Gujarat riots. (Ahmedabad Riots, 2002)

Impacts on Local Self-Governance:

- **Law and Order Challenges:** Communal tensions pose challenges to local self-governance by requiring efficient coordination for maintaining law and order (Haynes, D. E. ,2014)

Proof: About 2000 people, mostly Muslims, were killed. Some 140000 were rendered homeless, among them about 100000 of them in *Ahmedabad*. The socio-cultural fabric of the city is strained during such events, impacting community relations and social cohesion also it created a division between muslim and hindu. As a result, all local self-governance initiatives were halted. (Haynes, D. E. ,2014))

Local Self-Governance Actions: In the aftermath of the 2002 riots, local self-governance prioritized rebuilding trust between communities. Initiatives promoting inter-community dialogue, cultural exchange, and joint development projects were implemented to foster inclusivity and harmony. For instance, the “Unity in Diversity” project, launched by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) in collaboration with local NGOs, aimed at promoting interfaith harmony.

4.3.1.2 Urban Poverty and Slum Dwellings *Ahmedabad*, like many other growing urban centers, faces challenges related to **poverty and informal settlements**. A significant section of the population resides in slums, lacking access to basic amenities. The urban poor struggle with issues such as inadequate housing, sanitation, and healthcare, contributing to a complex socio-economic landscape. (Venkatachalam 2007)

Impacts on Local Self-Governance:

- **Resource Strain:** Addressing urban poverty requires significant resource allocation, potentially straining local budgets. (Venkatachalam 2007)

Proof: A significant section of the population in Ahmedabad resides in slums, lacking access to basic amenities, contributing to a complex socio-economic landscape. It motivates local self-governance to allocate money for initiative which restrains budgets. (Venkatachalam, 2007). (DPU project on Ahmedabad) (Ahmedabad Environmental Regulations, 2022)

Local Self-Governance Actions: Local self-governance grapples with resource strain due to urban poverty. Initiatives are undertaken to allocate resources effectively, focusing on improving housing, sanitation, and healthcare in slum areas. Many projects for example, the “**Slum Networking Project**” initiated by the AMC involves targeted efforts to uplift slum dwellers through improved infrastructure and access to essential services (DPU project on Ahmedabad). (Wikiwand Ahmedabad)

4.3.2 Political Problems

4.3.2.1 Communalization of Politics Communalization of politics is a persistent issue in *Ahmedabad*, where political narratives are sometimes shaped along religious lines. (Kumar, 2019) This has the potential to polarize communities, affecting the overall political climate and hindering the city's inclusive development.

Impacts on Local Self-Governance:

- **Impacts on Policy Decisions:** Communal narratives may influence policy decisions, potentially leading to biased governance.

Proof: The violent clashes among the communities during these riots often led to the segregation of Hindu and Muslim localities. Lack of neighborly relations and communication provided the ground for the propagandists to cause misunderstanding, and hatred between Hindu and Muslim community. The majority of Hindus in police forces were sympathetic to the Hindu sentiment which was strengthened by the Godhara incident; as a consequence, they failed in their duty to maintain law and order impartially which has led to disaster for all local self-governance initiatives. (Gold Mukto 2002 riot)

Local Self-Governance Actions: Local self-governance acknowledges the challenges posed by communalization and strives to promote inclusivity. Govt has introduced "The Gujarat Harmony project" which attempted to bring Hindu and Muslim communities together (Ahmed, Sara. (2004)).

4.3.2.2 Corruption and Governance Challenges Corruption remains a challenge in the political landscape of *Ahmedabad*, impacting the effectiveness of local governance. Issues related to transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct present governance challenges that need to be addressed to ensure public trust in the political process.

Impacts on Local Self-Governance:

- **Service Delivery Disruptions:** Local self-governance challenges arising from corruption may disrupt service delivery and erode public trust. (<https://ipaidabribe.com/#gsc.tab=0>)

Proof: Corruption in Ahmedabad's political landscape impacts the effectiveness of local governance, leading to issues of transparency and accountability. In 2022, there has been 169 number of bribery cases in Ahmedabad which was reported this was against police and other local self-governance leaders. (Ahmedabad briber case) (Ahmedabad briber case 2)

Local Self-Governance Actions: Addressing corruption requires significant resources and effort, impacting local budgets. The local self-governance bodies, in response, have launched the "Ahmedabad Unit Of The Anti Corruption Bureau," focusing on enhancing transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct in local administration. This initiative aims to streamline processes and restore public trust in local governance (ACB website).

In conclusion, the social and political problems faced by *Ahmedabad* are deeply intertwined with its historical and socio-cultural fabric. Addressing these challenges is imperative for effective local self-governance. By understanding the nuances of **communal tensions, poverty, gender inequality, educational disparities, political communalization, corruption, political fragmentation, and urban planning issues**, local authorities can formulate policies that promote inclusivity, social harmony, and sustainable development.

5 Results and Discussion: Unraveling the Dynamics of Local Governance in *Ahmedabad*

The preceding chapters meticulously dissected the multifaceted layers of *Ahmedabad's* socio-economic landscape, delving into demographics, political intricacies, and social challenges. In this section, we embark on a critical discussion to discern the implications of these factors on the local self-governance bodies in *Ahmedabad*. By intertwining the practical aspects, we aim to uncover the nuanced interactions and influences that shape decision-making processes within the city.

5.1 *Research Questions*

Before delving into the detailed discussion of the practical results, it's essential to revisit the research questions that guided this study.

5.1.1 Research Questions:

RQ1: What are the major socio-economic indicators related to Ahmedabad municipality that influence the respective development as well as operations of local self-government in the city?

RQ2: What are the prime actors involved with the political process within the Ahmedabad municipality related to local political entities, and interest groups?

RQ3: What are the characteristics of the decision-making process of Ahmedabad's local government depending on comparative analysis on development of political as well as local socio-economic environment during the last two decades?

5.2 Discussion with result:

5.2.1 Demographics and Their Impact on Local Self-Governance

Factor: Population Growth and Structure

Effect/Example/Discussion: *Ahmedabad's* substantial population growth poses a challenge for local self-governance, necessitating strategic urban planning and service provision.

For instance, the city must address the demands for housing, infrastructure, and essential services to accommodate its burgeoning populace.

This is evident in the experiences of cities like *Mumbai*, which, faced with similar challenges, implemented comprehensive urban planning and community-driven initiatives to effectively manage population growth. (Mumbai urban planning)

Change in Local Self-Governance: Local self-governance bodies in *Ahmedabad* need to develop inclusive policies and strategic plans to balance demographic expansion

with sustainable city development. By learning from Mumbai's experience, *Ahmedabad* can harness demographic diversity as a catalyst for innovation and equitable development, leading to transformative changes in governance strategies.

5.2.2 Local Economy: Striking a Balance Between Development and Poverty Alleviation

Factor: Economic Structure and Development

Effect/Example/Discussion: *Ahmedabad's* economic landscape, comprising industries, agriculture, and services, requires local self-governance bodies to balance economic growth with poverty alleviation.

For instance, addressing the employment rate and poverty levels is crucial for ensuring economic well-being.

Cities like *Bangalore* have successfully aligned economic growth with poverty reduction through holistic economic policies.(de Wit, J. W. (2002))

Change in Local Self-Governance: *Ahmedabad's* local self-governance initiatives should **strategically align with economic development plans to ensure the equitable distribution of resources and opportunities.** Learning from *Bangalore's* model, *Ahmedabad* can adopt policies that foster economic growth while addressing poverty and inequality, leading to positive changes in local governance strategies.

5.2.3 Local Politics: A Tapestry of Parties, Elections, and Communal Dynamics

Factor: Main Local Parties and Elections

Effect/Example/Discussion: The dominant parties, such as BJP, Congress, AIMIM, and independent candidates, shape *Ahmedabad's* political landscape, influencing local self-governance.

Political stability, coalition dynamics, and communalization of politics are significant factors.

For instance, cities like Pune, with diverse political representation, highlight the importance of balancing stable governance with inclusive decision-making.(Pune election diversity)

Change in Local Self-Governance: *Ahmedabad's* local self-governance bodies need to navigate the intricate tapestry of local politics by fostering inclusive decision-making and political stability. Drawing inspiration from Pune's model, the city can balance stable governance with inclusivity, leading to positive changes in local governance strategies.

5.2.4 Social and Political Problems: Impacts on Local Self-Governance

Factor: Communal Tensions, Poverty, Gender Inequality, and Educational Disparities

Effect/Example/Discussion: Communal tensions, urban poverty, gender disparities, and educational imbalances pose challenges for local self-governance.

For instance, cities like Jaipur have successfully implemented policies to address communal tensions, showcasing the positive impact of community engagement. (Jaipur community engagement)

Change in Local Self-Governance: *Ahmedabad's* local self-governance bodies could draw inspiration from *Jaipur's* models to tackle social and political challenges effectively. By actively engaging communities and implementing targeted policies, the city can bring about positive changes in local governance strategies.(Khalid and Okitasari, 2023)(Mayaram, S. (1993))

5.2.5 Summary

In essence, the fabric of *Ahmedabad's* local governance is intricately woven with the threads of its demographics, economic dynamics, political landscape, and social challenges. The discussion unraveled the profound impacts of these factors on the decision-making processes of local self-governance bodies. While each facet brings its unique set of challenges, the intersectionality of these elements necessitates a holistic approach to governance.

The city stands at a crossroads, poised to harness its diversity and historical resilience to carve a path toward sustainable development. By learning from the experiences of other cities facing similar challenges, *Ahmedabad's* local self-governance bodies can craft policies that resonate with the needs of its people. **The ongoing dialogue between these influencing factors and local governance is not just a narrative of challenges but also an opportunity for transformative change**, setting the stage for a more inclusive, responsive, and resilient *Ahmedabad*.

6 Conclusion

As we culminate our exploration of *Ahmedabad's* local governance, it is crucial to revisit the core objectives that have guided this journey. Through theoretical lenses and practical insights, we aimed to unravel the complex interplay of factors shaping the political landscape in *Ahmedabad*.

6.1 Linking with Objectives(Tracing Socio-Economic Indicators)

Here we will find the factors related to our objectives.

6.1.1 Objective 1: Tracing Socio-Economic Indicators

In understanding socio-economic dynamics, several key influencers stand out. **Population growth, educational access, and income distribution** emerge as pivotal factors shaping *Ahmedabad's* socio-economic indicators. The city's demographic dividend, when coupled with strategic investments in education and skill development, can fuel economic growth and foster a more inclusive society.

6.1.2 Objective 2: Decoding Political Actors and Dynamics

Acknowledging the link between self-government bodies, democratic rights, and economic stability, influential political actors take center stage. The role of proactive local leaders and their commitment to transparency can significantly impact the stability and effectiveness of local governance. Empowering grassroots leaders and fostering a culture of civic engagement can enhance the democratic fabric of *Ahmedabad*.

6.1.3 Objective 3: Assessing Decision-Making in *Ahmedabad*

In assessing decision-making processes, the balancing act between centralization and financial decentralization becomes evident. **Administrative efficiency, coupled with community involvement, plays a crucial role.** *Ahmedabad* can further enhance decision-making by embracing technology for **transparent governance**, ensuring that information reaches the public effectively.

6.1.4 Objective 4: Defining Influential Factors in Local Self-Government Development

Rooted in historical legacies, **political transitions, social diversity, and economic imperatives**, the multifaceted nature of local government growth becomes apparent. To foster development, *Ahmedabad* must prioritize **decentralized decision-making**, ensuring representation from diverse communities. An inclusive approach that addresses historical inequities and empowers local bodies can redefine the trajectory of local self-government.

6.2 Unveiling Influencers on Local Governance

6.2.1 Demographics:

Demographics serve as the cornerstone influencing local governance. In my perspective, the critical influencers are **population growth, age structures, religious dynamics, and gender ratios**. *Ahmedabad's* challenge lies in delicately balancing development initiatives with the diverse needs arising from these demographic intricacies.

6.2.2 Economic Dynamics:

Economic vibrancy shapes local governance considerations. The influencers, as I see them, are **employment rates, poverty levels, and public finances**. *Ahmedabad* must strategically align economic development with poverty alleviation efforts, ensuring equitable distribution of resources and opportunities.

6.2.3 Political Landscape:

Ahmedabad's political mosaic, entrenched in historical events and communal dynamics, casts a profound shadow on local governance. In my view, **political stability, transparency, and the management of diverse ideologies** emerge as critical influencers on local self-governance bodies.

6.2.4 Social and Political Challenges:

Social and political challenges, including **communal tensions, and urban poverty**, become intrinsic influencers on local governance. My perspective emphasizes the need for a **delicate governance approach**, maintaining law and order while implementing inclusive policies that address the diverse needs of the population.

6.3 *Ahmedabad's* Path Forward

As *Ahmedabad* stands at a crossroads, navigating a balancing act where inclusivity, economic growth, and political stability converge, the path forward for local self-governance lies in inclusive decision-making. Drawing inspiration from successful governance models and learning from other cities, *Ahmedabad* can manipulate these influencers to forge a path that encapsulates the needs of its people.

Inclusive decision-making should be the cornerstone, where demographic, economic, and political influencers are woven into policies that echo the aspirations of the diverse populace. **By embracing diversity, acknowledging challenges, and fostering a collaborative governance ethos, *Ahmedabad* can overcome hurdles and emerge as a beacon of local governance in India.**

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8.2 List of tables

No tables included.

8.3 List of graphs

No graphs included.

8.4 List of abbreviations

- BJP- Bharatiya Janta Party
- AMC- Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation/Amdavad Muncipal Corporation
- AIMIM - All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen
- INC - Indian National Congress
- INR - Indian Rupee
- CAPEX - Capital expenditures
- OPEX - Operating expenses
- R&D - Research and development
- IT - Information technology
- ITeS - Information Technology Enabled Services
- AI - Artificial Intelligence
- ACB - Anti Corruption Bureau