

# Participatory Budget Submission Management System

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## ABSTRACT

Participatory Budgeting means a different way to manage public money, and engage people in organizing hope. It is a democratic process in which community members directly decide how to spend part of public budget. It enables citizen to work with government to make budget decisions that affect their lives. In this regard my analysis of the Pune case study will be based Wampler's idea of voice, vote, social justice and oversight which in my opinion are the strongest pillars to assess cases of PB (Wampler, 2012). Firstly, in the case of Pune, there is no platform for deliberation and active citizen participation. The idea of budget prioritization meeting has also been suspended since 2008 and thus the participation of citizens in the budget allocation procedure has been limited by just submitting the suggestion forms. Secondly, while the citizens in each Prabhag elect their representatives; they have no power to vote for any policy decision or budget prioritization.

**Keywords:** PB (Participatory Budgeting), E-Democracy, Online Deliberation, E-Participation, Smart Citizen, Smart City, Deliberative Democracy

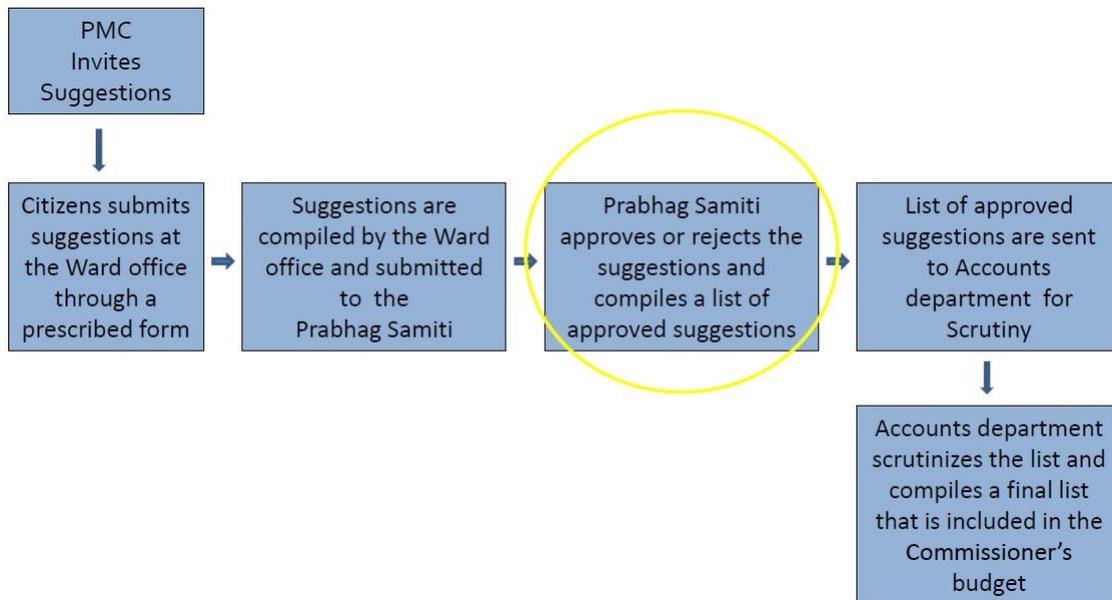
## I. INTRODUCTION

In times of austerity, reduced public sector budgets and mounting demand for public services, budget decisions by public bodies are becoming increasingly difficult and have significant implications for the public. At the same time public trust in politics is seen to be decreasing and public engagement in the political process is limited. Advocates of participatory budgeting argue that it has the potential to address a number of these issues, at least in part. PB is a process introduced by many public administrations, starting from the municipality at the end of the '80s. The process aims at promoting participation and decision making for the allocation of part of a public budget. Originally PB was seen as a form of democratization from above, which is supported by direct participation of citizens and based on a transparent process, orientating the relationship between politics and civil society.

## II. SYSTEM OVERVIEW

### A. Proposed System

In a Corporation the citizens have the rights that they can give their own suggestions in the city development program apart from politicians (Mayor/Corporates). At present this is a paperwork process, which is a time taking process. Though it's a citizens concern, but the satisfaction level is not up to the mark. Since there is no feedback system, the citizens are not aware whether their suggestions are accepted/rejected, approved/rejected and will it be implemented or not.



**Figure 1.** System Architecture

As per the title this program is regarding Participatory Budget and Feedback system for the citizens. The system deals with proper management of the citizens suggestions and the Budget. It also implies feedback system at each step of the application until the completion of the process. Structure starts with form filling and getting it into softcopy and then the creation of database at the backend. The works suggested by the citizens are categorized at form filling itself. The Department Head/Department Engineers to the respective category will get the fully sorted list (Department wise). Here onwards the main part of the system starts.

There are Three levels of authority:

1. Mayor
2. Zonal head
3. Department Engineer

**Role of Level 1 (Mayor):**

The mayor is the admin of the whole system. Mayor have all the authorities which are given to level two and level three officer's and mayor have a separate dashboard of each zone.

**Role of Level 2 (Zonal Head):**

Has authority to verify the budget given by the Engineer and also to approve the transfer of suggested work among the department. Zonal head has a department wise Dashboard that provide the progress of department wise work.

**Role of Level 3 (Department Engineer):**

The work is initiated by the Department Engineer. The Department Head/Engineer has the authority to approve/reject or transfer the suggested works. At

every rejection and transfer engineer have to give proper reason.

The Department Engineers also have authority to decide budget for the suggested work. Every Engineer has his own department dashboard for statistics of approved, completed, pending, transfer of works.



**Figure 2.** Steps in PB

**B. Feedback System**

At each step of work ie approve, reject, transfer, implementation and completion the citizens will get the feedback of their work (with prior reasons). The

further process is tenders, implementation and completion of the work.

### III. LITERATURE SURVEY

There are many similar systems like help desk ticketing system, a management system that can be used by municipal corporations like PMC/PCMC to track, reassign and update submissions given by citizens for yearly participatory budget program. At present there are Complaint based system which share many common principles and have to be implemented in our budgeting Feedback system.

The Complaint based system are designed for Complaint registry and timely feedback of the current work status of the same. The main aim of PB Feedback system is to timely notify the citizen about the current status of his/his concern. Transparency level at this stage is a very important factor as this deals with the Budget.

Number of projects suggested through PB included in annual municipal budgets, 2007-08 to 2013-14

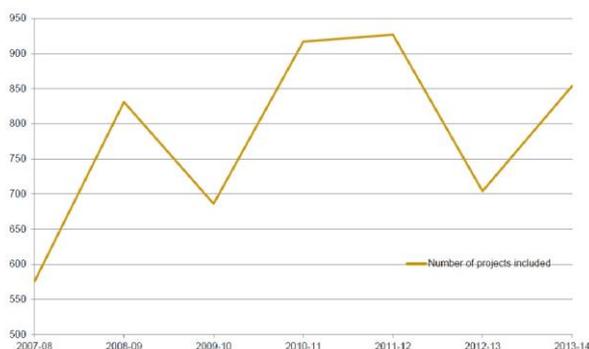


Figure 3. Projects Suggested through PB

### IV. CONCLUSION

As already mentioned, the research project is still ongoing. We will follow the final stage covering the evaluation of the submitted proposals and we will monitor the implementation of the winning ones. A crucial stage will be the end of the project, because cooperatives, participants and associations already expressed the willingness to continue using this approach. So, sustainability after the end of the project is a key issue we will need to address in the upcoming months. Also, future works must focus on comparing the Participatory Budgeting with other PB experiences. An important aspect would be to understand how, in a smart-city context, other

processes could implement the same approach that is using PB in order to engage and motivate citizens to participate by means of ICTs tools.

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