

Centre for Governance

Vision

To foster growth-oriented and people-centered good governance at local and national levels.

Mission

1. To work with Government agencies to implement both rural and urban governance reforms.
2. To be a think tank to foster growth-oriented governance practices.
3. To support change Management programs.

The Centre for Governance has been established by a MoU between Avanta Foundation and L.M. Thapar School of Management, Thapar University for collaborative research in the field of urban and local governance. The Centre undertakes action oriented research which would be implemented by AF in collaboration with State Governments.

It would offer professional advice, conduct change management programs for Government departments and agencies in implementing their reform agenda. With the 73rd and 74th Constitutional amendments, ULBs have independent charge of bring in reforms as the third tier of the Government. With limited grants from the Union and State Governments, ULBs are required to improve their efficiency in revenue generation and costs incurred. As the locally elected representatives are ill-equipped to deal with the situation of insufficiency of funds, LM TSM through the Centre would research and offer solutions to overcome the problems of poor governance.

Work-in-Progress:

As a pilot study, the Centre has conducted extensive research in the towns of Kullu and Dharamshala in the area of financial management of the respective Municipal Councils. The work included the study of the revenue generating systems and improving the rent collection efficiency of the municipal properties in the two MCs. A report was prepared and presented initially to the team at Avanta HQ at Pune and later to the MC officials and councilors at Kullu in April, 2016. The suggestions included training programs to be conducted for the MC employees in basic computer management and cost-effective methods of improving the rent collection. The basic computer awareness training program has been scheduled and will be held in phases to include MC employees of different cadres.

Programs for 2016 would include research in capacity building of MCs in Rajasthan and Nagar Panchayats in Uttarakhand.

Dr.M. Kanchan
Centre Convenor