

# 'A model ward committee should have elected members'

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**A** model ward committee should have at least half of its members elected directly by the people and all decisions should be taken as per majority in the meeting. This proposal, put up by urban experts at Azim Premji University, found its way into the BBMP Restructuring Report of June 2015.

Mathew Idiculla, research associate at the School of Policy and Governance, Azim Premji University, who worked on the issue, said the best way to bring in democracy was to get half the members elected.

"We suggested bringing in proportional representation, that each of the candidate who manages to secure more than 10 per cent vote

share will get the right to proportionally nominate members to the ward committee.

"The rest should be selected from the local RWAs, self-help groups and slum groups," he said.

As per the proposal the ward committees are given the power to draw up ward plans and conduct an audit of all works taken up.

However, to implement these suggestions and remove veto power to the councillor in the ward committees, the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, 1976 has to be amended and cannot be implemented through the rules. While the State government has repeatedly committed itself to bringing in these amendments, it is yet to walk the talk.