

ROLE OF RESIDENT ASSOCIATION

- A **resident welfare association** (frequently abbreviated as RWA) is a civic body that represents the interests of the residents of a specific urban or suburban locality in [Indian](#) cities.
- Membership is voluntary, and the leadership is usually elected by fee-paying members.
- Members who do not pay the voluntary subscription fee in any year may not vote in the general body and other meetings of the association since they would be deemed as having opted out of the membership of the voluntary association.
- In some localities such association bear the word 'Development' in their nomenclature such as development and welfare association.

- RWAs are not official organs of government, and even slums and [illegal housing localities in India](#) can form RWAs to represent citizen interests. RWAs are typically registered through co-operative societies acts, which require groups to have a minimum of fifteen members from a given area.
- These acts also set the rules for the establishment of RWA bye-laws, which include such things as membership criteria, voting rights, and the conditions under which RWA officers can initiate legal proceeding on behalf of the registered society.
- Despite the prevalence of RWAs in slums and unauthorized colonies, however, government programs aimed at involving RWAs in strategic governance decisions, such as Delhi's [Bhagidari Scheme](#), include only RWAs based in planned neighborhoods.
- RWAs have become increasingly involved in municipal politics and decision-making since the early 2000s and continue to grow in importance

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- Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) are typically registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (in every state the Act may have state-level amendments). They are governed by constitutional documents such as a Memorandum of Association (yes, societies can have a memorandum of association as well), which contains their objectives and functions.
- They are voluntary associations made by residents and they don't have any statutory powers. For example, a Resident Welfare Association cannot really impact your right to hold or exercise rights over the property you own and will have its powers restricted to the contribution of sums for maintenance, the organization of workshops and cultural functions etc.

- As societies, Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) also pass their own rules and regulations to define their powers, functions, governance structure, names of dignitaries etc.
- Since it is a society, RWA is a legal person and can sue and be sued as well. Taking care of society's by-laws, addressing any disputes over management of the colony or maintenance of common areas, etc. is the work of an RWA.

- A Resident Welfare Association (RWA) is a civic body that represents interests of the residents of a specific locality in Indian cities. It is not an official part of the government.
- An RWA can work well if there is active participation of the members.
- They take up issues like lighting on roads, cleanliness of roads, safety measures for residents, stray dog problems, water supply problem, etc. Taking an active part and interest in your RWA is a must for every resident.
- An efficient RWA is necessary in a society to maintain proper security, solve garbage disposal issues, and take care of utility and other services.

- In a colony, people face a lot of teething problems. Coming together to form an organization and doing your bit for the community is not only important but also necessary because you are an integral part of that community.
- You will also face the problems others face. If the roads are pitiabile, water supply erratic and electric supply irregular, everyone living in the locality will face it and so will you and your family.
- Hence, by taking avid interest and participating in the community services you are also helping yourself and your family.

- It is also a latest trend to form such associations to help in the facilitation of your day to day activities. You learn to live in a close knit society.
- The crime rate also comes down and these localities are safe for your women and children.
- We are not living in the dark ages; the new era has taught us to live together in a peaceful and harmonious way. This helps you to remain connected.
- Nowadays most of the colonies or sectors have their own RWAs. Even the illegal bastis or areas try to form these associations. If all of us try to take the initiative we can work together for the betterment of our societies.

- **Resident Welfare Association Process**

- With technology, all this is made easier. Each RWA has its own webpage, list of members, schedule etc. online. One can stay connected and know what is happening and how our problems can be solved.
- The associations also connect with other associations for friction less working. They are now concentrating on all your civic amenities, your security and now the most important is disaster management.
- So be a part of these associations so we can all have a safe and sound tomorrow in which our daily life and routine can be maintained.

List of Typical Functions of a Resident Welfare Association

- To take up the matter with the competent authorities for the common interest of the residents for providing or improving common facilities in the area like – park, drainage, roads, streetlights, scavenging, water and electricity supplies, banking, post office, bus services facilities, community hall, milk booth, health center, rationing shop, mini-super bazaar, shopping facilities etc.
- To arrange and organize social and cultural functions from time to time.
- To make adequate arrangements for poor, widows and handicapped orphans, old aged and mentally retired persons.

- To create shelters or provide support for the education of underprivileged or economically weaker sections of the community.
- To approach the concerned authorities for redressal of grievances of the members of the society.
- To make correspondence in a lawful manner to arrange meetings, conferences with the concerned authorities.
- To share information about the Government Rules, policies, notifications amongst the members of the association.

- To arrange services like sanitary fittings, plumbing work, electrical work, security and sweeping etc. for the area.
- To receive and collect any gift or donations acquired by any lawful ways and use it for the fulfillment of all or any other objects of the society.
- If any person wants to contribute, the contribution should be spent towards the promotion of the society's objective only.
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