



GOOD GOVERNANCE INITIATIVES IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Good governance is associated with efficient and effective administration which is committed to improve the quality of life of people and also this aims at providing an environment in which all citizens can develop to their potential and state should provide public services effectively, efficiently and equitably to the citizens. But the concept of good governance has acquired increased importance since 1990s largely because of international aid agencies began to recognize its absence as a barrier to economic development of the developing countries which is failure in developmental efforts that brought forth into prominence. Here citizens are active participants of the governance system and its process. The Indian Government both at central and states share the common vision for ensuring responsive, transparent, accountable and decentralized citizen centric administration at levels but there is growing considerable frustration and dissatisfaction amongst the people, because there is increasing anxiety about growing instances of corruption and criminalization of politics in Indian public administration. Good governance in India is facing certainly at cross roads of National destiny. The need of the hour of India is to develop dynamism in the field of administrative reforms and development, tackling corruption, administrative ethics, meaningful citizen participation and developmental democracy in politics through good governance.

KEYWORDS : Governance, Participation, Accountability, Transparency, Corruption.

INTRODUCTION

In a democratic frame work good governance is associated with efficient and effective administration which is committed to improvement in quality of life of the people. Good governance is the capacity of power of political administrative system to cope up with emerging challenges of the society. It has the attributes of citizen friendly, value caring and people sharing.

Pai Panandikar defines good governance pertains to a Nation state which handles its people to lead a peaceful, orderly, reasonable, prosperous and participatory lives.

Vivek Chopra defines good governance as unambiguously identifying the basic values of society and pursuing these.

The concept of governance is not new to India. Kautilya's Arthashastra have elaborated the traits of the king as well as governed state. Governance is a more qualitative concept where as government is a physical entity. Good governance aims at providing an environment in which all citizens irrespective of class, caste and gender can develop to their potential and providing public services effectively, efficiently and equitably to the citizens. But the concept of good governance has acquired increased importance since 1990s largely because international aid agencies began to recognize its absence as a barrier to economic development of the developing countries which is failure in developmental efforts that brought forth into prominence the need for constituents of good governance. But the term good governance however comprehends processes, procedures and substantial concerns then only sustainable development is really possible. The main constituents of good governance are basically Rule of law, Accountability, Decentralization, Honesty in public affairs, Independence of judiciary, Human rights, People's participation, equality of treatment as needed in a pluralistic society, absence of discrimination, administrative responsiveness, social sensitivity, ethical conduct, effectiveness, willingness to learn and evolve capability to anticipate the nature and direction of change to cope with the challenges as they arise from time to time and the state of IT available to it for taking decisions. The good governance became very significant since 1990s with publication of two world bank reports one which Entitled on "Sub-Saharan Africa: From crisis to sustainable growth"(1989)in which world bank emphasized on need for good governance and another entitled on "Governance and Development" (1992) in which world bank have identified a number of aspects of good governance which are political, legal and administrative in nature. Good governance day was established in India in the year 2014 to be observed annually on 24 December to remember the birth anniversary of former pm Shri Atal Bihari

Vajpayee with a view to fostering awareness of accountability in government.

Good governance is not a phenomenon to describe in words but it can be felt by the people. Good governance of the modern country depends upon the efficient functioning of legislature, executive, judiciary, private institutions, NGOs as well as cooperation of the people because governance is the quality and performance of the public management. The end result of the good governance leads to ensure accountability, transparency, participation in the country's governance. Good governance is more visible in developed countries than developing countries. Good governance implies utmost concern for peoples welfare where in government and bureaucracy follow policies with discharge their duties with deep sense of commitment, respect rule of law with ensuring transparency, public accountability and human rights and dignity. Good governance is key to Nation progress and development and works for the betterment and welfare of the common citizen. Citizens are active participants of the governance system and its process. Good governance is depend up on culture, geography, political and administrative tradition and economic conditions of the country.

Characteristics of good governance

Good governance institutional set up should ensure the following features:

1.Participation

All men and women should have the rights to raise a voice in decision making process and participation could be legitimate.

2.Rule of law

Good governance requires free and fair legal frame work in order to be enforced impartially. Protection of human rights, Independent judiciary and incorruptible enforcement agencies are required.

3.Transparency

Institutions and its processes information should be directly accessible to those concerned with them and enough information is provided to understand and monitor them.

4.Responsiveness

Institutions and its processes try to serve all stakeholders with time bound manner

5.Consensus oriented

Broad consensus on what is in the best interest of the society should be reached in order to achieve the result.

6. Equity

All men and women should have opportunities to improve or maintain their well being. All members of the society should feel they have a stake and included as mainstream of the society.

7. Effectiveness and Efficiency

Institutions and processes should produce results for the better utilization of resources. Sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of environment should be mandatory.

8. Accountability

Accountability is a key requirement of good governance. Government institutions, private sector and civil society organizations must be accountable to public and their institutional stake holders. Accountability cannot be enforced without transparency and rule of law.

Good governance initiatives in India

The following initiatives were taken in India in order to ensure good governance in public Administration.

1. The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment Act, 1992 provided for the participation of people in the both rural and urban local self government institutions and its process.
2. The Right to Information Act, 2005 came into force which applies to union, states, local governments and societies which receives public funds. In order to access information
3. Electoral funding reforms were introduced in order to promote transparency, fairness, tax incentives for donors and disclosure of antecedents of candidates contesting for public office
4. All India Service Rules were amended to provide fixed tenure for specified posts in order to promote accountability in public services
5. A National Disaster Management Authority was established to bring more focused attention in important areas in order to initiate to make preparatory work to respond to disaster management more effective and efficient
6. The Central Vigilance Commission was accorded a statutory status in the year 2003 in order to strengthen anti corruption mechanism in public services
7. Domestic Violence Act of 2005 and Forest Rights Act of 2006 were enacted to give certain rights to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups like women and scheduled tribes.
8. Rights related statutory bodies such as National Commission for Women(1992), National Commission for Minorities (1993), National Human Rights Commission(1993) have been established in order to ensure the rights of common citizens and vulnerable section of Indian society.
9. The Administrative laws review commission was constituted to recommend new laws inter alia repeal of certain dysfunctional laws.
10. National Commission for Scheduled Caste and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes were bifurcated into two separate commission in order to safeguard the rights of these people effectively.
11. A computerized Public Grievances Redressal and Monitoring system was installed in the year 2001.
12. A committee on Civil Service Reforms was set up in the year 2004 in order to examine the whole gamut of civil service reforms.
13. Various steps taken to promote e-governance and citizen charter in order to ensure transparency and better services to the citizens of the country
14. Second Administrative Reforms Commission was constituted in the year 2005 in order to make blue print to revamp public administrative system to be more responsive, accountable and efficient in the country.
15. The Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration was instituted in the year 2005.
16. A new Goods and Services Tax regime was introduced in the year 2017 to simplify the tax system in order to ensure certain positive implications in the tax structure of country.
17. The Right to Education Act, 2009 was enacted in India to provide a free and compulsory education to all children up to 14 years in order to make education compulsory.
18. Right to food act was enacted to ensure food to all
19. Direct cash transfer benefit to government scheme beneficiaries.
20. Self certification in place of affidavits and attestations
21. Digital India introduced to transform our Indian society into a knowledge empowered society and to ensure government services to the citizens electronically in order to bring accountability in government services.
22. A policy for voluntary organization was formulated by central government in order to promote citizen participatory system.
23. National Rural Employment Guarantee programme and National Rural Health Mission was introduced in order to promote participatory governance.
24. E-governance plan for 31 major areas was adopted and which is designed to assist, improve service delivery and digitization of information.
25. Citizen's charter initiatives scheme was introduced in India in the year 1997 in all ministries and departments in order to promote effective and responsive administration.
26. The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances have proposed a frame work for good governance in the form of code of governance in which service delivery improvement, System and Technology improvement, Programmes for weaker and backward sections, financial management and budget sanctity, public service morale, anti-corruption and incentivizing reforms were stressed.

CONCLUSION

Though the Government both at central and states share the common vision for ensuring responsive, transparent, accountable and decentralized citizen centric administration at levels in India but there is growing considerable frustration and dissatisfaction amongst the people because there is increasing anxiety about growing instances of corruption and criminalization of politics in Indian public administration. Good governance in India is facing certainly at cross roads of National destiny because our politics and administration is facing lack of sympathy and human approach, delayness, time consuming practices, corruption, lack of work culture and values of bureaucracy, criminalization of politics, lack of meaningful peoples participation and insensitive callous nature etc., All these obstacles in the path of good governance should be removed by men in the politics and administration in order to reassure the good governance, for which good governance of our country required government should be reinvented, bureaucracy should be re positioned and private sectors should be reinvigorated with social objective. Though good governance is paramount for our country's socio- economic development and despite many efforts of both central and states with a view to new ideas and approaches we do not succeed when put into action in our administrative system to deliver the ways and means in order to promote good governance. The need of the hour of our India is to develop dynamism in the field of administrative reforms and development, tackling corruption, Administrative ethics and meaningful citizen participation and developmental democracy in politics through good governance based on innovation, creativity, talent and skills in order to usher an era. Corruption, criminalization of politics, communalism, Red tapism and attitude of Indian bureaucracy, Loop wholes and inefficient implementation of laws and rules and low level of awareness of rights and duties of Indian citizens are major hurdles in order to promote good governance system effectively in India.

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