

Bureaucracy and Development



Political Science

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ABSTRACT

Today, In fact most of the Developing Countries are busy in order to bring about speedy development. Indeed, development has become the buzz word of the developing nations. Today most of the nations have adopted the democratic principles and are welfare states. In a democracy the officials and non officials work together in order to achieve the development. But in reality the major agency for development is the Administrative Machinery. Applied to the Development, through these new enterprises economic social, political & all round changes can be fostered & guided. A good deal of debate is going on with regard to bureaucracy and development in the light of this an attempt is made to understand the linkage between the bureaucracy and development.

Immediately after the Second World War II most of the nations of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, became free from the grips of imperial powers. The independent countries began to give more importance towards the important tasks of nation building. They had two things in their mind first being Political development followed by economic development. Political development goal was nation building & national unity. Second was still more important it aimed at bringing changes & rapid development in the countries. They gave importance to change the age old traditional agrarian society to modern industrial society. Thus development became the central theme of the newly emerged nations.

By this time United Nations & its agencies came forward to help the nations which were striving to achieve development. The freed nations wished to improve the standard of living of entire population. Development is a quite difficult task and it involves various factors such as setting the priorities, planning the programmes, mobilizing resources, creating organizations & enhancing the capacities of the existing establishments etc.

The concept of development is a continuously changing and dynamic concept. Since the beginning of civilization this concept has gained importance and is in practice. Many of the scholars have defined development in terms of increase in national economy; Some say that development is nothing but social, economic & political improvements. In brief development is a process of improving the well being of the people. It is about raising the standard of living of people, improving their education and health and also opening out to them new & equal opportunities for a richer & more varied life. Thus the overall goal of the development is therefore to increase the economic, political, & civil rights of all people across gender, ethnic groups, religion, race, region, and countries .

Today, In fact most of the Developing Countries are busy in order to bring about speedy development. Indeed, development has become the buzz word of the developing nations. Today most of the nations have adopted the democratic principles and are welfare states. In a democracy the officials and non officials work together in order to achieve the development. But in reality the major agency for development is the Administrative Machinery. Applied to the Development, through these new enterprises economic social, political & all round changes can be fostered & guided. Administration is a group activity to perform certain specific goals. It is an instrument of change. It is a well equipped machinery for formulating plans, programmes and projects. It is machinery for implementation of the laws made by the legislature for the welfare of the people. Public administration is Government administration. It is concerned with the achievement of state purposes. It is concerned with welfare of the people. In the present welfare state, public administration has gained a lot of importance. It has affected the lives of the people right from the womb to the tomb. In the present situation the role of public administration is becoming more vital due to increased demands and aspirations of the people.

1. Public administration is the basis of the Government. A government can exist without a legislature or without an independent judiciary but no government can exist without public administration.
2. Public administration provides varieties of services for the people keeping in mind the public interest. Public administration provides various facilities like communication, transportation, civic amenities and a better infrastructure for the welfare of the people.
3. Public administration plays an important role in the implementation of laws and policies of the Government.
4. It provides stability to the society. Paul Pogors says that "Public administration is a great stabilizing force in the society. It brings about socio economic change. In the developing nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America public administration acts as an instrument of social-economic change. Since the end of World War II, administrative modernization has gained attention. The success or the failure of any country depends upon the Administrative Machinery. Administration is a group activity to accomplish some specific goals.

Nigro & Nigro have defined it carefully, they say that Public Administration is a Cooperative and group effort in a public setting. It covers all the 3 branches & their implications. It has an important role in the Formulation of public Policies & is thus a part of the political process. It is different from private administration. Basically Public Administration is concerned with the implementation of public policies. Which is laid down by the political executive. Administrative machinery includes a large amount of officials. Which in turn was known as civil servants or bureaucracy. To quote Dr Herman Finer, "Civil Service is a body of officials, permanent, paid & skilled. Thus it is only the bureaucracy which is capable of discharging the governmental duties.

It is in fact an art and science of policy making, planning, Decision Making, Organizing, Directing and Controlling. These works can be efficiently managed by a few or group of people alone.

During British Raj, the major function of bureaucracy was to maintain law and order and to collect taxes. Later on an elite civil service was created by the British, who almost stayed away from general public, as policy was made in white Hall. There was clear cut distinction between policy making and policy implementation. As far as implementation was concerned civil servants were to perform their duties within a set of norms which emphasized Hierarchy, rules & regulations & were to maintain political Neutrality.

The development Role of Bureaucracy:

Policy Formulation - since, political leadership lacks the required expertise & professional skills for development planning the bureaucrats come to the forefront of formulation of policies, programmes and projects.

Advisory Duties : The Bureaucrats have the responsibility of advising the political executives on various matters of national

importance. Specially, on the financial & administrative implications. Under constitutional provisions they can advise on policy options.

Implementation of public policies; Besides participation in making policies, bureaucrats are involved in implementing them & giving Directions to the subordinates they also monitor the implementation process.

Bureaucrats also train the subordinates to achieve the goals. They interpret the policies & make them to work. The recent BBC programme called Yes Minister, succeeded in conveying the manner in which they can dominate their ministers. The Bureaucrats have gained from the educational institutes & they possess a vast experience in the area of administration. And that is how they are capable of managing the public policies. The bureaucrats enjoy security of services in administrative organization as compared to the frequent rotation of Peoples representatives. The bureaucrats exhibit Political Neutrality & Impartiality, Anonymity. They work under the steel frame work of law. They take active role in the preparation of Annual Budget. Though they have all the appreciations still then they are not free from criticisms. The eminent scholars like Ramsey Muir, Laski and others have criticized vehemently, i.e. Unnecessary rounding

up of administration, red tapism, too much of formality, mental inflexibility, lust for power, irresponsiveness, despotism etc. but this is not true in all cases and the attitude of few can not be generalized. It is found that most of the programmes, projects and policies are announced by the political executives but the preparation and implementation is the job of bureaucrats and they do it as per the constitutional provisions. Despite their experience the bureaucrats are often not in agreement with the political leadership on several issues. Today most of the government schemes are successful because of the enormous dedication and commitment of the bureaucracy. Bureaucracy possesses enormous farsightedness and lead the administration. The bureaucracy plays a pivotal role in social development. Every major area of decision making in public sector is under the scrutiny of government and its officials. Piffner says that, bureaucracy is the systematic organization of tasks & individuals into a pattern which can effectively achieve the goals. Max Weber says that Bureaucracy is efficient administrative organization for promoting clean, healthy & efficient public administration. Since it is based on legal authority structure, and is thus efficient for running the activities of the public affairs. According to Gladden, bureaucracy is nothing but it is government of officials. Thus in a democracy bureaucracy is an executive branch of the government.

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