



Governance Issues

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ABSTRACT

For effective governance, participation is essential because participation ensures accountability. By active participation, people can make their representatives accountable or answerable to them. This in turn makes the representatives more responsive towards the needs and aspirations of the people. Due to lack of farsighted vision of political parties and the elected representatives the governance becomes questionable. Political parties are responsible for democratizing public policies. The very principles of Governance is not been understood by the rulers and this has led to complexities and ultimately people are the worst hit by this.

KEYWORDS

Governance, Political participation, Displacement, Rehabilitation, Accountability.

Over the past couple of year's issues of displacement has become a major contentious issue. In fact there are different perspectives. Some would view "displacement is inevitable, although it is a painful process". Others would argue that effect of displacement could be compensated by adequate rehabilitation package, including monetary package (Asadi) the developmental projects are not backed by a proper rehabilitation policy. In other words most of the time, the projects are implemented without a proper rehabilitation package or policy. This happens due to improper governance activity.

Governance presupposes governance in the interest of people. Political parties are the means through which the interests and aspirations of the people are represented. Political parties are responsible for democratizing public policies. Democratization of a public policy is mainly based on the nature of party politics. Both intra-party interaction and inter-party interaction play an important role in democratizing the policy making process.

Joachim Ahren has given four dimensions of effective governance according to four principles in his book, Governance and Economic Development: A Comparative Institutional Approach. They are accountability, participation, predictability and transparency. Infact, accountability means making politicians and bureaucrats responsible for their actions and overall government policies and avoiding the capture of the state by narrow interests.

"Participation is often an objective of development in itself because it is expected to enhance citizens' independence, autonomy, and self-reliance. But participation also plays a critical role in strengthening governance structures. More specifically, it reinforces accountability because it provides the means by which citizens may exercise influence and control over decisions and actions. For effective governance, participation is essential because participation ensures accountability. By active participation, people can make their representatives accountable or answerable to them. This in turn makes the representatives more responsive towards the needs and aspirations of the people.

Predictability relates to the clearly-defined laws and policies that regulate the economy and society as a whole, to the clear and explicit communication of the laws and other rules to the business sector and private actors (including citizens' rights and duties) as well as to their consistent and impartial application and enforcement.

To enhance predictability, effective organizations and institu-

tions are required. As we all know the values of society are always changing. With this change there is also a change in the attitude of the people towards particular things. So, it necessitates that the existing laws must have some amendment procedure to adopt themselves to the changing conditions if they want to serve their purpose.

The transparent provision of information on policy making and implementation (in association with clear and straightforward decision-working procedures) help to reduce opportunities for corrupt behaviour, improves the analysis and articulation of public policy choices, and enhance their acceptance.

Governance is mainly concerned with how political power is exercised in the society. If the power is exercised in the interest of the people, it may lead to democratic governance. As in the representative democracies power is exercised by the political parties, their participation and responsiveness is crucial to democratic governance. They should be responsive towards the interests and demands of the people.

This being the expected activity as far as Governance is concerned, this did not happen in case with the displacement and rehabilitation in coastal Karnataka. The Union government felt the need to strengthen the national defense project, particularly the naval defense. Accordingly they made a plan for it and executed right they made a plan for it and executed right the west coast in Karwar, Karnataka. The foundation stone for the base was laid by late prime Minister Rajeev Gandhi in the Year 1985 and the actual construction work started from 1999 onwards. A Vast area of land near the coastal belt between Karwar and Ankola cities was acquired for the Naval Base. The Sea Bird Project was supposed to cost Rs. 5000 crores when planned, and now it has already consumed more than 2480 crores, The Naval Base has the capacity to hold 10 warships and now second stage with an additional expenditure of 2500 crores is proposed After compilation of second stage the base will develop as full scale Naval Command & will house 25-30 warships, Aircraft Carriers and also Submarines. A vast and thickly populated area between the city of Karwar and Ankola town was acquired for the project. According to the statistics department report the average density of population per square km of Karwar and Ankola Talukas is 156. But the density of population of acquired areas is much more. Two villages of Arga and Kodar of Karat Taluka were totally displaced and 11 more villages were partially displaced. The whole area towards the western side of the National Highway 17 was sealed off for the people. People were deprived of access to the beautiful beaches stretched 32 km between Karwar city and Ankola town. 2418

areas of private land comprising of 2510 houses effecting 4032 families was acquired. Along with this 7861 acres of forest and government lands were also used. Even though the lands were being acquired through Government Notifications in the Year 1985, there was no Serious movement on the side of the Government to speed up the project till 1998, The Government of Karnataka represented by the Deputy Commissioner of Uttara Kannada District, the special Land Acquisition officer, Karwar, the central Government and the Indian Navy were the agencies involved in this rehabilitation process. People living on the western side of National Highway between Karwar and Ankola were displaced. The Rehabilitation Package given to them was very meager and arrived at without any Scientific study. There were no sales statistics to arrive at the prevailing rates. State Lack of clear objectives consistent procedures and adequate resources for addressing the resettlement results in serious adverse affects on the people displaced. The agency involved in Resettlement and Rehabilitation is nothing but the government which is legal guardian of the masses. At this juncture the role of government is much more as it has to safeguard the larger interests of the population.

In the backdrop of this the issue of Governance comes to picture. Due to Irresponsive political parties who were in position both at center and state have failed to formulate the proper Displacement and Rehabilitation Policies. An effective formulation of public policy is crucial in determining political parties' responsiveness. To make political parties more responsive towards peoples' interests and aspirations, people should regularly participate in the affairs of governance and should be alert and vigilant. But unfortunately this is not happening. People have other priorities. People must come forward to express their grievances. Degree of Political Participation is comparatively low and this in turn has made people unable to take active part in the political affairs of the state.

According to Gerry Stoker, "governance is ultimately concerned with creating the conditions for ordered rule and collective action". The main idea is that in an increasingly complex world where different sub-systems are emerging, the state has lost its capacity for action. 'Democratic governance to be effective should respond properly to the demands of the people. State finds it difficult to adjust itself to the demands put forward by the civil society which are too numerous and too contradictory. Social disorder, cultural cleavages, community pluralism are some of the problems faced by the state.

Responsiveness and responsible leaders refers to the attitudes of political leaders towards their role as public trustees. Degree of openness of public policy making: Political leaders should be ready to share information with citizens. They have to educate the people regarding the policies made in their favour. This knowledge is essential on the part of citizens to have effective control over leaders and policies. As a matter of fact the so called leaders of this area have failed in being responsive and responsible. This issue of Displacement and rehabilitation is haunting people but still then the representatives have not been able to address this issue.

Governance is mainly concerned with how political power is exercised in the society. If the power is exercised in the interest of the people, it may lead to democratic governance. As in the representative democracies power is exercised by the political parties, their participation and responsiveness is crucial to democratic governance. They should be responsive towards the interests and demands of the people. It is also to borne in mind that Governance is not the sole activity and responsibility of government alone. The people must also come forward to initiate the good practices of governance. People must not forget their fundamental duties. The rights of the individuals and the duties must go hand in hand. The Political Parties, Elected representatives and the bureaucracy must join hands in achieving good governance.

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