



A STUDY ON IMPACT & ROLE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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Abstract:

A good higher education system is prerequisite for the development of nation. A significant progress in the higher education space had made the administration of higher education institutions complex. In recent years, institutions in all spheres of life have been growing in size and complexity. Several researches reveal that the administration helps to reduce the complexity and improve the inclusive administration of higher education. Public administration comprises all the activities of the individuals, groups, organizations, institutions at all levels. Public administration is the use of administration for planning, implementation, and execution of government programs, projects and activities. A good administration is expected to deliver efficient and effective citizen services in the higher education system. Public administration is understood as a set of activities involving effective contribution for strengthen the administration and management in higher education system in India. It has become imperative for the government to preserve the path of their functioning. Higher educational institutions may have various requirements that include inclusive administration and management to challenge the system efficiently and effectively. Public administration helps in transparency and accountability for improving the higher education system.

Keywords: Public administration, Inclusive administration, Higher education system, Transparency, Accountability.

Introduction:

Higher education is one of the prime aspects in the national development. It is a dominant source to build a knowledge-based information society of the 21th century. Today the world is experiencing an unprecedented change. New developments in higher education and the ever-expanding competitive environment are revolutionizing the education system. A paradigm shift has been noticed in higher education now a days, from „national education“ to „global education“, from „one-time education for a few“ to „lifelong education for all“, from „teacher-



centric education“ to „learner centric education“. These changes make new demands and pose new challenges to the established education systems and practices in the country. The higher education system in India has grown tremendously after post-independence period to maintain the quality of education. India has become the third largest higher education system in the world. Based on sixth report of all India survey on higher education (2015-16), the total enrolment in higher education has been estimated to be 34.6 million. The quality of education cannot be considered to be the best although having the largest higher education system in the world, imparting education to such a huge number of students has many challenges to deliver the efficient and cost effective services. Indian higher education system has a new role and a challenge to provide to the nation and the world at large, skilled human power at all levels, having vast knowledge and confidence to effectively confront the realities. Higher education have to perform multiple tasks like creating new knowledge, acquiring new capabilities and producing an intelligent human resource through challenging teaching, research and extension activities so as to balance both the need and the demand of the society. Educational institutions may have several management processes such as registration, admission, student information, classes, time table, transport, attendance, examinations, performance, library, grades, hostels, security, reports, salary and expenses. In these circumstances, good administration helps to reduce the difficulties and enhance the inclusive administration of higher education.

Impact of public administration in higher education:

Public administration has become an essential fragment of modern society which has observed the emergence of „administrative state“ by administrative thinkers. This means that every activity is regulated and controlled by the state agencies, that is, administrative agencies. Public administration comprises all the activities of the governmental institutions. It is the action part of government for the fulfilment of the objectives in the organisations. The machineries of government and their functioning have attracted the attention of scholars since the time of recorded history. Kautilya’s “Arthashastra”, Aristotle’s “Politics” and Machiavelli’s “The Prince” are important contributions to both political and administrative issues and ideas.

Administration as an activity and as an intellectual discipline attracted attention only since the later part of 19th century. The complex nature of the modern state resulted into enormous expansion of the functioning of government. Such expansion generated a compulsive need for an in depth study and comprehensive research into various facets of administration.



The functions of public administration called upon to perform everywhere have not only expanded in scale, range and nature, but also increasing in volume. Dynamic nature of society and complex nature of government activities, make it difficult for the public administrators to understand and realise their goals. There is a need for a broader understanding of the administrative phenomenon in its totality. One of the reasons for the failure of the administrator to his goals is his inadequate understanding of the administrative theory.

Theory building in public administration is not an easy task, as there are various kinds of public organizations, administrative structures and processes. The nature of the state, social relations, political culture, educational institutions etc. heavily influences the working of all public organizations. Any public administration theory that does not take this into consideration and ignores these factors would analyze the administrative phenomenon only partially. In such a case scientific validity of such generalizations would be doubtful. Therefore, there is need for a broader and deeper understanding of administrative theory, which would help the administrator to fashion the administration as per societal requirements and enable him to manage the administrative system effectively and efficiently.

Administrative theory will help the administrator to conceive proper reasoning and sound arguments. It will add to the richness of his mind. It adds to his ability to comprehend the phenomenon and provides self-confidence. Administrative theory educates the administrators scientifically, as theory is the conceptualization of experience. The viewpoints of eminent scholars below reflect the significance of public administration.

Woodrow Wilson: “Administration is the most obvious part of government; it is government in action, it is the executive, the operative and the most visible side of the government.”

Brooke Adams: “Administration is an important human faculty because its chief function is to facilitate social change and to cushion the stock of social revolution”.

W.B. Donham: “If our civilization fails, it will be mainly because of breakdown of administration”.

Paul H. Appleby: “Administration is the basis of government. No government can exist without administration. Without administration government would be a discussion club, if indeed, it could exist at all.”

Role of public administration in higher education:

Administration has become an essential part of society and a dominant factor in higher education. The functions it is called upon to perform, have expanded in scope and nature, and



what is more, are continually increasing. Many of them are more positive in nature because they care for the essential requirements of human life, like health, education, recreation, social security, and others. Public administration is a creative factor for the public welfare. The role and importance of public administration can be analyzed as follows:

- i) It is the basis of government and the frames the rules and regulations of the higher education.
- ii) It is the instrument for executing the laws, policies and programs of the higher education.
- iii) It is the instrument of social change and economic development especially in the developing countries which are engaged in the process of higher education and nation-building.
- iv) It is an instrument of national integration through the development of higher education curriculum.
- v) It is the instrument of the state for providing to the people various kinds of services like educational, health, transportation, etc.
- vi) Its role as a change agent is particularly crucial in developing nations. It is expected of the state at present to work for accelerating higher education change and not to be a passive agency to maintain status quo.

If the quality of our higher education system has to be upgraded to make the institutes best knowledge hubs, then there is no alternative to the introduction the public administration discipline at the fastest possible level. Implementation of public administration in the institutes will enable the government, the regulatory bodies and other stakeholders their own managements to maintain quality and become more responsible, transparent and accountable. Public administration brings transparency and accountability in the system, so administrative initiatives in the field of higher education will help to reduce the corruption up to a large

extent. The introduction of public administration in higher education is one such concept that can empower the governing bodies to administer the progress of the education plan in the whole country and serves various stakeholders in a much better way. Public administration is becoming a global phenomenon that is progressively drawing the attention of citizens including politicians, economists, decision and policy makers.



Conclusion:

India has a large number of higher educational institutions with huge enrolment of students and efficient administration of these institutions of poses a huge challenge. The planning for good administration of higher educational institutions is increasing globally to achieve the high standard, it is indispensable to have a better association and access to information available in all the parts of the world are possible only by introducing public administration in educational institutes for maintaining the standard. Government should support updated amendments for maintaining standards in the educational process and improvements in the related field. It requires latest procedures, policies and working skills for good administration. With the advent of public administration as an emerging field, it is possible to make comprehensive and integrated system to analyze the performance of one of the best performing institutes and compare it with other schools and colleges to identify the difference. Through good administration we can improve the quality of higher education system in India. Public administration can create the accountability and transparency in the higher educational institutes. It will bring forth, new concepts of administration both in terms of needs and responsibilities. Administration has a great potential in improving the higher educational system but to achieve the success there is need for coordination and support from governing bodies and higher educational institutes of nation.



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