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Governance Debate: Importance of Networks in Public Policy, Blending Public Sector and Private Resources to Promote Good Governance

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Abstract

This paper deals with the role of the State, and its re-emergence after globalization. The concept of governance has progressed right from ancient civilization and it has come a long way from the traditional rule. As there has been increasing expectation on the state to solve the problems of the people. The failure of the state to respond to the demand placed upon it has opened new forms of governance. The success of the development programmes depends on the partnership with the other sectors. It includes decentralisation of powers of the State that is a gradual transfer of powers [2]; public-private partnerships. It has taken up the responsibility of a facilitator. It also increased the scope for use of technology for the ease of governance.

Keywords: Participation; Governance; Networks; Technology.

Introduction

The disciplines of political science, public administration, and the recent addition public policy have to deal with the notion of the State. The prime duty of the State is to protect its citizens and promote growth. The State is an abstract or imaginary form, the government is the concrete form. Among the other elements of State like Population, territory, sovereignty, Government occupies a significant role. Though State has wider and stable than the government, the functionalities of a state depend on the Government [3]. Statecraft enables governments to preserve their authority, pursue their goals and provide security to their citizens. To define the State in the Weber's version it will be the legitimate use of physical force within a given territory [4]. Among all the power of State such as hard power and soft power which will be in the context of international relations [5]. Social power is the capacity to control the relationships in the country and make them behave in a certain way.

Functioning of the government is possible if people are treated as governable citizens. According to democratic theory [6] and Mill [7], the purpose of the government is to serve the people and manage their affairs. The State performed various functions of development and protection of the citizens, right from ancient times. But due to expansion in scope, it had to reduce the expenditure, where some vital functions have been neglected in the process. The emergence of liberalization was spurred due to elite class intervention through World Bank and IMF who stood for less interference of State [8]. It moved beyond the welfare state which had the extreme concentration of power in the form of bureaucracy [9]. Now the newly assumed role involves various activities, such as infrastructures, urban and rural development, along with the classic functions of protecting the citizens through law and order [10].

Meaning and Definition of Governance

Governance is the optimum utilisation of power to sustain the environment for the development of

economic social and political resources [11]. Governance can be traced back to the Greek verb *kybernan* (to pilot or steer) [4]. Governance has emerged as an alternative to the State-centric mode of delivery [12]. The structure and function of the governments need to change according to the requirement of the citizens [13]. Governance has to move beyond the static boundaries and the authority of government. As success depends on the actors in the network, it would be beneficial to move towards collaboration between various actors like bureaucracy, policy makers and civil society [14].

Good Governance

Better development cannot be achieved without a) transparency in decision-making system, b) accountability of elected representatives [15], c) people participation through open reporting system [16,17]. To bring legitimacy in governance through transparency, accountability, and participation, the shift from the static government was necessary [12,18,19]. Citizens have to re-shape the political and social identities through the skills imparted by the government and become active [20]. Emphasis should be on result orientation than rule through co-steering, co-managing, co-guidance [21].

Decentralization

Grass root level institutions are crucial for democratic decentralized governance for rural development [22]. Grass roots movements are playing an important role in challenging entrenched structures of power in formal democratic societies. [23]. In the face of increasing globalization, with the further erosion of local community control over daily and the further extension of the power of the market and transnational corporations. They are making a case for local control and local empowerment as the heart of development. They are protecting what they identify as the immediate source of their survival-water, forest, and land.

Copenhagen Summit focused on the principle of community participation [23]. Local governance not only refers to formal agencies within the State but also voluntary, individual and private sectors. The value of regional networks at the local level is evident in the Australian region [24]. The functions of local government have been contracted out [4], there is little doubt that the emerging structure of local governance marks out a lessening of local government. Local government is central to understand the ways in which democracy functions in our societies. It helps the central government in

controlling the use of resources [25]. Local authorities continue to have a key role at the grass-roots level in initiating and coordinating service provision and development [26].

Decentralisation in Indian Context

A Large number of committees like A.D Gorwala through Paul Appleby, Balwantrai Mehta, Moraji Desai, K.Hanumantaiya, Ashoka Mehta and R.S. Sarkaria which were formed to look into the administrative system to bring administration closer to people [27]. Sharing the decision-making power [28] is prominent in increasing the participation ratio among people [29]. The Rippon's resolution of 1882 has backed local governance as an effective measure of governance which has scope for innovation and betterment of services even with less budget allocation [30]. The importance of panchayat as the local body governance which was extensively debated in the Constituent Assembly can be found in the article 40 of the Indian constitution [31]. If better services are to be given to the citizens, decentralization should be backed by necessary legal and constitutional changes [32]. The introduction of 73rd Amendment is a prominent change to break the 'elite system of capturing the power' [30]. The former elected representatives want to be in power if that is not possible they will control through family [33].

There are several overlapping functions of customary panchayats to resolve the disputes or to manage forests in the case of van panchayats in Uttaranchal [34,35]. The combination of decentralization and yardstick competition allows the possibility of experimentation in the way a given public service is provided and then learning from other jurisdictions [36]. The elected representative should discuss the problems as done by jana samparka sabhas in Karnataka and communicate the activities performed by him [33]. The citizens are aware of their rights it is easier to enforce in order to enforce the respective works as promised by the elected representative.

Intensive involvement of people in the process of development was seen in the Kerala model pioneered by then Chief Minister E.M.S Nambudripad. The level of corruption depends on the awareness and involvement of local citizens in the economic activity [37]. Various best practices exist in this scenario, the functioning of the local governance improved in the efficient use of budget due to the involvement of locals in the planning and application procedure of various government activities [38].

There are many challenges that are being thrown

at the smooth functioning of governance is the lobby against transparency. Initially, for many years, there was resistance from the officials. It bothered them on various grounds like transfer to remote areas, with limited service conditions when compared to a city [39]. The inequality in terms of social, economic conditions makes it difficult for the authorities to bring effective service to several sections of society. Same is the scenario if the elected representatives are poor or from disadvantaged sections. The lesser degree of social economic inequality is possible through literacy and education [40,41]. Incidents of corruption can be kept at bay through a process of transparency. People should be in a position to recall the elected representative if found that there is a misuse of power [42].

The Prominence of Partnership among Various Actors

The concentration/centralization of power leads to misuse of it, which is against the social needs hence there should be a balance of authority through accountability and transparency [13]. This balance can be provided through various networks. Public-private partnership (PPP) can be worked as an adjustment between the government and private sector. The partnership includes a non-governmental organisation which strives for social objectives [43]. A common misconception is that PPP is same as privatization, and government staff will lose their job. As they are only two partners, the quality will decline and the cost of service will increase [44]. The Government should have a clear strategy on how the partnership will contribute [45].

There are many areas where the PPP relationship could be implemented in the development of villages such as the a) agriculture extension services b) medical facilities transportation facilities water Sanitation primary and vocational education, electronic marketing, energy sector, fisheries. There is a need for the private sector in the expansion and improvement in the quality educational sector through the provision of finance and capital [19]. The Increased private investment can bring new skills as specialised manpower is highly required for the industry. It helps in reducing the government's responsibility to increase the number of schools providing quality education [46]. The focus of present governments to should encourage the communication with stakeholders [47].

Functions and Responsibilities of Civil Society

Despite differences in origin, specific objectives philosophy, Scale (of operations, staff and budget),

location a perception has arisen that such organizations may represent a development alternative that makes the achievement of progress more likely than in the past. The 1980s have witnessed a remarkable change in the scale and significance of NGOs, moved to centre stage in terms of both development practice and debate. NGOs are proposing that they should take the lead in field operations and advocacy. The responsibilities of NGOs have been redefined after liberalization and reduction of power of State. They fill the non-political space between family and state [48]. Extensively known for fighting for the values enshrined in the constitution [42] to safeguard the voiceless, and underprivileged [49]. Civil society pressurizes the government for integration of policy [50], checks against the politicization of planning and distribution of aid [38].

As amplified in the ECOSOC resolution of 288(x) which was passed on 27th February 1950. It should influence public policy [51]. Civil society inhabits the area between the individuals or families and the State [48,52]. They are known for fighting for the values enshrined in the constitution (Mathew, 2008), to safeguard the voiceless and underprivileged. It checks against the politicization of the planning process [38]. They are the panacea for all policy problems (Bell & Hindmoor, 2009), helpful to understand people's connections to associations and community affairs (Jun, 1999).

The Accountability and Collaboration Opportunities for Different Stakeholders

Instead of creating parallel structures and competing with government, there should be cooperation to implement successful programmes [53]. The civil society helps in training and mobilization [38]. A strong civil society is necessary for the promotion of democracy. Civil Society will make the national government fully accountable and transparent, which in turn harvest in good results [50]. Partnership with municipalities in public Innovation is evident in the Nordic periphery [54].

Optimised management of decision making is possible through governance of networks and governance through networks [55]. Civil society organisations are under the scanner due to lack of downward accountability. It is advised that human rights-based approach is emerging as the remedy for all the ills of CSO sector [56].

Technology for Better Democracy

Simpler and effective form of governance through

e-governance module: The terms e-governance and e-government are frequently used as synonyms in various countries but in the application they hold a different meaning. Governance is limited to the interaction between formal institutions and society, whereas E-governance is the relationship between government and citizen, and about the networks (the private sector and civil society) related to government [57]. E-governance enables people to participate in governance through the internet [58]. It connects citizens with the government [59] and provides the scope for the citizen to participate in the transaction [60]. These will prompt the citizens to be able to trust the government and rely on its policies [61].

Initial Drawbacks

The fear of losing jobs i.e. the machines replacing the manual work is a matter of fear among many officials. But now the situation has changed. Citizens are aware of the government services and can access interact with government at any time [62]. They have to ensure that applications should be in regional language for the inclusiveness of citizens [63]. It would be easier for the government to use technology to provide several services to the citizens [13].

Stages of E-Governance

Several stages of introducing various innovative service measures are followed by Government. The primary motive is to give better service delivery to people through information and communication technology [59]. The first stage minimal presence of government is through online, the next stage follows the transaction, in the third there will be vertical integration of nation and local system on a uniformed basis and finally the horizontal integration [64]. If the initiatives which are taken by the government have to be successful then it has to focus on three important components such as technology, people, and process [65]. Technical assistance can be given to people on a priority basis so that technical literacy can be increased among people. The interaction of citizens and government can be taken to a new level, through e-initiatives.

A Better Method for Better Result

The awareness and the success of the e-government projects depend on the websites which provide better options and convenience for the customer [61]. According to the study conducted by [66], the majority of the respondents were aware of the e-government projects, half of them are able to

use the web portal of the country. Successful implementation of schemes depends on the effectiveness of the websites in satisfying the citizens in getting the information [62]. In the form of governance, citizens are the key stakeholders, who have certain requirements of services. Investment in e-governance is necessary to provide services efficiently on par with the private sector. There will be smooth functioning of the system/process if citizens along with politicians have awareness about the online programmes [67]. Several successful projects [68] like e-Seva Hyderabad, Bhoomi Karnataka, and Friends Kerala stand as inspiration for technology up gradation for better governance. The training imparted by the Kerala government in the form of Akshaya project has empowered the citizens in making the citizens e-literates. Now they are able to access the online services like e-pay [69].

Conclusion

This paper illustrated different concepts related to governance, its scope and limitations. Devolution of powers and participation is mandatory for the success of governance. In this process, it requires the collaboration of various networks of governance, and effectively they bring awareness of e-governance. It has been argued that state has to manage complex relationship such as government to other government functionaries, government to business, and government to citizens. The transformation of state from the autocratic power has come across a long way to collaborate with other organisations and give scope for decentralisation. With the emergence of e-governance, citizens have been receiving the benefit of democratic governance. The digital interaction will lead to smart governance. Coordination and connectivity can be achieved through the standard process of data collection and verification. It reduces the burdensome task of standing in queues [68] or following the rigid procedures by easing out the rules and regulations. The e-literacy gap is filled by the civil society by training the citizens on how to use the technology for the progress in development [70].

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