

Governance and Administrative Reforms in Recent Times-An Overview

Dr. Ramavath Nageswar Rao

Department of Public Administration,
UCA&SS, Osmania University, Hyderabad

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Abstract

The process of governance in the challenge in a country like India. Accountability is one of the features of good governance. E- governance reduced backlogs and improved efficient service delivery. Administrative reforms one part of successful good governance. Govt of Indian embraced various future generation administrative reforms towards India having inclusive state. E-governance models have been succeeded in achieving openness and transparency in administration. The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public grievances adopts a biannual assessment of the Administration in the states and UTs following Good Governance Index (GGI) parliamentary committee enable dynamic performance of parliament providing consensus among the political parties' subject expertise and stake holders. The National Commission (2002) recommended for the development of parliamentary committees. P. Ms Awards for excellence in Public Administration established to encouraging efficient performance in implementing important schemes. National Good Governance Webinars are going on since 2022. CPGRAMS achieved its objective and appreciated by parliamentary standing committee in 2023. India has initiated various Next Generation Administrative Reforms in the period 2014-23 to develop administration to carry out function of Nation-building towards having inclusive society, .

Key Words: *Governance; Accountability; good-governance; E- governance; administrative reforms; GGI; Parliamentary Committees; The National Commission (2002), P.M.s Awards; CPGRAMS; Next Generation Administrative Reforms.*

Introduction

"Man's capacity for justice makes democracy possible, but man's inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary"

-Reinhold Niebuhr

Governance is the art of leading a nation towards justice, harmony and prosperity. The process of governance is the challenge in a country like India where diversities plays key role. It is also a challenge for on nation. Service of reforms, over the years, redefine it governance linked with development enabling lives of its citizens. Reforms are inevitable activity for a developing nation following societal demands and changes in global level. The reforms reflect various realms belong to electoral systems, social policies, economic regulations, environmental challenges etc., Governments in India have been implementing transformational reforms involving e-governance systems having citizens connectivity with the Government. Hence, such measures achieve transparency, accountability and openness for governments activities. Along with protection and privileges for the citizens.

Liberalisation, Privatisation, Globalisation (LPG) Propelled India onto the global level. Economic reforms in the last decade of 20th century allowed to the foreign investment, economic growth and innovation. In 2017, GST, began as

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the one of the reforms, ushered a predictable tax regime and accelerated the ease of doing business in India. Accountability is the one of the features of good governance which has been developed through various institutions. Constitutional bodies such as comptroller and Auditor General, Election Commission, the National Human Rights Commission play key role in the functioning of a democratic and accountable governance. E-governance reduced backlogs and improved efficient service delivery making bridge between citizen and government through digital platforms.

In the case of welfare programmes, the Pradhan Mantri Dhan Yojana (PMDY) has been initiated for financial inclusion for every citizen providing bank services and insurance. The recent data protection law provides individuals privacy and personal data. Through stringent standards for data management consent managements and transparency, the law enhances user control. The law bolsters citizens' rights, in stills confidence in digital dealings, and makes a modern, privacy conscious India linked with global data security rules.

In the present times, governance reforms several a collective measure for the rapid development of India. Several legal bodies and institutions are functioning towards inclusivity, transparency and accountable governance in India. Following these initiatives, citizens participation and good governance together lead to the bright future of India.

Definitions:

The term governance derived from the Greek word Kubernaen which means to secure in the sense of verb. However, the word 'governance' in current wider sense, involving the tasks of larger range of public and private institutions became a general term in 1990's. For the definition World Bank says, "The manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development".

The United Nations defines governance as "the rules of the political system to solve conflicts between actors and adopt decisions (legality). It has also been to describe the proper functioning of institutions and their acceptance by the public (legitimacy). And it has been used to invoke the efficacy of government and the achievements of consensus by democratic means (participation). "

Fourth Reports of second Administrative Reforms Commission, January 2007, says, "Governance is admittedly the weak link in our quest for prosperity and equality. Elimination of corruption is not only imperative but an economic necessity for a nation aspiring to catch up with the rest of the world. Improved governance in the form of non-expropriation, contract enforcement, and decrease in bureaucratic delays and corruption can raise the GDP growth rate significantly".

Governance includes a complex set of institutions and actors that are adopted from but also above the government. It also accepts the blurring limitations and obligations to deal socio-economic challenges that it promotes autonomous bodies of actors through identifying potential of achieving things which are not in the realm of government following new tools and techniques. Governance is linked with networks of three actors that are state, market and civil society.

Administrative Reforms

Administrative reforms are part of successful good governance. The Department of Administrative Reforms and public Grievance is the nodal agency of central government of India. This department suggests and undertakes activities. The process of administrative reforms leads to successful management by state towards the development.

The govt of India appointed The Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) to study the public administration system in India for its recommendations and review to develop efficiency in the administration in 1966. This commission was chaired by Morarji Desai and K. Hanumanthappa respectively. The second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) was established on 31st August 2005 and chaired by Veerappa Moily. It is a commission of inquiry for reforming public administrative system in India.

Govt of India embraced various future generation Administrative Reforms to develop administrative set ups towards the task of nation building and a nation of inclusive society and state. The challenges of the task today has to be in the context of several features:

- a) little change has occurred from the kind administration that we inherited from the colonial rulers
- b) in the process the administrative system has entrenched itself in a way that it has become more or less impervious to change
- c) powerful interests have developed in the status quo
- d) administrative reform has not been a high priority on the political agenda
- e) there has been failure at the conceptual level in generating alternatives.

The present context of administrative reform is embedded in the assumptions of governance and liberal economic agenda. The is being perceived has an enabling state that facilitates business and civil society to work together for development. Reforms have been undertaken in the last decade for the transformation in the administration. For example, e-governance process providing peoples interface with the authorities to reduce the gap between citizens and government. Hence, various public institutions are following digitalisation which benefit the citizens. E-governance models such as PMs Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), Ayushman Bharat, PM's Jan Arogya Yojana, PM's Jan Yojana, Passport Seva Kendras, One Nation- One Ratio card have been succeeded in achieving openness and transparency in administration.

P.M Narendra Modi expresses, `` Technology has immense potential to bring Government and citizens closer. Today, technology has become a powerful tool to empower citizens as well as a medium to optimise transparency and accountability in day-to-day functioning. Through various policy interventions, we are strongly moving ahead towards the digital empowerment of citizens and the digital transformation of institutions. The policy of Maximum Governance- Minimum Government', is being implemented by P.M, supervises a Digitally Empowered Citizen and a Digitally Transformed Institution' that change in radical way. Following 75th year of India's freedom – Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, P.M called for next generation reforms to achieve Viksit Bharat.

The next-generation reforms emphasise on deep-rooted secretariat reforms, remarkable governance and service, cleanliness (swachhata) campaigns, redressal of public grievance, developing service delivery, highlighting meritocracy, and replication of the practice of good governance. Mission Karmayogi, accelerated promotion methods, lateral recruitment, regional conferences for good governance and recognising efficiency in public Administration through the programme of PM's Awards for excellence in Public Administration along with institutional reforms are leading to efficient governance.

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances adopts a biannual assessment of the Administration in state and Union Territories following Good Governance Index (GGI). The governance of the district is assessed through the District Good Governance Index. E-services is assessed through biannual National E-Services Delivery Assessment. The Good Governance Index framework involves 10 sectors and 58 indicators. The Good Governance Index (GGI) divides states and UTs into four division- Union Territories, NE and Hill States, other states (Groups A and Group B).

Parliamentary Committees:

Government works and quality of Bill are scrutinised by the parliamentary committees. Parliamentary Committees enable dynamic performance of parliament. In fact, Parliament functions through the floor of the House and the Committees. Committees also provide consensus among the political parties, subject expertise, and stake holders. Standing Committees and Ad hoc Committee are also formed by parliament from time to time. 'Jan Vishwaas' (Amendment of Provisions) Bill 2022 has been investigated by a Joint Parliamentary Committee (Ad- hoc committee). There are Depart- related Committees or subject Committees even. Committees help to develop laws enacted by Parliament.

The death penalty has been imposed by the Anti- Mari time Piracy Billy, 2019 following the death caused by piracy. But the standing Committee recommended life imprisonment or death following Supreme Court's ruling. Therefore, Parliament amended this bill. These Committees are functioned under the Financial Committees, Estimates, Public undertakings, and Public Accounts. The impact of Parliamentary Committees plays a Key role in Parliament functioning. Bills are referred to a committee by the speaker through consulting the minister who presents the Bill in Parliament. For example, in 2016, an amendment Bill of Motor Vehicles Acts, 1988 passed by Parliament through the recommendation of the standing Committee.

By the end of the Monsoon Session of 2023, during the Seventeenth Lok Sabha, 17% of Bill were referred to Committees. According to the National Commission (2002). All Bills introduced in Parliament should be referred to subject Committees for an extensive discussion. And, Subject Committees must review the practice of laws enacted by Parliament in their respective subject. Several conferences are held by parliamentary Committees to discuss issues where the participation of Members in these meetings is needed for the success of the purpose the Committees. The presence of MPs in Committees meetings is law. By the July 2023, in the 17th Lok Sabha, attendance in subject Committee meetings was 47% while in financial Committees was 37% only. But, the attendance in Parliament was 79% for the same time.

A single Committee has too many ministries cannot be able to investigate deeply functioning of various ministries. The National Commission (2002) suggested that funds be secured to help these parliamentary Committees for their inquiries, conducting public hearings and collecting data. Technical facility is available to Committees is confined to a secretariat only. The National Commission to Review the working of the Constitution (2002) recommended that major reports of all Parliamentary Committees be discussed in Parliament, especially where there is a disagreement between any Committee and the Central Government. Parliament Committees play a vital role in sustaining the functioning of the Government and develop efficiency of Bills of Parliament. They assist M.Ps to connect the people and expert views and forge consensus among various political parties on issues and challenges.

P. M'S Awards:

The P.M'S Awards for Excellence in Public Administration have been established to recognise and honour the work of excellence performed by Central, state and districts governments and organisations. This scheme was modified in 2015-16 to emphasise for extraordinary and innovative work in implementation of important programmes and scheme. The modified scheme, in 2022, achieved an all times nominations in large number from states and Union Territories. A seen of 743 districts applied 2520 nominations for PM's Awards 2022 representing 97% of the total districts of India for participation of scheme PM's Award Scheme – 2022 involves encouraging the Har Ghar Jal Yojana (HGJY), Swachh Jal (SJ), Swartha Bharat, Quality Education, Holistic Development.

Union Government also made remarkable endeavour for the dissemination and replication of Award- winning nominations conducting 23 regional conferences, since 2014, on the Replication of Good Governance Practices in collaboration with state and Union Territories governments that 30 excellent practices being awarded in every conference. Following this, 16 National Good Governance Webinars were conducted for every month since 2022.

Successful Redressal of Public Grievances:

Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) was embraced and practiced among all the Union Ministries and Departments. Moreover CPGRAMS is being utilised by many UTs. In present, 17 lakhs citizens registered following this platform for public grievances. CPGRAMS, reformed through 10- steps, brought empathy, comparison and solutions with scientific approach to help effective Grievance Redressal which has been appreciated by the parliamentary standing committee of the Ministry of personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions following its 127th Report in March, 2023.

Conclusion

Great German philosopher says, "So act as to treat humanity, whether in their own person or in that of any other, in every case as an end without, never as means only". Practice of procedures and approaches in institutions is an ancient practice. The successful institution follows evolution of adequate methods and procedures and the capacity its employees to practice them. The capacity of employees handling secretarial work is judged through their abilities of disposing receipts with speed towards the objective. The aim of all Government activity to fulfil citizens needs and their welfare without delay. Administrative reforms are conscious, right change maintained in a public sector system for the objective of developing its strategy and structure, functioning towards efficient work force. These administrative reforms promote transparency and accountability in financial administration and developing anti-corruption strategies. Administrative reforms include organisational restructuring policy realignment process reengineering and capacity building.

Since, Independence of India, Government of India has been following administrative reforms, in many forms, following the India Constitution, towards successful good governance. The process has been accelerated by the present central government under the P.M. Shri Narendra Modi. At all levels the governments is striving for reforming administration to benefit the people and improve capacity of employees in all organisations. India has initiated various Next Generation Administrative Reforms in the period 2014-23 to develop administration to carry out functions of Nation- Building towards an inclusive nation.

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