

MA PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

SEMESTER II

PAPER: COMPARATIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

TOPIC COVERED:

**MEANING AND CHARACTERISTIC OF DEVELOPMENT
ADMINISTRATION**

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SCOPE OF DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

The scope of development administration is expanding day by day. Development administration aims at bringing about political, social, economic and cultural changes through proper planning and programming, development programmes and people's participation. To achieve development goals the administration constantly interacts with environment. It shapes the environment and is also shaped by it. In this section we would briefly highlight the scope of development administration.

- **Development Administration is Culture-Bound:** There is a close link between administration and culture of a country. The culture, provides an operational framework for administration. The administration, it is said, is affected by the political leadership that guides it and the developmental policies that it implements. It cannot easily or rapidly break away from the compulsion of historical legacy or the resources of the economy or the behaviour patterns in society. However, it does not imply that cultural system of a country is static. Rather, both the cultural and administrative systems can change each other. The commitment of administration to the ideology of development and change can definitely usher in cultural change. For that purpose it should also be able to prepare suitable plans, programmes and projects keeping in view their feasibility, operationally and desirability. Development administration should serve as a steering wheel that directs society to predetermined goals according to the will and skills of the leaders and personnel engaged in the development process. It removes the lag between development requirements and administrative development.
- **Wide Spectrum of Development Programmes:** The spectrum of development programmes, the central theme of development administration, is very wide ranging from provision of industrial and infrastructural development programmes to programmes relating to development of agriculture, health, education, communication, social services and social reconstruction (e.g. community development, family planning etc.). Thus development administration covers a whole gamut of the multifaceted tasks of administration and management of development programmes. It may also be mentioned here that the principle of politics-administration dichotomy cannot be accepted for the purpose of development administration as the formulation of policies and programmes about development are intricately related to their administration. Otherwise, for unsound and vague policies and programmes, the implementing machinery should not be held responsible. The fact, however, is that the people blame administration for its imperfections in or incompetence of administration in implementation of a programme. The source of failure can be policies and plans, administration, management, leaders or people or all taken together, Development administration is an effort at homogenising all these institutions/agencies engaged with the tasks of development into a unified system.
- **Nation-building and Social-welding:** Development administration further involves the tasks of nation-building and social welding. It is concerned not merely with the function of creation or

expansion of growth structures, (institution/agencies established to achieve development) but also to mould social behaviour or reconstruct social structures. Many a countries of the third world tend to get affected by traditional and parochial set of social relationships based on kinship, caste, religion and region. These parochial structures need to be broken and an era of modernisation is to be inducted into the society putting an end to the patronising approaches of a traditional culture. Hence, the focus of development administration is on expediting the process of industrialisation, urbanisation, education and democracy. It is a recognised proposition that developmental policies should identify and strengthen the strategic growth factors, The aims of development have to be economic growth, technological advancement, equity, justice, removal of unemployment and other social and economic problems. The social customs or traditions that hamper the development process have to be modified or done away with. The task of nation-building can only be successful if development activities bring about social change.

- **Planning and Programming:** Many countries of the world both developed and developing have opted for development planning. This type of planning lays emphasis on the proper assessment of resources, determination of plan priorities, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of plan with an aim to achieve maximum results with minimum time and cost. Thus development administration comprise wide number of activities. These are all-round efforts to realise developmental goals, provision of basic necessities, introduction of social change, reorganisation of societal structures and functions, involvement of people as the ends as well as means of development and emphasis on planned growth. Scope of development administration is vast and varied in developing countries like India. In fact, the very survival of the government programmes depends on the efficiency of the development administration to implement, monitor and evaluate them. I also stresses that planning should take note of the linkage between economic development 'normatives' and 'geo-social positives'. In other words, plans and planning process has to relate a country's economic 'needs with administrative and managerial capacity, if they are not to be reduced to a level of mere propaganda.

Programming is yet another important component of development administration. Programming is that process which throws out knowledge about gaps in information or skills needed and the groups of people who have the necessary willingness to take initiative. People's resistance to change, it is believed can be easily overcome through a proper method or improved communication technology. A few words here about centralised and decentralised planning are also called for. Centralised planning may be defined as an act of working out the priorities and the pattern of programmes and schemes as related to content, staff, finance, institutional arrangements, locations and beneficiaries at the Central and state levels. This practice is favoured in the name of administrative efficiency, effective supervision, avoidance of wastage and uniform assessment of performance.

- **Development Administration and Ecology:** Administration work under the constitutional, political and legal framework. It points out the fact that not only the adoption of foreign know-how may be difficult in a country, but also that even the best technological assistance from abroad may not yield the desired results in the recipient country. The socio-cultural economic and political milieu may not be ready to assimilate the values and innovations applied in

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advanced countries. This reality was very well brought out by the students of comparative administration during the 60s. In other words, development administration is ecological in nature. It affects the environment around it and in turn is affected by it.

Development administration, as we read in Unit I also, cannot survive in a vacuum, it has to change in accordance with the changing political, economic, social and cultural scenario. It affects the environment and is in turn affected by it. No growth model, no sophisticated technology, no developed schemes can be planted on a developing system blindly. A system has to be ready to receive the change. The change has to be suitable to its conditions.

- **Development Administration is Organic:** Development administration, it is argued, cannot be conceived and operated as a machine made of nuts and bolts. As development programme envelops and affects every aspect of life and activity in society, administration for development must be conceived and approached as sub-culture within a major culture and with same responsibility to create a new culture appropriate for the times dominated by science and technology, urbanisation and material comforts. Technology affects and is affected by administration. This approach suggests a systematic study of development administration. Human element forms an important part of development administration. Development Administration comprise human beings at all levels.

Planners seek to achieve development goals with the help of people. People's participation is required at the time of determination of priorities for plans, formulation of plans, implementation of plans by various development agencies and evaluation of plans and programmes. The idea is to reach as many people as possible.

Thus development administration is organic, it does not work like a machine following set rules and regulations and working in a predictable and routine manner. Though a proper and systematic planning process is an essential component of development administration, it does not have to rigidly adhere to the process.

The above discussion stresses the fact that the determination and realisation of development goals to a large extent depends on a systematic planning process. In India, through the help of Five Year Plans, we fix up plan priorities in terms of goals to be achieved and determine the ways and means for realising them. The objective of planning has to be fixation of priorities/goals, assessment of available resources, augmenting scarce resources, determination of machinery to carry out plans and monitoring and evaluation of plans. In India, we have the Planning Commission, National Development Council, State Planning and District Planning Cells to undertake the task of comprehensive planning. Planning is badly needed at the grassroots level in order to secure people's support.