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# **Democratisation of Indian Public Administration: Issues and Remedies**

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### **Abstract**

*Public administration did not find as a defining element of democracy in political theory. The administration is an indeterminate term used in international literature to describe how public institution conducts public affairs and manage public resources. The administration is the process of decision making and the process by which decisions are implemented (or not implemented). The administration matters are an inherent part of societies since the dawn of civilization. It is a universal and dynamic concept and requires the predominance of the rules of law, accountability, transparency, efficiency, effectiveness to provide public service and quick response to the new emerging requirements of society. The administration involves fighting against corruption, improving bureaucratic and political accountability and promoting people's participation and government people dialogue. Its aim is to achieve greater accountability, transparency, and efficiency in public service along with the protection of civil liberties and human rights and to promote people's active participation and to ensure the rule of law through an independent judiciary. The paper, attempted to explore the remedies towards the betterment of the administration in India, in order to achieve the proclaimed goal of the administration is to bring about human development.*

**Keywords: Democracy, Accountability, Transparency, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Public Administration and Bureaucracy.**

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**Introduction:** India is not an easy country to govern what with its size and heterogeneity. Good, the administration is catching the attention of policymakers, political leaders and the people at large. The policies of economic liberalization introduced in 1991 have set the tone of urgency. Good, the administration is being related to the sustainability of market-friendly reforms. While the topic of the administration is not new to the development literature, its emphasis on the neo-liberal agenda envisions a different kind of thrust.

The term administration alludes to the apparatus and institutional courses of action of practicing the sovereign power for serving the inner and outside interests of the political group; administration implies the procedure and in addition the consequence of settling on definitive choices for the welfare of the general public. The administration is the activity of creating and overseeing predictable, firm strategies, process and choice rights for a given

zone of obligation. The administration is that particular process or leadership process that makes decisions that define expectations, grant power or verify performance. The administration needs to be seen not merely in terms of managing resources and people during the tenure of a government but its ability to take a long-term view, not of the nation but the nation in the global context.

The administration is an authoritative allocation of values by those in power through decision making. Since the administration is the process of decision making and the implementation of those decisions, administration focuses on the actors who make decisions and the structures that are involved in decision making. The administration involves fighting against corruption, improving bureaucratic and political accountability and promoting people's participation and public-private partnership. Its aim is to achieve greater accountability, transparency, and efficiency in public service along with the protection of civil and human rights and promotion of active people's participation and to ensure the rule of law through an independent judiciary. The administration is being recognized as an important target by many countries across the world. Many nations have taken up specific initiatives for open the administration. Freedom of information is being redefined and supported by detailed guidelines. Along with this, there is a conscious attempt to put the citizen at the center of focus of the administration. Citizens are being perceived as customers and clients. Delivery of services to citizens is considered as a primary function of the government. The government has played a significant role in the life of man throughout the period of recorded history and any government worth its name and having the responsibility of governing a polity must develop and promote as its seminal core, the parameter of good the administration. This article desire on the part of individuals' in broad daylight organization whether in strategy making and arranging and to build up an understanding general society organization. It centres on the how to general individuals' take part the approach executions and advancement of people in general organization. In this article, the writer has made an endeavour to clear funda, regardless of whether individuals' investment in organization suggests another division of part controls amongst individuals' and heads associated with the entire procedure of good organization.

**People's Participation and Development:** Indian Constitution starts with "We the people of India..." here the question is ourselves it refers to whom? The term 'locus standi' is expanded to 'Public Interest Litigation' in late eighties and early nineties cases flooded before the courts. It is very welcoming change but it reserved for only few areas like environment, human rights etc. Question is proportion of democratic participation of people in India, when democratic participation increases then more meaningful democracy can work. Democracy can be successful when basic values like equality, freedom, secularism, social justice, accountability and respect for all reflect in their mindset, thinking and behavior. Hence, appreciation for opportunities and proactive role of the citizen play important role in realization of democracy. As there is no proper implementation on constitutional provisions to eradicate poverty, backwardness etc. till the day caste system playing its role in election and become a vote bank. Another important factor is the role of

forward class, they criticize the reservation policy, and government facilities for backward class instead of help them. Further creamy layer of the backward also strive for the betterment of their community. Earlier British rule divided and rules us. But today ourselves we are dividing, looting and ruling to ruin everything of our land. It should not happen and we need open our eyes with broad mindset. One thing here to remember is that even today backward unable to get key position for whatever the reason.

The public administration aims at the welfare of the people. In a modern state, the administration is run by the government which is elected by the people directly on democratic method. The representatives of the people control the administration. The political executives formulate the policy of the government and the administration of political executive implements these policies into practice.

In the advance world, the open organization is a basic piece of the improvement procedure and has a critical part to play in the monstrous errand of national advancement. It would be a mix-up if the significance of open organization were not completely perceived by those associated with national advancement. An ever-increasing number of nations, particularly creating nations and the Unified Countries (Open Organization Division) now connect excessively significance to open organization as a system for national improvement. It's a given that nature of open organization fluctuates from nation to nation contingent on the political, social and monetary frameworks. It works in a specific natural setting.

All things considered, any endeavour to examine the subject of the open organization in the decent variety of frameworks and circumstances would welcome the threat of over disentanglement in making speculations. By and by, there is the union of experience about the expanding part of the legislature in the general improvement endeavours of national advancement. This place an expanding duty upon general society organization, open area, and its powerful working have, consequently, come to be perceived as key factors in national endeavours for monetary and social change.

**Combating corruption: RTI, NGO and Beyond:** The concept of “the administration” is not new it is as old as human civilization. In simple words “the administration” means the process of decision making and the process by which decisions are implemented (or not implemented). Government is one of the actors in the administration (Baldwin, 1934). Other actors involved in the administration vary depending on the level of government that is under discussion. All actors, other than government and the military are grouped together as part of the civil society. In some countries in addition to the civil society, organized crime syndicates also influence decision-making, particularly in urban areas and at the national level. A comprehensive strategy, therefore, must be devised to reduce the scope for corruption, while at the same time providing space for individual initiative and action.

The need for an integrated approach to deal with corruption must be recognized. Agencies like CBI, CVC and anti-corruption bureaus cannot operate in isolation (Hussain, 2012). They must have resources to take a wider view in individual cases and be able to

make a distinction between a 'bonafide mistake' and deliberate 'making error'. It must be to reform the tax system to make it simple and transparent and to ensure moderate rates of taxation that enable widest possible compliance. This remains an area where most citizens indulge in corruption. The assurance of integrity within the judiciary in itself is a deterrent against corruption in public life. Hence, prompt action against corruption in the judiciary, at all levels, is also a necessary element of the war against corruption in other institutions of the state.

The Right to Information Act has to be effectively utilized so that it will not only act as a deterrent but also empower citizens to bring to light any act of corruption on the part of government officials (Claessens & Burcin Yurtoglu, 2013). In fact, NGOs and concerned groups of citizens can and should use the RTI Act to combat corruption in public life. All political power in a democracy stems from people. Central, therefore, to the administration is the empowerment of people by increasing their control over the administration. The irony of a discourse on empowerment of people is because; "As the colonial state had consciously distanced itself from the people, and as that distance did not significantly narrow in the post-independent era, the tradition of consultation of and participation by the people did not develop. "Accessibility of government to the common people and their sensitivity to people's need had progressively declined" (Iyer: 2001). Srivastava has rightly observed that "Over the decades, after having inherited very substantial powers from its colonial legacy, the State apparatus has steadily amassed functions –and more powers. The new developmental State has been bestowed a vast number of new responsibilities and has also vastly extended its financial powers. Although the exercise of these powers is not untrammelled –there are a number of checks and balances imposed by the democratic system -- the labyrinthine and obscure processes through which decisions are taken, over-regulation in many spheres of public life, the weakness of democratic institutions, and the sheer monopoly which vests with the State, creates sufficient ground for arbitrary exercise of this power. This has led to two very major problems in the administration structures, inefficiency, and corruption" (Srivastava 2001).

### **Representative Democracy and People's Participation (P2P):**

*"Success of democracy is impossible without the participation of the people"-*

*(Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi)*

People's participation is a political principle or practice, and may also be recognized as a right (right to people's participation). The terms people's participation often called P2P by practitioners, is sometimes used interchangeably with the concept or practice of stakeholder engagement and/or popular participation. Participation means people are the key to good the administration. It could be either direct or through legitimate intermediate institutions or representatives. It is necessary to point out that representative democracy does not necessarily mean that the concerns of the most vulnerable in society would be taken into consideration in decision-making. Participation needs to be informed and organized. Participation can become meaningful only if governmental structures are flexible enough to

facilitate easy and unhindered participation. This means freedom of association and expression, on the one hand, and an organized civil society, on the other hand. In economic terms, participation means increasing role for the private sector. "People's participation has become a standard rhetoric in India today. Different actors interpret it differently. One view is that participation means getting people to agree to and go along with a project already been designed for them or to get the support of a few leaders... The important question is participation for whose benefit and on what terms. It must be, therefore, understood as a process by which people are able to identify their own needs and share in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the participatory action. Thus, various elements of participation are decision making at various stages, control and management of funds and resources, share in infrastructure and final produce and certainty of benefits." (Mid Term Appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan (Planning Commission, 2000) Implies the involvement of people's in a wide range of policymaking activities, including the determination of levels of service, budget priorities, and the acceptability of physical construction projects in order to orient government programs toward community needs, build public support, and encourage a sense of cohesiveness within neighborhoods.

**People's Participation in Administration: Issues and Challenges:** Peoples don't participate the solving of the community problems due to "lower socioeconomic status, lack of self-confidence, impact of personal participation compared to collective participation, limited resources, lack of money, lack of information and knowledge about the issue, and lack of confidence in their ability to be effective" (Brian E. Adams,) As far as my concerned governments alone cannot solve pressing socio-economic problems and cannot the provides the resources that everyday people need. They adapt a smart method to solve out the problems. There are many attempts to facilitate people's participation in the administration. They are mainly based on meetings where people have a direct participant to each other. However, they face two types of problems. The first is the stated by Matt Leighninger; "the whole notion of people's involvement centers on the needs and goals of the person doing the involving, not the people's...ordinary people are only needed to play limited roles on certain occasion." The second problem concerns the high costs associated with these participation programs.

There are numerous endeavours to encourage individuals' contribution to the arrangement making process. They are basically in view of gatherings where individuals have an immediate contact with each other. Be that as it may, they confront two noteworthy issues. The first is expressed by Matt Leighninger: "the entire idea of resident inclusion fixates on the necessities and objectives of the individual doing the including, not the national... standard individuals are just expected to assume restricted parts of specific events." The other issue concerns the high expenses related to these interest programs. The expert under which support programs originate from change from governments to non-administrative associations, group pioneers, and different intrigue gatherings. They typically have a tendency to give fair data to the general population they lock in. Nonetheless, there is

no responsibility on the final product, which is typically another arrangement proposition, a prioritization, or a conclusion.

The conventional participative vote based system models some of the time utilize irregular examining to pick their members and generally attempt to be illustrative for different socioeconomics. The capacity of members may change from thousands, to hundreds, or to 15-30 people. The high-numbers models normally keep going for one day to one end of the week, while the lower-number models tend to last from two or three days to months. The expenses related with these activities are normally high and can even achieve a great many dollars at times, as coordinators need to take care of costs that incorporate nourishment, settlement, ventures, stipends and even prizes. The eye to eye or disconnected participative vote based system models confront imperative difficulties that Savvy Strategy for open arrangement has a tendency to limit.

**Conclusion:** In this article I have attempted to argue that the democratization of the public administration is both necessary and appropriate. It is necessary in order to overcome some of the limitations of the existing democracy model, in which the separation between the political (democratic) world and the administrative (professional) world is misleading.

The success of democracy is impossible without the participation of the people. India is the largest Democracy in the world and citizens here are highly enthusiastic to be a part of the administration. In a Democratic system, citizens' participation is one of the key components of the decision-making process is an innovative platform launched to ensure citizens' engagement in decision making by the government so that the ultimate goal of "good the administration" for building India is achieved. There is a significant scope for improving administration delivery mechanism by involving people and the participatory bodies at different levels of the administration. The administration requires the presence of aware and sensitive civil society. By extending the domain of civil society many of the ills of the administration could be effectively eliminated. A legislature can profit by more extensive individuals investment when thinking, choosing and completing improvement approaches and programs.

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