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## Public Administration and Social Welfare Administration

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### Abstract:

*Since all the rehabilitation effort focused on the project affected population is handled by the Government's revenue and irrigation departments under the auspices of the public administration, instead of social welfare administration, it is necessary to discuss here the relevant aspects of both.*

*Public administration is an essential part of any society and a dominant factor in modern day life, which has seen the emergence of what has aptly been called the 'Administrative State'. Its contents today are more positive in nature, for it is engaged in looking after myriad needs of human life - health, education, recreation, sanitation, social security and other issues. It is, therefore, a creative factor, its motto being the 'welfare of humankind'. Public administration is of pivotal importance in developing countries that are engaged in a massive effort to lift themselves from the state of poverty,*

### Introduction:

Public administration is a part of the wider field of administration. 'Administration', as E. N. Gladden says, "is a long and slightly pompous word, but it has a humble meaning. The word 'administer', derived from the Latin word, administrate, means to care for or to look after people, to manage affairs. Administration is a process permeating all collective efforts, be it public or private, civil ministerial or military, large scale or otherwise, and thus is of universal nature. It is a cooperative effort directed towards the realization of a consciously laid down objectives.

Administration is defined as "the organization and use of men and materials to accomplish a purpose". Administration thus permeates all planned human activities. According to L. D. White, administration is "the directing, coordinating and controlling of many persons to achieve some purpose or objective". Public administration is a particular sector of the broader field of administration and it connotes the administration of government affairs which are undertaken for the public good.

According to some commentators, the use of word 'public' before 'administration' restricts its coverage to the administrative activities of the government - it being the only organization which covers within itself all the people living in the State. Public administration is also defined as the organizing and management human and material resources to fulfill the objectives laid down by the Government. But the Government consists of three Branches - legislature, executive and judiciary. Does the public administration include all these three branches? Views on this question differ.

We in India cannot accept a restricted definition of 'public administration'. So much is the mutual dependence and so intensive is the interaction between the executive, the legislature and the judiciary that the public administration must be defined in broader terms. The scope of public administration is thus wide enough. Keeping this in mind, one may say that public administration refers to the organization of public

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#### **Public Administrations and Social Welfare Administration**

affairs and their direction.

#### **Public Administration vis-a-vis Social Welfare Administration:**

Public administration consists of all those operations having for their purpose the fulfillment or enforcement of public policy. In the past, the State was responsible merely for the enforcement of law and order, dispensation of justice, protection of property and lives of people. But in the modern age, the negative aspects of 'Police State' have been replaced by the positive welfare concepts of the State and the accordingly, the Governments have been called upon to perform important public and social welfare functions.

Social welfare administration, an auxiliary method of professional social work, thus is a branch of public administration; it is a sub-division of the broader field of public administration or general governmental administration; it constitutes a sub-set of public administration. It is concerned with the administration of social services which include, in its purview, health, social security and the personal social services (the provision of help, social care and support in the community to individuals and groups who appear to be in the need of it) and also refers to provisions to enhance individual and group development and well-being and to aid, rehabilitate or treat those in difficulty, or in need and extend welfare benefits to disadvantaged and underprivileged sections of the society.

#### **Distinction between Public and Social Welfare Administration**

**Despite social welfare administration being a branch or sub-division of public administration, it has come to possess certain specific and distinctive features and characteristics of its own as mentioned below:**

- a) Just as social welfare administration is a branch of public administration, the latter was also once a division of Political Science. It was continued to be treated as such for a long time and was taught as such, not as a separate discipline, but as a constituent of Political Science or even Economics and History in the universities;
- b) Public administration is a new discipline and social welfare administration still newer one. As a field of systematic study, the development of public administration has been only recent;
- c) Public administration has been able to establish itself, by and large, as a profession, though the controversy still goes on whether it deserves this title or not. Anyhow, it is generally agreed that it is a profession-in-the-making. But social welfare administration is, yet to go a long way to acquire the status of a profession, attractive monetarily or elevating socially;
- d) Public administration has a number of institutes for the training of in-service administrative personnel and research. The Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi, is the pioneer institute founded in 1954 under the president ship of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. But the social welfare administration is yet to have an institute catering exclusively to social welfare administration personnel on the pattern of public administration institutes.
- e) Social welfare administration differs from the public administration in the quality of persons needed for their respective services. The personnel of the former are expected to be imbued with the qualities of dedication, devotion, discipline, integrity, compassion, belief in the dignity and worth of human beings. But the public administration personnel can do without such qualities and specialization;
- f) The Code of Ethics for social welfare personnel embodies certain standards of behaviour in their professional relationship with those they serve with their colleagues, with other professions and with the humanity. They choose a course of action consistent with the Code's spirit and interest.
- g) Administrative leadership required in social welfare administration is of a unique type as compared to that of public administration. An administrator in social welfare is to possess an intimate and technical knowledge of delivery of social welfare services to inspire and guide his subordinates, social welfare administration need not be authoritarian in tone, it is concerned fundamentally with enlisting a willing participation in a cooperative enterprise. Public administration, on the other hand, is alien to the public because of its bureaucratic attitude and is, therefore, unable to get the public cooperation required for the success of a programme.
- h) Social welfare administration is an activity which is carried on entirely with the noble objective of rendering services to the deserving people based on all expenditure and no-income no-profit whereas in public administration, activities in other fields do bring to the government enormous revenues. Moreover, welfare administration is supposed to ensure that service reach the beneficiaries no wastage is permitted. Lastly, in public administration activities, corruption, misuse of funds, extravagance and wastage are unavoidable. Social welfare administration is a unique profession and it is hoped that it will be able to establish itself as such in due course of time. [17].

**Public Administrations and Social Welfare Administration**

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