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EVOLUTION OF COMPARATIVE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Manohar H. Shirahatti

ABSTRACT:-

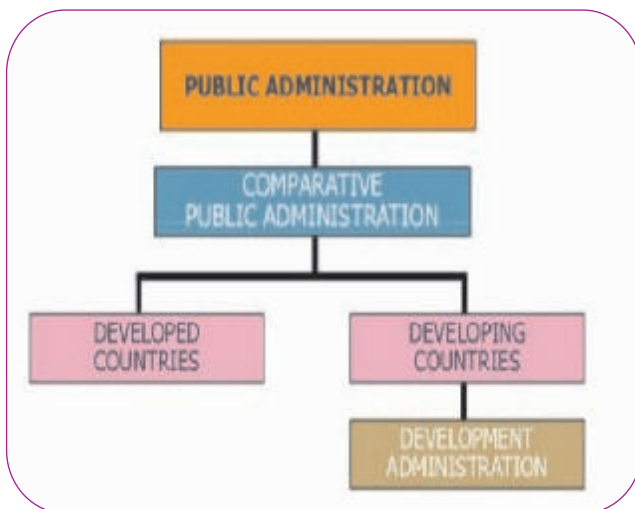
The origin and development of public administration as distinctive subject can be traced from 1887 onwards. Prior to 1887, almost no written materials existed on the management of public administration. In India There are evidences to suggest that there existed a good literature on the aspects of administration even before 1887. Kautilya's Arthashastra described the tactics of foreign policy and defence kautilya's called for science of public administration were limited to his times. As result, it failed to attain a universal recognition . In Europe political philosophers like Plato (348 to 347 BC) and Aristotle (384-322 BC) Described the style of administration in Greek city states. Machiavelly (1513) in his celebrated book the prince mentioned about the character and conduct that are essential for public servants in the chapters 22 and 23.

KEYWORDS: Public Administration, aspects of administration.

INTRODUCTION

During mercantilist era, Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) viewed that administration could be ignored in the context of the newly emerging policy. It is only with the advent Montesquieu(1748) that distinctions between administration and politics were clearly made. The author in his book The Spirit of Laws mentioned that administrative functions can be guided by regulations of the state and not necessarily by laws. Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) predicted the expansion of administration upon the policy as states expand in its activities.

WILSON ERA:



The Present scientific status of public administration can be traced from the early writing of Woodrow Wilson, The former American President. Wilson's Perspectives of public administration have strongly influenced the rest of the world during the eighteenth century. Even Wilson never failed to recognize the importance given by the French and the Germans in Proper understanding of the machinery of the government. Certainly, Wilson was the first administrative thinker who argued that politics and administrative were different functions. In his speech before the Historical and political science association at Cornell University on November 3, 1866, he issued a call to political scientists to study more effective techniques for administration.

COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES:

Interestingly, it was again Woodrow Wilson can be credited with introducing comparative study of public administration. He was the first comparatives, who compared American Government system to the cabinet System in the United Kingdom to demonstrate that the USA lacked unified authority in several fields of administration. His comparative study was basically concerned with the issues of maintenance of democratic Polity.

THE COMPARATIVE PARADIGM SET BY WILSON HAS THE FOLLOWING FEATURES:

1. The Science of administration for the united states should be focused from the democratic point of view.
2. A good government is synonymous with the practices of public administration.
3. Civic issued were equally significant to those who conduct the everyday affairs of the government.
4. Administration can be evaluated in its best only by removing the political aspects of administration.

Initially comparative study on a small scale began in the 19th century. It started with various reform movements in the united states. The municipal reform movement civil service reforms and other government changes of the latter part of the 19th century made several comparisons with the united states such comparative studies were aimed to increase the efficiency of public administration in the USA. Some important land marks in these directions were made by the reports of the US senate and various commission reports.

They are follows:-

1. US senate reports – The select committee of US – March 8, 1888,.
2. Additional report of the select committee:- March 28, 1889.
3. The Cockery-Cockrell Commission:- September 30, 1993.
4. Committee on department methods:- 1905-1912.
5. Commission on economy and efficiency :- 1912.
6. Report of the US bureau of efficiency for the period from March 25-1913, to October 1916.
7. Joint committee on reorganization -1920.
8. Commission on the organization of a report of the congress -1949.

POST WAR DEVELOPMENT:

Almost all literature in political science that appeared after the Second World War justified the role of government as a socio-economic transformation. Governmental invention was more sought by the newly emergent nations of the third world. The parameters of governmental activities even then were dictated by political elites in these countries. They adopted governmental structure that was influenced by the historical accidents. However the leaders of the third world who received western education never failed to accord an important role for public administration.

ERA OF SCIENTISM:

Scientific approach to management was considered to be the central focus off invention between 1910 and 1930. Taylor and the advocates off scientific management movement showed little interest in the development it'd public bureaucracies for modern governments. There was a little bit I'd comparison during era of scientific management. The early method of comparison was strictly confined to individual jobs alone. Scientific management confined to individual jobs alone. Scientific management qualitatively measured people within position, but comparisons were verbal.

Benge in 1926 development a new approach of comparison which is known as factor comparison. The technique consists of a set of factors which are defined in such generic ways that comparisons for rankings can be made across the class lines used in point factors systems. The technique was subjected to revisions in many occasions and it was used job analysis also. Such comparative studies were more general in nature and was applied only in selected large scale industrial organizations in the United States. Studies conducted in successful industrial complex in USA.

DAHL'S LAST POINT WARRANTS ATTENTION HERE:

There are some limitations for comparative methods. Firstly, we must remember that comparative method is not a universal method. You cannot compare everything. We can compare only what is comparable. For instance, we can compare Indian administration with British administration, but we cannot compare Chinese administration because a comparison between the two would be misleading among several advanced countries is problematic since data tends to be available only in the most general or the most particular sense.

RATIONAL OF COMPARISON:

The message is clear and vital. The study of administration must proceed with attention to how administrative behavior and relationship vary under different conditions. Public administration like political science is fundamentally comparative in nature. Our comparison may focus on different administrative organizations or within different religions. In addition, We may wish to compare the same administrative system "within itself" over time. But whatever the form of framework, comparison is essential to our understanding of public administration.

COMPARATIVE RESEARCH MOVEMENT:

It all started when The US army landed in alien soil during the Second World War. The army personnel and the military administrators found it very difficult to work in different cultural, contexts and because of the multifunctional of structures and the awareness led to greater interest in systematic comparative studies. The attempt by the USA for European economic recovery through Marshal Plan and the point four programme for developing nations had initiated comparative study of public administration. Besides these, the American Scholars under the UN technical assistance make serious attempts to study the socio-political and administration set-up in the third world countries. Thus comparative research in public administration developed gradually with American scholar's initiative. The UN itself has developed a significant world programme in public administration.

INFLUENCE OF COMPARATIVE POLITICS:

Conceptual framework in both political science and public administration emerged by common stimuli and developments in the respective studies or subjects. For both the disciplines bureaucracy has been a common theme for discussion. Both assigned a subordinate role for the bureaucracy in relation to political system. However, comparative models and approaches for public administration are borrowed from the study of comparative politics. In a chronological sense, the movements in comparative politics and comparative administration have been mutually co-operative.

In public administration the bureaucrats list out priorities at the direction of politicians. Selection of priorities for administrative sake implies value judgments and these value judgments are based on facts which have evolved out of some propositions. Every administrative decision has value component and it is this value component and it is this value component which necessarily integrates administration with politics. As value component becomes an important inquiry in comparative study of administration it is not realistic to ignore values, which have been supplied by the political process of countries under comparison. This is more complicated for third world countries where there are rapid changes in the socio political milieu.

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