



## ROLE OF BUREAUCRACY IN THE ERA OF GLOBALIZATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO RURAL INDIA - ISSUES AND SUGGESTIONS

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### ABSTRACT:

*The post-independent period is witnessing a drastic socio-economic change in the rural and urban India. Planning Commission, National Development Council and now NITI Aayog have and are playing a key role in the holistic development of the nation. The policy makers at the national and state legislature are actively involved in the law making process and framing numerous welfare programmes for the development of the nation. The bureaucracy is entrusted to implement the laws, policies, welfare programmes throughout the country. Since globalization the role of the bureaucracy in the developing countries like India has become multi-dimensional in nature. People in the urban areas are aware of new developments and the role of press and media also keeps the bureaucracy alert but in the rural areas the role of bureaucracy is criticized to be not effective as compared to the urban areas as many irregularities, cases of crime, corruption, atrocities and so on are being observed everyday. Nearly eighty percent of the population resides in the rural areas of India and the bureaucracy has a wide role to play for the all-round development of the nation.*

**KEY WORDS:** - Bureaucracy, Globalization, Welfare Programmes, Development, Backwardness, Rural India.

### INTRODUCTION

Majority of the population in India live in rural areas. They are still struggling to have good roads, electricity, pure drinking water, higher education, house to live, overcoming seasonal diseases, transportation, employment, poverty, corruption free loans, free distribution of seeds, minimum support price for the crops, social justice, food security, protection of women, children and disabled etc. Bureaucracy plays a crucial role in meeting the dynamic needs of the rural population. Every year huge budget is being allotted for the development of the rural sector. It is observed that the origin of bureaucracy in India during the British period has retained several positive and negative practices in its functioning. For instance, the elitist approach, redtapism, corruption, over burdened, perseverance and so on hinders the socio-economic progress of the country.

### OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To study the role of bureaucracy in rural India.
2. To study the functioning of bureaucracy in the era of globalization.
3. To highlight the dynamic issues of rural India.
4. To identify the dynamic issues and offer suggestions for effective functioning of bureaucracy in rural India.

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## **BUREAUCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT**

The bureaucracy is the major instrument through which the government in power always tries to achieve the socio-economic, political, cultural etc., development throughout the country. Bureaucracy involves in the maintenance of law and order and implements the welfare policies from the grassroot level. The civil servants are trained to overcome dynamic issues within their jurisdiction. They report to the higher authorities about the progress of the work allotted to them. People heavily depend on the staff that is being directed by officers for their wellbeing. Today, the government is involved in various activities within their specified geographical limits. To tackle the challenges posed by globalization the bureaucracy is well structured and is based on several factors like hierarchy, rules and regulations, division of labour, rationality, impersonality, merit system in recruitment, training, career based on full time etc. It is well known for its vision, behaviours, mental framework, knowledge skills and so on for its effective contribution to the society and responsible to the people indirectly.

## **IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON BUREAUCRATIC FUNCTIONING**

Many nations have made liberal policies to enter into the trade with other nations in almost all products thereby giving tough competition to the local markets infact this tendency has become a popular buzz word that in this era of globalization the governments are known as market regimes. Bureaucracy is expected to facilitate the process of markets and the people at large. This is nothing but a kind of integration of national economies of many nations involved in trade and co-operation on many numerous aspects like, science and technology, defense, security, cross border terrorism, disasters and so on. It has opened up new dimensions of issues throughout the nation. It has raised the corruption, unemployment to the youth and rural people by cutting down their traditional occupations, crime rate has drastically increased, technology to a major extent is being misused by the youth in unproductive activities, rich culture of India is being influenced by the western culture and it has raised new conflicts between the parents and their children within the families, digital divide is rampant, climate change is variedly effecting each and everyone, electronic waste is causing various issues in India, inter-state river disputes, regionalism, special status, wage differences have been noticed drastically in the private sector, terrorism, naxalism, extremism, separatism etc. Bureaucracy in India is finding itself at cross roads due to increasing population and one hand and the dynamic functions it has to perform in this era of globalization.

## **DYNAMIC NATURE OF ISSUES IN RURAL AREAS AND BUREAUCRATIC RESPONSE**

It is well known fact that nearly eighty percent population resides in the rural areas in India. Till today few rural areas are not electrified, water issues are not tackled, corruption has become rampant in various departments as per the rankings of national and international organizations, diseases are increasing due to the establishment of industries, agricultural activities are severely becoming a victim due to climate change, repayment of loans have become difficulty due to increasing prices and low output in the agricultural sector, middle men or agents have increased like mushrooms and are acting as major agents between the customer/beneficiary and the bureaucrats and other officials, poverty is increasing due to low skilled workforce, low wages are offered by the corporate sector to the Indian employees, rural population that is ill educated and have ill knowledge of computers and internet are heavily dependent on the semi skilled and skilled operators to claim the online available programmes and in return have to pay for the services and it is further lowering their meager income, group conflicts have increased, politicians are using the rural people to pursue their own benefits etc. The bureaucracy has become busy in daily routine activities and is more concerned with the meetings with political representatives, files and records and so on. They rarely visit the rural areas to address the dynamic issues of the rural people.

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### ISSUES OBSERVED IN MEETING THE DYNAMIC NEEDS OF RURAL POPULATION

Several significant issues have been identified to overcome the dynamic needs of the rural population :

- Poor response to the problems of the rural population like drinking water provision, electricity, health matters, market needs, rural roads inside the villages, waste disposal, housing, unplanned structures etc.
- Political interference in the development activities has been observed in the reports submitted by the committees appointed from time to time.
- Inadequate financial resources to the villages is impeding their development.
- Corruption through middle men in having access of the benefits through the programmes of central and state government.
- Frequent transfers of the bureaucrats from one place to another thereby creating gap in understanding the issues of the particular areas.
- Inadequate compensation to the rural people who contribute their land for national development.
- Low wages to the rural people compared to the uniform wages paid in the urban areas.
- Routine paper work of the bureaucrats makes them to devote less towards the rural people and their problems.
- Bureaucrats of other states are unable to properly understand the issues of the rural population at their place of appointment in different state and the development of the rural population suffers due to this issue in India.
- Most of the bureaucrats are from different states and pay less heed towards the local issues and thereby this process hinders the development of the rural areas.
- Many foreign companies are least bothered about the economic development of the rural population of India where they have established their industries and companies and the concept of corporate responsibility is looked as just a myth in Indian context by the rural population.
- Red-tapism is rampant in each and every work of development in the rural India.
- Semi-literacy, lack of knowledge in ICT (Information and Communication Technology) is hampering the development of the rural population.
- The non-governmental organizations with the support of the government directly or indirectly and confined to very limited number of the functions and the development of the rural people is very low in all the fields.
- The political leaders are busy in their party duties and remember about the issues in rural areas once the elections are announced once in five years.
- Educated youth in the rural areas are diverted to migrate to the urban areas and earn good salary rather than worry about the development of their village and bring the issues of the rural areas to the forefront of the concerned officials.
- Huge gap exists between the rural population and the government officials who are responsible in their jurisdiction to solve the issues of the rural people.

### SUGGESTIONS

The suggestions for the above mentioned issues are as follows:

- Bureaucrats should personally observe the developmental activities in rural areas and the number of officials should be increased based on villages, talukas and districts.
- Delay in sanctioning grants and implementation should be strictly dealt with strict action and monitoring of the works should be frequent as in the private sector management.
- Interaction between the officials of different departments, political leaders, non-governmental organizations, corporate sector and local leaders should effectively participate in discussions and monthly progress of the works should be reported to the local people and to the higher authorities.

- Industries and companies surrounding villages should organize job melas in the rural areas and provide the jobs to the rural people as per their capability and talent.
- Skill training centers should be opened in the rural areas because it will reduce the travelling expenditure of the rural people.
- State, national and international companies and industries should take up the economic developmental activities in the rural areas surrounding them as part of their corporate responsibility.
- The government should appoint new cadre of observers whose job should be to monitor and observe the developmental activities in rural areas and thereby report it the concerned officials to tackle the backwardness in many sectors in rural areas.
- The bureaucrats of their own state should be given preference to work in their state because they will have adequate knowledge about the local issues than the bureaucrats from other states.
- People's involvement in the governmental schemes should be made through scheme melas once in a week in the local Panchayat offices so that the eligible rural population gets the benefits of the scheme.
- The role of middle men and corruption should be eliminated through framing strict rules and regulations.
- Equal wages for equal work in the private sector should be monitored and the workers organizations should be made to highlight the indifference in payment of wages by any employer to the notice of the concerned officials and strict action should be taken against them and compensation should be paid to the affected person or people.
- The budget grant should be increased to the rural areas based on their requirement of development in various sectors.
- Political interference on the bureaucratic functioning for their own benefits should be monitored and controlled for the sake of holistic development.
- Supply of electricity should be increased in the rural areas and for agricultural activities 24 x 7 for the growth of agricultural activities and to control the farmer suicides in the rural areas.
- Issues related to health should be frequently monitored and education for healthy living should be provided to them voluntarily through the involvement of the non-governmental organizations by funding them.
- Every village should be provided a local godown based on caste in order to avoid conflicts after harvest and to safeguard the produce for the sake of national development.
- Minimum support prices for the agricultural produce should be enhanced by the government agencies.
- Rural roads leading to villages and within the villages should be broadened and provision of drinking water and water for daily usage should be provided to the rural people throughout the country.
- Bureaucrats should be made to stay at the different caste people's houses for two to three days once in a month so that they understand the issues of the rural people in their daily lives.
- Planned extension of the rural areas should be provided to avoid the conflicts within the rural areas.
- Extension in provision of housing and employment opportunities to the unemployed youth should be increased in the rural areas.

## CONCLUSION

In India since 1990s onwards the development either in infrastructure, industrialization, basic services, transportation, health, education, employment opportunities, active participation by the people and so on has been observed mainly in the urban areas. The rural areas that comprise nearly eighty per cent of the population are facing huge issues in different seasons due to lack of basic services as per their needs like 24 x 7 electricity, rural roads, housing, hospitals with adequate staff, education, skill development, employment opportunities, maintenance of toilets, disposal of stored solid waste, drinking water facilities, lack of appropriate centers for distribution of seeds and fertilizers, increasing middle men, red tapism in implementation and so on. The rural areas are not only experiencing digital divide but also the difference in

each and every sector as compared to the urban areas. It is bureaucracy that has to stand up to the cause of socio-economic development of the rural areas but it is observed that the bureaucrats find least time due to their daily routine duties and during their tenure at a particular point of posting rarely find some time to visit the rural people and enquire about their welfare through the schemes implemented by the government. The holistic development of the rural areas should be considered as a priority and the bureaucracy should be made to monitor the development that they implement by personally visiting the households from time to time and along with that the rural masses should be encouraged to participate in the schemes that are meant for their holistic development.

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