

Public Policy and Governance: How Public Policy Play Role in Ensuring Good Governance (With Reference of Public Policies by NDA-IInd)

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Key Words : Public policy, Good Goernance

Governance is considered good, when Public policies or decisions by the Government in a particular country, are made or implemented for the sake of welfare or development of its people. The term public policy refers to the decisions by the officials, what David Easton calls the “authorities” in a political system. Easton, further has defined that – “Public policy as the ‘authoritative allocation of values for the whole society’ . According to him “Public policies are formulated by authorities with the objective of welfare or development of public”. J. Dewy (1927) said that-“Public Policy focuses on the public or its problems. If Governance is capable to resolve these public problems, than it will lead the ideal of Good Governance”.

In the contemporary era, Governance has become a significant issue of concern among the democratic republican countries of the world. As Governance is seen as far as in the developmental discourse and in it’s good form it is regarded as pre-requisite for a peaceful open world. The term “Governance” refers to ‘the Management’ as it stands for the management in each dimension (such as the politics, social, economic, cultural etc.) of a human life. Such dimensions are considered as the crucial elements in formulating any developmental strategy.

In International Development Literature the term Good Governance is used in term to describe that – “How Public Institutions conduct public affairs and manage

public resources?”. Mercy Crops in ‘Guide to Good Governance Programming’ has defined that – “Good Governance Programming is a resource for designing, planning, implementing and devaluating Governance programs and activities with Governments”.

Whether the term “Good Governance” is a mixture of two words as Good + Governance, which simply refers to ‘a good or effective management’ of every sphere in a particular country by it’s Public Institutions and Governmental organs. Governance in the modern time has been seen as the “Management” in every sphere of a particular country. And government is considered as the key actor in governance. “Public policy is whatever governments choose to do or not to do” (Thomas Dye, 1980).

However sometimes Government and Governance, both are seen as complementary to each other, but the fact is that both are different. As the former is concerned with the political sphere or governmental organs and the second one includes every sphere, political, social, economic or cultural spheres of a country.

The History is witness that it was the Economic policies, responsible for the origin of concept of Good Governance, for example- in India, after Economic Reforms of 1991 the concern of the concerned governments went towards the ideal of Good Governance in the country and then present government tried to make its policy agenda for it. As, the process of making and

implementation of public policy, was seen enough to know that- how a government is working for its individuals within or outside the country. However the concept of Governance is not new it is old as human civilization itself, as most of the political thinkers like Kautilya, Aristotle, Plato has talked about it. Samuel P. Huntington's "third-waves of democratization" made Good Governance principles universally adopted. Thus, after the Cold War, in the last decade of 20th and the first decade of 21st century, Good Governance has been the concerning issue for the democratic republican countries.

Dr. Dinesh Arora (2016) has defined that "Good Governance has become a perfect sound bite for the present age. All governments swear by it as their policies and programs in their particular regime, consists the ideal of it. For the donor agencies and the civil society organizations, Good Governance has become a fashionable buzzword".

In the era of Globalization, Public policy makers, the bureaucrats keep in mind while framing a policy that How to ensure public welfare or than How to get public favour for the government, which is in power. Thus Good Governance can be called as effect of Good Public policy making or implementation, for good of the particular country.

If a government is approaching to bring the ideal of Good Governance in the country, then it will make its powerful impact on the bureaucrats or public policy makers to make the policies or programs, which would capable to fulfill the criteria of a Good Governance. Governance is considered good, when Public policies or decisions by the Government in a particular country, are made or implemented for the sake of welfare or development of its people. As Vivek Chopra has classified the two forms of Governance as the (1) Good or (2) Bad. He further has defined that – If it would able to make good effect and result than it is a 'Good Governance' and if it would make bad and wrong impact than it is a 'Bad Governance'.

Lewis T. Preston (1991) has defined that "Good governance is an essential complement to sound economic policies. Efficient and accountable management by the public sector and a predictable and transparent policy framework are critical to the efficiency of markets and governments, and hence to economic development".

Further we can add that in order to ensure 'Good Governance' the process of making or implementing the public policies, would be accountable, transparent, just,

responsive, inclusive, effective and efficient. As Good Governance has been the emerging prime and the foremost goal of every democratic republican country, around the world as they set their Public policy agendas to reach it.

Today, almost all major Public development Institutions claims that- to promote Good Governance is an important part of their Public development agendas. To know outcomes of these development agendas, two approaches exist, as defined by Harold Laswell, as

- (i) Policy Process and
- (ii) Policy Analysis.

In the present time globalization, defense, environmental protection, industrial or infrastructural development, international cooperation or coordination, science and technology and so on are some of the issues, where Public policy makers may have more concern, because such issues are capable to make parameters of inclusive growth and development in a particular regime. However, Good Governance is not only the symbol to present the status of sustainable development of a country, but it also has become the issue of dignity or image for the countries. In the democratic country like India, Public Policies are articulated and implemented by the central or state government, for the development and welfare of the people. A democratic government, who believes in ideal of Good Governance launches various public policies targeting at-

- Enhancing effectiveness and efficiency of administration.
- Improving quality of individual's life
- Establishing legitimacy and credibility of institution.
- Securing freedom of information and expression.
- Providing citizen-caring administration.
- Ensuring accountability.
- Using IT-based services to improve citizen-government interface.
- Improving productivity of employees.
- Promoting organizational pluralism.

Generally all public policies are made or implemented with a specific purpose, for example- Smart City Mission (2015) was launched by the present NDA- 11nd Government with the purpose to develop hundred model cities all over the country making them citizen friendly and sustainable. Like this NDA-11nd government within its three years term (2014 to 2017) has launched various policies and programs approaching to the Good

Governance in the country, like- Demonetization, 2016 (against black money and corruption), GST (Goods and Services tax Acts, 2017 (or transparency in taxation), The Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets (Imposition of Tax) Act, 2015, The Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Development (AMRUT) Yojana (to develop infrastructure in 500 towns and cities by 2020), The Setu Bharatam Project and Bharatmala to connect each corner of the country), The National Civil Aviation Policy with UDAN (Ude Deshka Aam Nagrik) (to create an ecosystem to make flying affordable for the masses), Make in India, Start-up India and so on. NDA Government propounded “Sathhain Vishwashain, ho Raha Vikashhain” for symbolizing the government’s achievement in bringing Good Governance in the country. Public Policy also reflects the attitude of the government to its people like-Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTC), Pradhan Mantri Matritva Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), revised Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), One Stop Centre (OSC), Women Helpline Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), Mahila- E-Haat Programme, Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK) Scheme, Pardhan Mantri Mudra Yojana etc. such public policies are oriented to the Indian women, not for women from a particular community.

Indicators of the Success and Failure of Public Policies:

The outcomes of such Public Policies may be find out through some indicators such as- GDP (Gross Domestic Products) Growth Rate, WPI (Wholesale Price Index), CAD (Current Account Deficit) etc. the outcomes of public policy reflects in the following -

- Socio- Economic Indicators (Indexes of GDP, WPI, CAD etc.)
- Effect on living- standard of targeted people (in terms of their income and employment opportunities)
- The Changes in Quality of life of beneficiaries (drinking water supply, Primary healthcare facilities, Sanitation amenities or transport connectivity)
- Changes in the Social status of the beneficiaries etc.

Thus, the effects on the social, political and

economic conditions of the targeted beneficiaries and the development indexes reflect the outcomes of any public policy.

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