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“Dharma is to protect the Needy”

Article on

Impact of Globalisation on Public Administration;

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Abstract

Globalisation has given birth to a new world which works as a unit, the countries at the present time have become interdependent and work in the same way to achieve their objectives with collective means. Not only the countries in contemporary time have evolved through technological advancements but the administration or government machinery also has adapted itself with the changing time and its requirement. The main objective of this article is to analyse the numerous implications of globalisation on the government and the decision making authorities of our country- India. It will further evaluate the transformation of governance to e-governance. It will also discuss the conventional approach of public administration and try to trace the transformation of old notion of sovereignty of state with the new meaning assigned to it in the present time.

Introduction

Globalisation as a process affects many dynamics of nation states. On one hand while it's sovereignty is narrowed down, on the other hand the functions and roles have undergone various changes. As we start further it is vital to know about the terms "Globalisation and Public Administration", the former can be defined as the development towards the extension of financial and social exercises between nations through the spread of corporate organizations which prompts the contracting of the world in monetary terms." In short, we can infer that globalisation facilitates interaction of two nation states on worldwide sphere. Whereas public Administration in short can be defined as a cooperative effort of people in authoritative positions who through various levels (Central, State, District) work in order to fulfil developmental goals in Public Interest.

According to F.A. Nigro: "Public Administration is a cooperative effort of governmental organizations which through it's all the three branches (Legislative, Executive and Judicial) performs an important role in the Policy formulations. It is not same as Private Administration but is closely related with numerous private individual and groups who work to provide services to the society."¹

¹ P.17, Meaning of Public Administration, Quest Journals; Journal of Research in Humanities and Social Science Volume 4 ~ Issue 6 (2016) pp: 15-20 ISSN(Online) : 2321-9467

The above definition of scholar Felix Anthony Nigro describes the comprehensive nature of public administration and has adequately summed up all the important functions of Administration. It talks about how the process of Public Administration is a group effort undertaken by the different branches of government which makes important policies for the general welfare of the nation. After the introduction of New Economic Policies India went through sea-change in response to the phase of rapidly fluctuating social, economic and political scene as a subsequent result of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization. The new trend of globalized world however narrowed down the scope of sovereignty of a state and on the other hand reduced its functions. The regulatory role of state was now reduced only as a watchman or facilitator in the day by day changing market forces. Not only the socio-economic function of state was changed but also the administrative mechanism saw a change. Soon after India opened its economy for the foreign states, the conventional concept of Public Administration was transformed into New Public Management (NPM). According to this new concept the state was supposed to work as a private sector, it advocates for the treatment of citizens as customers, therefore it was nothing but a system of business organisation within the shell of Public sector. The main aim of NPM was to convert the public services into more business like. As any business entity focuses upon the likes and dislikes of its customers to thrive in market, the same approach was to be followed by the administrators while laying down policies by keeping the citizens at the core of such decisions. As an effort to make public services more efficient, practices of private sectors were adopted and Citizens were given more importance who were the ultimate recipients of the services.

Changing role of State

The traditional role of state has changed manifold, the market-based approach of state was accompanied by the Competition state, which encourages initiative by public, deregulation and privatisation. Because of this new approach more emphasis was put on the overall income and profit generation by the state by way of competing in the national and international markets. However, the notion of general welfare went missing, hence there was a need to recast the function of state again so that with reasonable regulations it could easily protect the interests of the important stakeholders.²

² P.6; Unit 14, Impact of Globalization on Public Administration, Study Material, IGNOU

Globalisation has undeniably compressed the World and has changed the role of the state to some extent. According to the original role of state which emanated from the Westphalian Model, a state was portrayed as an entity bestowed with enormous powers and absolute sovereignty. But with the changing time and as an actor under global politics, the current roles are different.

By pooling away its sovereignty by way of International treaties and conventions, the sovereignty from its absolute nature has now become relative. The laws are similar across different countries so that international trade and commerce is facilitated without any hindrance. In the present time it is not the "Political Progression" but the "Economic Advancement" which indicates how powerful a country is.

The public institutions also adapted themselves with the changing environment, public administration traditionally was supposed to promote public interest. But with the introduction of NPM as discussed earlier now required management to be deregulated, with an aim to be fulfilled, characterised by the willingness to take risk and which rewarded performance. The form of governance too changed with NPM, earlier there was a concept of "Good Governance" which meant a public service which is efficient, reliable judicial system and such an administration process which is answerable to public. With globalisation came the concept of E-Governance which is known for its speed and transparency. Now with just a single click any information regarding different ministries can be accessed. With the introduction of internet, public administration became responsive and for the citizens the services became more accessible.

In the year 1994 a few financial specialists in India suggested advancing a world view of 'Socially Responsible Market Economy' (SRME), which tries to reorient the part of the State and joint sectors. In joint cooperation which seeks to work for employment generation, growth of human resources. The SRME accentuates on self-restraint, peer pressing factor and adherence to implicit rules by every single financial player of economic market. These codes are expected to be trailed by completely concerned segments of the general public mirroring their socially capable behaviour in an unregulated economy. The State is required to assume a balancing role in the market driven economy. Therefore, the role of state was altered in many ways.

The concept of sovereignty of state

The expression of sovereignty finds its roots in the French term “Souverain” which means that a supreme ruler is not answerable to anyone except the almighty. According to the classical notion of sovereignty there exist dual type of sovereignty one is known as the Internal and other is External sovereignty, we will only consider the external sovereignty of a state. Traditionally the notion of external sovereignty of a state meant legitimate independence from all the external powers or foreign states and the right to protect its territory from all external interference. Earlier the states were not obliged to keep peace and the right of a state to engage into wars was an important element of sovereignty.

The main impact of globalisation on the sovereignty of a state can be analysed by seeing the limited role of States in commercial relations. By the introduction of liberalisation and privatisation, economic relations of state saw a downfall. The downfall was a result of inability of the public sector in furnishing aspired goods and services for the citizens.

With the emergence of international economic organizations like ASEAN, SAARC, EU, APEC etc whose decisions are binding upon the member states further limited their sovereignty. Similarly, due to expanded cross border inter-dependence the states are obligated to accept international instructions by the United Nations, World Bank, WTO etc. To observe peace globally.

However, in the present time anti sovereign treaties have been signed by the states to observe peace and prevent wars, this is also an important factor of globalisation which bounded the sovereign nation states with the international laws. As an outcome the absolute sovereignty was substituted by relative sovereignty, by limiting the freedom of one nation by the freedom of another.³

Post Globalisation Changes

Globalization has profoundly changed the nature and extent of public management. It has moved Centre of power from the capital of the countries to the foreign capitals. Important decisions

³ P. 150, Transformation in the concept of Sovereignty, Journal of International Relations and Foreign Policy June 2014, Vol. 2, No. 2, pp. 147-165; ISSN: 2333-5866 (Print), 2333-5874 (Online)

regarding investment, production, trade etc. are now taken by multinational companies as a result the hegemony of state governments has been heavily impeded. If more stringent laws are passed to check the activities of MNCs they shift their operations in countries with weak regulations, this new emerging power tussle puts the interests of small businesses and citizens at risk. Globalization has brought practically all the significant states under one major umbrella, administration of each state is available to the administrative structures of different states. Further due to extra variety of resources It has prompted extra demand by individuals from their own Government and because of this expanded interest there is public discontent, if these interest are not satisfied. The growing impact of MNC's and corporates on public administration of country is the favourable ground of corruption, inefficiency and predominance of market economy.

Globalization has provided connectedness, communications and new styles of integration by means of the internet, e-governance and administration of organizations worldwide. The influence of globalization on public management differs from country to country it is different in western countries from non-western countries, developed and emerging nations. International forces brought in fundamental changes in political and administrative systems. The twenty first century is defined by instantaneous modification, globalization, hyper-competition and hyper-unpredictability. The public administrators cannot depend upon the success of the standard systems of governance during this chaotic environment. There are threats of growing poverty, insecurity, terrorism, conflict, war and unemployment. All of those have increased under the emerging new world order, therefore, there should be more global integration (New Technologies and Globalization: Public Administration Report, 2019). Nonetheless, Globalization on the other hand has assisted several developing countries by bringing in opportunities of economic and technological advancements. No country can function in vacuum as no one can ever be self sufficient with globalization countries now have become interdependent and work collectively towards common goals. With it's help developing country like ours is able to reap the benefits of latest technology and treading the way towards more growth.

Conclusion

The conventional Public Administration has undergone metamorphosis by assimilating the changes of rapidly growing global world. It cannot be denied that globalisation has helped in the growth and development of many under developed countries and is still doing its job. All the

technological advancements which we are witnessing are a by product of this phenomenal development. However, due to difference in ethnic and cultural ethos of various countries the outcomes of globalization have varied. The process of globalisation has so far transformed many lives through social, economic, legal and administrative changes. As we saw Indian administration witnessed massive change after it was globalised in the year 1991. The significance of accountability and transparency reached new heights and masses are now encouraged to participate in the developmental processes. There is no doubt in the fact that communication process was developed and India saw the growth of Information and technology services similarly the new form of governance came into existence. There are both the negative and positive sides of everything, nothing is perfect. Therefore, globalisation also comes with certain drawbacks, due to the entry of MNC's in the internal markets the formation of cartels is inevitable, unemployment and poverty also accompanies globalisation.

