

Section III : Public Administration

Introduction



Political Science and Public Administration share the same goal. Both seek to learn the political, social and economic dynamics of the society and apply that knowledge to benefit the good of all. Political science creates a policy, public administration implements it. The administration of national, state and local government institutions is called public administration.

What then is public administration? There are two aspects to public administration.

(i) One is a general aspect. It focuses on the following:

- Planning the outline of things to be done.
- Creating a structure of organisation to implement the decisions.
- Appointing people to do the work.
- Coordinating the work to ensure that it is done properly.
- Provide the finance to do the activity.

(ii) The second is a specialised aspect.

There are many specialised functions like maintaining law and order; providing education; ensuring public health; promoting agriculture; providing social security; etc. Each of these is a specialised activity requiring special skills. For example, public health requires doctors, law and order requires police. This is also the task of public administration.

When the administration of these activities is carried out by the government, we use the word public administration. In case of private companies or any non-governmental organisations, the word used would be private administration or business administration. Thus, a District Collector, Tehisldar, Block Development Officer, Police Officer, Anganwadi Worker, etc. would be examples of those who are part of public administration in India.

Public Administration as a discipline was born in the United States. Woodrow Wilson was the first to emphasise the need for the study of public administration as a subject. In India references to how the government should function and how to administer the countries have been in existence since ancient times. Some examples are Kautilya's Arthashastra, Chatrapati Shivaj Maharaj's Adnyapatra or in the system of administration introduced by the Mughals. The British introduced the Indian Civil Service and brought in an All India system of administration. Independent India has the Indian Administrative Service and also the State Administrative Service.

Today the government has become more complex. It undertakes various activities that go beyond the simple perspective of administration. The new approach to understand government activities is now called Public Policy. In developing countries like India, approach to Public Administration and Public Policy has undergone some changes. The focus is on issues of development. The framework used for this is called Development Administration. Development administration focuses on the socio-political and socio-economic development of the country. Its stress is on the projects, programmes and policies that are aimed at securing the objective of development.

The two chapters in this section are as follows :

Chapter VII : Public Administration : This introduces the subject of public administration. It explains the relationship between political science and public administration. The chapter also goes into the scope of the subject of public administration and introduces the concept of public policy.

Chapter VIII : Development Administration : The traditional approach of public administration has been bound by rules, law and hierarchy. While this approach is not wrong, sometimes it creates delays and obstacles that are called 'red tape'. It is necessary to have innovation in planning and try to create a better society. This approach is called Development Administration. This chapter also focuses on the manner in which development administration is implemented in India.