



Multilevel System of Educational Administration: A Comparative Study of Some Developed and Some Developing Countries

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Abstract

Educational administration is regarded as total processes inclusive of all responsibilities and functions necessary for running the school. It provides and manages various elements of the teaching-learning situation such as the learners, the teachers, the curriculum and the socio-physical environment. There are different functions of administration in school management program. These are planning, organizing, directing and controlling. In the absence of these functions, the school cannot function effectively. In this paper author will try to discuss about the multilevel educational administration system among United States of America and Japan (as developed countries) on one hand and India and Pakistan (As developing countries). This paper also will try to compare the educational administration among these four countries.

Keywords

Educational administration, decentralization, multilevel system, deconcentration, devolution

Introduction

Education is of paramount importance to an individual as well as society. No matter which region or country we are living in, we must preserve our education system so that it helps us in preserving our knowledge. Educational Administration is regarded as the process of integrating the appropriate human and material resources that are made available and made effective for achieving the purposes of a programme of an educational institution. The term "Administration" doesn't refer to any single process or act. It is like a broad umbrella encompassing a number of processes such as: planning, organizing, directing, coordinating, controlling and evaluating the performance. The same situation occurs in the field of educational administration. The concept of educational administration is applicable in case of an educational organization which has certain purposes or goals to fulfill. In order to achieve these purposes or goals, the head of the educational organization plans carefully various programmes and activities.

Objectives

1. To explain the meaning/ concept of Educational Administration
2. To discuss the major functions of Educational Administration
3. To describe the evolution of concept of Management in Education
4. To explain the educational administration of USA
5. To describe the educational administration of Japan
6. To enumerate the educational administration of India
7. To explain the educational administration of Pakistan
8. To compare the educational administration of developed and developing Countries

Methodology

As the study is merely descriptive in nature the investigator has made an honest attempt to study the various relevant books/Journals/various website for the information regarding the educational administrative systems prevailing different countries. The investigator has tried his utmost to make the study as objective as possible by employing different previous studies and information available on internet.

Major Functions of Educational Administration

Some of the major functions of educational administration are as follows:

1. Planning
2. Organizing
3. Directing
4. Controlling

Planning:

Planning is an essential component. It is an useful exercise to be undertaken by the administrators. It involves systematic, organized and an articulated scheme of working.

Organizing:

Organization is also an important function of good administration. The effective and efficient work of the school depends upon the good organization. The essential elements of the organization are the people: what they do and how they work together.

Directing:

Direction is an important function of educational administration. Direction involves getting the work done through instructions and orders. There should be proper supervision, motivation and communication on the part of the administrator for getting the work done.

Controlling:

Controlling involves measuring and monitoring performance, comparing results with plans and taking corrective action when required. It indicates how far the goals have been achieved and to what extent there is deviation from the plans. So, the administration is concerned with managing resources, allocating tasks, making decisions and solving problems. For effective organization, good administration should involve planning, organizing, directing, motivating, controlling and decision-making.

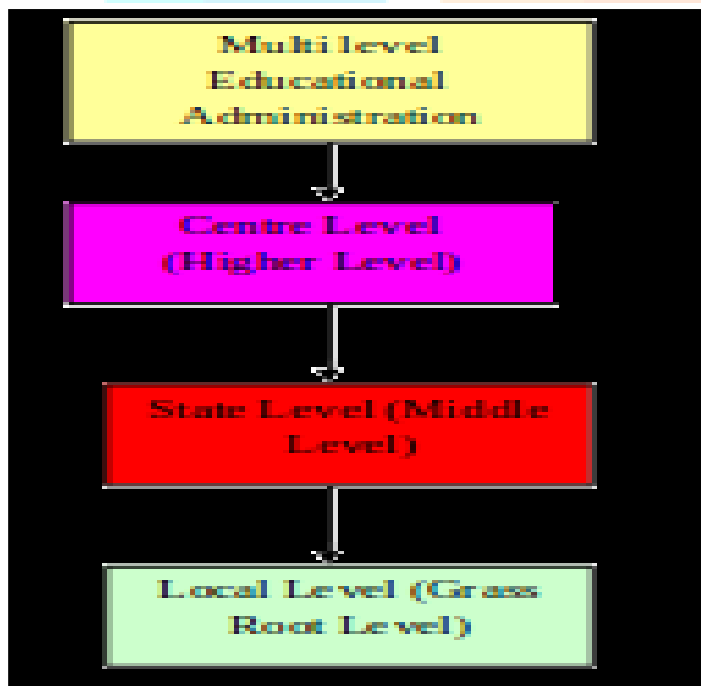
Evolution of Concept of Management in Education

Educational management as a field of study and practice was derived from management principles first applied to industry and commerce, mainly in the United States. Theory development largely involved the application of industrial models to educational settings. By the 21st century the main theories, had either been developed in the educational context or had been adapted from industrial models to meet the specific requirements of schools and colleges. Educational management has progressed from being a new field dependent upon ideas developed in other settings to become an established field with its own theories and research.

Concept of Multi Level Educational Administration in Different Countries

Education can transform a person to lead a better life and also helps in maintaining social well-being of the society. Education helps a person to show his best with their mind and spirit. It gives a lot of knowledge in various aspects. Education is also important for a country to grow. That is why every country should pay more attention for its educational administration. As we know that the principle of decentralization is also concerned with effective administration.

Decentralization is defined as the transfer of decision-making authority closer to the consumer or beneficiary. This can take the form of transferring powers to lower levels of an organization, which is called deconcentration or administrative decentralization. A popular form of deconcentration in education is to give additional responsibilities to the schools. Another form of decentralization, also called devolution, entails transferring powers to lower levels of government. Most often, educational responsibilities are transferred to general-purpose governments at the regional or local levels. As you can see in the picture, that in multi-level educational administration there are three levels - top, middle and lower.



Multiple levels of educational administration

Example of the decentralization of basic education to local (district) level governments is India and Pakistan. In rare cases additional responsibilities are given to single-purpose governments, such as the local school district in the United States. In France, education is highly centralized at the level of the national government, whereas in Canada the national government does not even have an education ministry, and in the United States education is mainly the responsibility of local school districts. Many developing

countries and countries in transition to market economies have highly centralized government administration of education and other public services.

Comparative Study of Educational Administration in Some Developed Countries

Educational Administration in the United States of America

The United States Department of Education is a Cabinet-level department of the United States government. The Department of Education is administered by the United States Secretary of Education. The primary functions of the Department of Education are to establish policy, administer and coordinate most federal assistance to education and to collect data of US schools. The Department of Education does not establish schools or colleges. The Department's mission is, to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

Regulating bodies and their role concerned with educational administration and coordination

United States Department of Education

The Executive Branch agency responsible for federal education programs of all types and levels and headed by the Secretary of Education is a Presidential Cabinet appointment. The Department of Education does not function as a governing body but operates in cooperation with state and local authorities.

Association of Governing Boards (AGB) of Universities and Colleges

The AGB is a membership organization of the governing boards of higher education institutions, both public and private. It does not exercise control over these boards, but rather represents their interests and provides information and training materials.

Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)

The ACCT functions as a representational organization for members of governing boards of public community colleges and state and local community college systems.

National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE)

The main role of this body is to coordinate State Boards of Education.

National Association of State Directors of Vocational and Technical Education (NASDVTE)

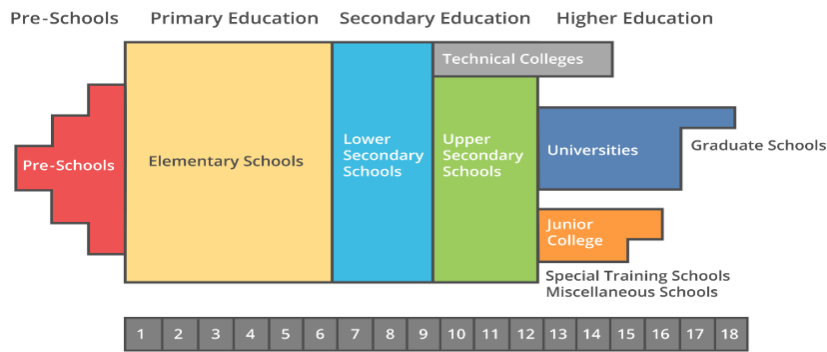
This body coordinates and represents the state and territorial officials and offices that oversee vocational education programs.

The other bodies which are deeply concerned with educational administration in U.S.A are:

American Council on Education (ACE) , American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) etc.

Educational Administration in Japan

After the Meiji Restoration in 1868, education in Japan was implemented and taken forward within a centralized system as a matter of national policy aimed at laying the foundation for the establishment of Japan as a modern state. However, after the end of World War II, as one element of democratic reform, a process of educational reform was carried out aimed at the democratization and decentralization of education.



Boards of Education

The bodies that bear responsibility for educational administration in Japan at local government level are prefectures and municipalities (cities, wards, towns and villages) as well as boards of education, which perform a leading role and are established as representative councils within each local public body to deal with educational matters.

Superintendent of the Board of Education

A superintendent of education is placed in charge of all the duties pertaining to the authority of a board of education to be carried out under the direction and supervision of the board members. The following duties are stipulated in Article 23 of the Local Education Administration Law as falling within the professional authority of the board of education. The main duties include

- Matters pertaining to school education.
- Matters pertaining to the education of young people and of women, and to the running of citizens’ halls and other aspects of social education.
- Matters pertaining to the structural organization of schools, the curriculum, learning guidance, pupil guidance, and professional duties, etc.

The principles of the division of responsibilities between the State and local public bodies are defined in the Local Autonomy Law. It is stipulated as a basic principle of the division of responsibilities between the State and local public bodies that “the task of a local public body shall be to promote the welfare of its residents, for which purpose it shall carry out a wide range of tasks in the autonomous and comprehensive performance of local public administration”.

Role of the Central Government

The role of central government in compulsory education is firstly to establish the fundamental framework of the system of school education. Central government establishes criteria for compulsory education over the whole of Japan. In addition to the above, central government also establishes criteria for the organization of classes into grades and for the permitted number of teachers in respect of elementary and junior high schools.

Role of local public bodies in educational administration in Japan

In the field of educational administration, a major supporting pillar, which stands alongside school education, is social education. In the Fundamental Law of Education, it is stipulated that: “With a need to responding to the desires of the individual or the needs of society, education carried out within the setting of society shall be encouraged by the state and by local public bodies.” (Fundamental Law of Education, Article 12).

Some features of Educational Administration observed in developed countries

The features characterizing educational administration and management in developed countries are obviously a result of national traditions and history, on one hand, and of the values and patterns of different models of organization which presently dominate the

public sector, on the other. The division of tasks and responsibilities between the State, local authorities, educational institutions and non governmental agents, therefore, offers a rather confusing picture in most western societies today. The main features of educational administration observed in developed countries are stated as follows:

1. From centralized or decentralized administration to a hybrid administrative system

Both centralized systems, such as the French, and decentralized systems, such as the British, have in recent years tried to move towards what might be called 'hybrid' administrative systems. In this system the management of activities is decentralized, and responsibility is given to individual schools and universities while the State has the role of the setting of educational objectives, norms and rules addressing national policy issues, and the monitoring of the overall education system.

2. From a rigid concept and model of school management to bureaucratic centralism

In some countries, schools are encouraged to compete for excellence and achievement in the area of school management. In France, for example, the 'education projects' approach for secondary schools relies heavily on the 'producers' and 'consumers' of education in the definition of their targets and aims for each school.

3. Predominantly rigid and unified delivery systems of education and training

Controlled by the State or very few (specialized) institutions/agencies, to increasingly diverse delivery systems to which a wide variety and growing number of agencies and actors (that are not necessarily specialized in education services only) contribute on more or less ad hoc basis. One may notably refer in this respect to the increasingly important role of public and private mass media in the production and dissemination of education programs and materials (for example United Kingdom).

4. Quality control and regulation

Some countries have declared the importance they attach to educational purposes of evaluation (shifting emphasis in their concern from input to outcome) while others stress the need for higher accountability (where there is concern because the use of resources remains very much in demand). However, there seems to be an agreement for the need to strengthen the capacity of the State to regulate the system and ensure quality control (by using evaluation to that end) and at the same time for reducing its authority for direct management.

Comparative Study of Educational Administration in Some Developing Countries

Educational Administration in India

Ministry for Education

The main body to regulate educational administration in India is Ministry of Education. The Indian government is quasi federal in nature. The union government and the state government together are responsible for the development of education in the country. Hence separate ministries are formed for smooth functioning of the departments. The main ministry is Central Ministry.

On 26th September 1985 the government of India created a new ministry in the name of Ministry of Human Resource Development. This ministry is responsible for educational development of the country. The ministry has two departments, i.e. Department of School Education & Literacy and Department of Higher Education. Under the Department of School Education & Literacy, there are two sub categories.

Elementary Education

At the pre-primary stage (0-6 years) there is the attempt to establish a linkage between Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and other development programs. The principle of decentralization has been extended to the management of primary education and Village Education Committees (VECs) have been set up in many parts of the country. These committees are responsible for the

enrolment and retention of children in schools, supervise the functioning of schools, check teacher absenteeism and mobilize additional resources for the schools.

Secondary Education and Adult Education

At the state level, it is usually the Department of Education that administers secondary education. At the national level, the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi runs the Kendriya Vidyalayas (Central Schools) while the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, New Delhi runs the Navodaya Vidyalayas, i.e., schools for talented rural children, The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), New Delhi functions under the overall supervision of the Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, and Government of India. There are Boards of Secondary Education in each state as well.

Under the Department of Higher Education, there are six sub categories namely.

1. University and Higher Education
2. Technical Education
3. Book Promotion and Copyright
4. Scholarships
5. Languages
6. Minority Education

There are also State Ministries which are involved in educational administration. The states of India have their separate ministries for education. The ministry for education of a particular state consists of a cabinet minister followed by a state minister. The state governments also formulate policies for education. In India some Statutory Councils and Apex Bodies are also related with administration of education. These councils or apex bodies are either established by the state governments or by the central government. They are responsible for recognition of courses, promotion of professional institutions and providing grants to undergraduate and postgraduate programs and various awards. The Important National councils of the country include:

1. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)
2. Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR)
3. National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE)
4. National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), etc.

At the state level, functions similar to the NCERT are performed by the SCERTs. The apex institution concerned with educational planning and administration is the National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA). This institution conducts research, organizes training, provides consultancy services and disseminates important information on innovations, changes and developments in the areas of planning and management. Many states are also in the process of setting up State Institutes of Educational Management and Training, to assist state level educational planning and training of educational planners and administrators.

Educational Administration in Pakistan

The division of responsibilities between the provinces and the centre are defined by the Constitution of Pakistan in 1973. The Federal Ministry of Education has the overall responsibility for the development and coordination of national policies, plans and programs in education including curriculum development, while implementation of the policies is the responsibility of the local administration. Each province has its own Department of Education. Educational institutions located in the federal capital territory are administered directly by the Ministry of Education

Educational Administration of School Education in Pakistan

Primary and Secondary education is provided by public and private schools as well as by Islamic Madaras. School education is organized by the Ministry of Education. The Curriculum Wing within the ministry formulates the national curriculum framework through a wide stakeholder consultation. The Inter Board Committee of

Chairmen (IBCC) controls the 26 boards of intermediate and secondary education. The boards, one federal and other provincial, affiliate schools, implement, regulate and monitor schemes of studies and curricula, and hold Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) exams.

Educational Administration of Private Education

Before 1972, private educational institutions constituted a substantial proportion of the total educational system of schools and colleges. In 1972 the Pakistan government nationalized all private educational institutions. Permission to set up educational institutions is granted either by the Ministry of Education or the respective Provincial Education Department. Registered private schools have to follow a government-prescribed curriculum.

Features of Educational Administration observed in developing countries

1. Decentralization

Most developing countries have decentralized some key functions and responsibilities to lower levels of administration. Many patterns or arrangements are observed in these countries. School based management, aimed at giving schools and communities more autonomy in decision making.

2. Growth of educational models

Most developing countries are emphasizing the virtues of choice and competition, either within the state sector or through an expanded role for the private sector. In many developing countries, low fee private schools are emerging as another source of choice and competition, often outside government regulation.

3. Public and private sector roles in provision and financing of education

As far as education sector management is concerned, most developing countries have involved the private sector in the financing and provision of education. Private sector involvement in education can be found in a variety of forms including: full fee private schools publicly supported and privately managed schools, community schools, and private funding (fees and donations) to public schools, and private tutoring.

4. Quality assurance system

There are generally three primary modes of quality assurance: assessment, audit and accreditation. These are all seen operating in the developing countries. The bodies overseeing these tasks differ greatly, however, depending on the country context. Some countries (for example Australia, India, New Zealand) have different agencies

for different levels of education while others have a central agency overseeing all of these tasks (like Thailand and Vietnam, etc.).

Summary

One of the greatest assets any country has, in developing its social health and its economic health, is its school systems. High-quality education leads to an educated work-force, thereby increasing economic capital in the improvement of country. An enlightened citizen is important to the welfare of a nation. In USA, Canada,

Australia, Japan and other developed countries, educational administrative systems are based mainly on the American models. In these countries administration institutes include public and private schools, technical education colleges, special education institutions and public and private universities. The main features in developing

countries are decentralization, involving grass root level structures and multi-level administration.

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