



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION: ITS EVOLVING ROLE IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM OF INDIA

Asit Kumar,

Joint Registrar

National Institute of Technology, Durgapur, India

Abstract: Education is one of the important pillars of national development. Be it at any level i.e., primary, secondary, or higher, a quality education enhances the understanding of a person towards oneself and the world as a whole. A good education system leads to increased output of the human capital which in turn promotes inclusive growth. Progress over the years has now made the education system more holistic and outcome-oriented with the potential aim of quality education. Especially in the post-globalization era in India, the policies of the government in education are more targeted towards “learner-centric education” rather than “teacher-centric education” and “global education” rather than “national education”. Various schemes and policies have been brought by the government for the development of education and therefore it now involves a big list of activities to be performed in the back end for appropriate management of the educational system. Under these circumstances, the public administration plays a pivotal role in the proper and result-oriented implementation of these schemes. Further, with the modernization of the educational system like digitalization and the introduction of ICT (Information and Communication Technology), the role of public administration in the educational system has evolved and become important.

Index Terms - Public Administration, Educational Administration, Quality Education, Globalization, Information and Communication Technology

INTRODUCTION

“Public Administration is the art and science of management applied to the affairs of the state”

- D. Waldo

Public Administration stands for two implications. First, it refers to the activity of administering the affairs for the governance, like enforcement of the law, etc. Second, it refers to a field of study, like that of sociology, political science, economics, etc. In this paper, we are focusing on Public Administration as an aspect of government activity. Public Administration is the combination of two words, viz, Public and Administration. The public is in the context of the government of a state. The administration is a derivation from the Latin word “Administer” which means ‘to manage’ or ‘to serve’. Therefore, in simple words, we can say that Public Administration is the management of government activities or government functions. It is the set of processes that are carried out in a specific ecological setting as a device for implementation of the government policies. The ultimate aim of the Public Administration is the welfare of the general public. Public Administration as an activity of governance is as old as the political society, it's been a tool of decision-making for political kingdoms and their rulers since the traditional period. ‘Arthashastra’, written by Kautilya, is often attributed as the oldest Indian book to guide Public Administrators.

In the context of an educational system, public administration refers to the welfare of the people associated with the educational system as a whole. Management of the general functions of an educational system, starting from the formulation of policies, their implementation, the admittance of students, recruitment of teaching and non-teaching staffs, personnel training & development programs, financial matters, hostels, classes, time table, transport, attendance, examinations, performance, library, grades, security, reports, salary and expenses, etc. All these activities within the educational system are included in the ambit of Public

Administration. Public Administration as the activity to manage the backend support in the education system is existed since the old times of Nalanda Mahavihara, a Buddhist monastic university in ancient Magadha, India and The Vikramshila Mahavihara, a great center of education during the reign of Pala Emperor Dharmapala (783 to 820 AD).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This paper has been written on the basis of the professional experience of the author, data collected from different research papers, publications, articles, national and international journals, reference books, newspapers, magazines, government websites and reports.

ROLE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE

Administration plays an important role in the efficient functioning of educational institutions. It is the starting point of the governance of the educational system that focuses on the formulation of policies and norms. Most of the functions of the Public Administration at the school and college level are the welfare functions that are essential and important for the proper functioning of the institution in particular and human capital growth in general. Teachers are there to provide the students with quality and outcome-oriented learning, and to do so they need backend support. Public Administration is that backend support that helps in proper utilization of workforce and materials for effective and well-organized teaching and learning in schools and colleges.

Public Administrators can handle the infrastructural needs of the institution and pay better attention to financial management. Looking at an educational system, financial management includes overseeing the funding for:

- Salaries of Teaching and Non-teaching employees.
- Research and Development grants, especially in Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs).
- Estate management, for example, Maintenance of the building and grounds.
- Student related programs, like, Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)
- Other supplies for smooth functioning, such as, Stationery, Computers & Accessories, etc.
- Other Miscellaneous functions.

Teachers in all cases are not that much trained to handle financial management and hence the specialized administrator looks at financial management as an important consideration in the smooth functioning of the educational institute.

Implementation of programs, schemes, laws of the government is also one of the major functions of Public Administration. Looking at the growing multidimensional focus of the Indian education system such that 'Samagra Shiksha – an integrated scheme for School Education', that subsumes the three Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE) with the main emphasis of the Scheme is on improving the quality of school education by focusing on the two T's – Teacher and Technology, the role of Public Administration and Public Administrators has been enlarged.

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, a flagship program of the Ministry of Education, GOI, aims to link the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) with a set of at least (5) villages so that these institutions can contribute to the economic and social betterment of those village communities using their knowledge domain. An administrator can build a positive relationship with these village communities and strengthen the implementation of this scheme. They also handle the overall administrative works, like, Budgeting, holistic development programs for sanitization of the village community, etc.

The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, launched by the Government of India, with an aim to introduce several changes in the Indian education system - from the school to college level. NEP 2020 also focuses on the educational administration, like, it talks about establishing some authorities and autonomous bodies, such as a new accreditation framework and an independent authority to regulate both public and private schools, National Research Foundation for fostering a strong research culture and building research capacity, Higher Education Commission of India (HECI), as a single umbrella body for governance, regulation, accreditation and maintenance of academic standards of entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education, etc. In view of these developments, the role of the Public Administrators within the educational system becomes more inclusive and evolving with a new set of responsibilities. Not only this, other initiatives within the NEP 2020, like the introduction of ICT in the educational system, new curriculum development with a focus on coding and vocational integration, flexible, holistic, multidimensional degrees, etc., gradually develops the role of public Administrators within the educational system.

A major focus area of Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs) is research and development to meet India's future needs. In order to achieve this, they conduct meaningful education, original research of the highest standards, and leadership in technological innovation for the industrial development of the country. This is done by a specialized group of administrators who can deal with the administrative and financial aspects of sponsored research, industrial consultancy, testing and certification, and continuing education. They act as a facilitating unit in providing assistance for the school members, teachers, researchers of the Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs) in communicating with the external sponsors, both national and international, and maintaining the accounts from pre-award to post-award stage of the project in order that the researchers can freely specialize in their work and expedite the research activities.

Nowadays, accreditation and statutory compliance are vital aspects when it comes to maintaining the quality and outcome-oriented education standards prescribed by the government. For instance, The Performance Grading Index (PGI), a tool to provide insights on the status of school education in States and UTs including key levers that drive their performance and important areas for improvement, National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), an attempt by the government to rank Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in India, on basis of five (05) assessment parameters, certifications from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) are some of such steps to maintain the standard of the education system. These initiatives push the schools and colleges to enhance their standards of teaching & learning, research and industry outreach and this is often where efficient public administrators play an important role. They lookout for the required compliances and maintain the assessment parameters up to the mark in order that the institute can provide the very best standard of learning outcomes.

Management of general administrative functions in an educational system such that, appointments, promotions, retirement, legal matters, Campus/estate management, statutory compliances and meetings, materials management, to upkeep the administrative databases, academic matters like admission & enrollment, issuing of identity cards, maintaining a personal record of students admitted, coordination to conduct the examinations, disbursement of salary, pension, scholarships, honorarium, remunerations, Procurement of material such as stationery, liveries, equipment, etc. These functions are the basis of governance of any educational institute and for effective functioning, quality education, original & creative innovation and research, achieve the mission & vision of the educational institute, a trained, experienced and specialized Public Administration system and Public Administrators are required.

India has a long tradition of imparting knowledge. "Gurukulas" were an ancient Indian educational system where shishyas (students) lived with the gurus in the same house. Nalanda Mahavihara is considered the oldest university not only in India but in the World. Education in ancient India was viewed as one of the highest virtues. In British India, however, it initially lagged behind. Later, the British established the modern education system which is followed in India till now. As discussed above, the government of India has brought various schemes, laws, frameworks for improvement, still, the education system in India needs tons of reforms. The role and importance of Public Administration had been highlighted by many committees in their recommendations, for instance, the Radhakrishnan committee (1948-49) talked about training for leadership, the Kothari commission and T.S.R.Subramaniam committee recommended for All Indian Education Service. Kasturirangan Report on School Education, which is the basis for NEP 2020 also talked about the importance of educational governance and Public Administration. National Testing Agency (NTA), Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA), Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP) of Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, are the other Public Administrative measures of the Indian government towards improving the Education system.

CONCLUSION

The Indian education system is densely populated, with an enormous number of students, a corresponding number of teachers, non-teaching and supporting staffs and efficient public administration of these institutions poses a huge challenge. The need for proper public administration of educational institutes is the demand of the hour, in wake of providing high-quality education and learning outcomes. Through good administration, we may improve the standard of the education system in India. Public administration creates a sense of accountability and transparency in educational institutes. It'll cause, new concepts of administration both in terms of needs and responsibilities. A good Public Administration paves the wave for the improved education system that in turn proceeds for the nation-building. It, therefore, requires a specialized Public Administration in the educational system.

REFERENCES

- [1] Qazi F. M., V. Doorwar, M. Hassan, “Impact of Public Administration and Its Role in Higher Education”.
- [2] National Education Policy 2020, Ministry of Education (erstwhile MHRD), Government of India
- [3] University Grants Commission 2003, Higher Education in India, New Delhi.
- [4] Bhattacharya, Mohit, 1998, New Horizons of Public Administration, Jawahar Publishers & Distributors, New Delhi.
- [5] Henry, Nicholas, 2001, Public Administration and Public Affairs, Prentice Hall of India Private Limited, Delhi.
- [6] Samagra Shiksha Scheme, 2018, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India.
- [7] Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, 2014, Ministry of Education, Government of India.

