



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

“NITI AAYOG-RESHAPING INDIA’S POLICY MAKING”

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ABSTRACT

“NITI Aayog” of India is a new organization established in January, 2015 as alternative of the Planning Commission. It provides distinctive public offerings thru its diverse Vertical. Main projects of NITI Aayog include: public management reforms and enhancement of administrative performance of presidency programmes, facilitating centre-state and inter-ministerial coordination for governance, and to offer exceptional repository practices to boost developmental agenda. NITI Aayog can update the one-way Centre-to-State float of coverage thru ‘cooperative federalism’. It recommends diverse regulations and their implementation is regularly carried out via way of means of all State Governments. Of course, the NITI Aayog is a distinguished ‘assume tank’ that has an excellent strategic imaginative and prescient and information with duties to offer recommendation to the Government. Hence, the NITI Aayog via way of means of giving extra manipulate to the States, goals at warding off top-down technique to policy making and attempts to provide it a bottom-up method. The Prime Minister acts as the Ex-officio Chairman of NITI Aayog. The NITI Aayog may offer an essential directional and strategic enter in regard to developmental methods of India. Indeed, it specializes in the cooperative federalism of country. The centre-to-state one-manner go with the drift of policy, the hallmark of the Planning Commission era, has been changed via way of means of an authentic and continuing partnership with and among the Indian States.

KEYWORDS: GOVERNANCE, COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM, PUBLIC POLICY, PUBLIC MANAGEMENT.

INTRODUCTION

On Independence Day in 2014, the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi introduced the status quo of “NITI Aayog” (National Institution for Transforming India Aayog), in location of the ‘Planning Commission’. Hence, on 1st January 2015, this new group turned into constituted through the Government of India. Its first assembly turned into held on eighth February 2015. In NITI Aayog, the Prime Minister is the Ex-officio Chairman (NITI Aayog, 2019; NITI Aayog Annual Report, 2017, 2020 & 2022; Pandey and Shukla, 2022a). NITI Aayog is engaged in imparting diverse offerings thru its special Vertical to Government as well as to the human beings of India. NITI Aayog seeks to facilitate and empower the vital requirement of appropriate governance, that's human beings-centric, participative, collaborative, obvious and coverage-driven. It offers vital directional and strategic input to the development method, focusing at the deliverables and outcomes. This is an incubator and disseminator of sparkling notion and thoughts for the development. The NITI Aayog is trying to interact the offerings of a representative withinside the governance and public provider delivery vertical in order to be accountable for the designing, control and implementation of a portfolio of coverage initiatives, innovative initiatives and partnerships associated with the thematic place of governance and public provider delivery. The duties assigned include, however now no longer be confined to, the general public management reforms and improving administrative performance of the government programmes, facilitating centre-nation and inter-ministerial coordination in the place of governance and advent of a repository of excellent practices with a goal to boost up the developmental time table in keeping with the concepts of ‘Minimum Government and Maximum Governance’.

Thus, the NITI Aayog may also generate the know-how and innovation thru a collaborative network of experts, practitioners and different companions with the intention to turn out to be a catalyst and convener for the governance practices aimed at improving the citizen centric public provider delivery. In NITI Aayog, the State Governments have a same function in the method of country wide development, and hence the NITI Aayog fulfils the precept of cooperative federalism of India. Repeatedly, it's far a ‘suppose tank group’ that stands now no longer simplest as a hub for know-how however additionally for appropriate governance.

Therefore, the NITI Aayog is a huge platform to reveal and put into effect all government regulations through bringing collectively diverse ministries of the Central and State Governments of India. In this, the priorities include upliftment and empowerment of the poor, marginalized and downtrodden even as concurrently redressing identity-based inequalities of all kinds, which includes the gender, region, religion, caste and sophistication of the people of India.

ANALYSIS OF THE STUDY

ROLE OF NITI AAYOG:

The NITI Aayog performs an integrative function with the energetic involvement of States, civil society and different assume tanks in the improvement of a shared imaginative and prescient of countrywide priorities and techniques in essential regions of human and monetary improvement. One of the principle targets of NITI Aayog is, 'to layout strategic and long-time period coverage and programmed frameworks and initiatives, and reveal their development and their efficacy.' The NITI is taking the lead in putting in sectoral targets, and fostering an environment of innovation and cooperation. The goal is to carry innovation, technology, organization and green control collectively at the middle of coverage system and implementation (NITI Aayog Annual Report, 2020). Rao (2015) has mentioned 13 obligations of NITI Aayog below 4 fundamental practical groups:

- A. Cooperative Federalism: Platform for confluence among Centre and States;
- B. Strategic Planning
- C. Knowledge and Innovation Centre
- D. Coordination among stakeholders

A. Cooperative Federalism: Platform for Interface among Centre and States:

- NITI provided a platform for issue-related one-on-one interactions between state governments and central ministries, helping to resolve outstanding issues quickly.
- The NITI Northeast Forum has been established and specific sectoral proposals are being implemented by states in cooperation with the Northeast Council
- NITI has developed several major island development initiatives which are implemented under the complete direction of the MoHA.
- It is also envisaged that, as with the NITI Forum for the Northeast, additional regional councils may be created by contiguous states. The first step was taken with the establishment of the Regional Council of the Himalayan States and the formation of a coalition of the thirteen core universities of these states.

B. Strategic Planning:

NITI Aayog can formulate the strategic imaginative and prescient and long-time period rules, and programme framework both for macro-financial system and for numerous sectors. The angle making plans allows to make projections at the macro variables and maintain the coverage angle. Strategy and rules are had to enhance dwelling preferred of projected populace and enhance human improvement to empower human beings to have interaction them in monetary activities. These need to be constantly revisited to make certain their relevance. Planning needs to be constructed proper from village, block and district stages, and those need

to be harmonized with making plans on the State stage. Likewise, the countrywide making plans need to be the consolidation of State-stage plans in conjunction with the making plans infrastructure and provider requirements. NITI Aayog can offer a framework for planning to the States and the latter, in turn, to decrease stages of Government. It needs to even have a unit to guide, if any State is in want of such assistance.

C. Knowledge and Innovation Centre:

The Knowledge and Innovation capital, and exploration inputs are nearly aligned to strategic planning and part of NITI Aayog, which as a think tank facilitates cooperation between stake holders. expression of strategic vision and programs, and schedules aligned to it as well as establishing and covering them requires state of art exploration, technology upgradation and complement structure.

As a major think tank of Government working on colourful experimental programs, NITI Aayog shouldn't only have introductory exploration capabilities but also should pierce and outsource exploration on applicable motifs. It should have a strong data bank, consolidating data and information on profitable, demographic, geographic and social variables applicable for exploration and methodology. Among other capacities, NITI Aayog correspondingly provides a platform for experience sharing among States.

D. Coordination among stakeholders:

This is the fourth consequential duty of NITI Aayog. This foundation is confined to supplying a stage for interdepartmental and intergovernmental collaboration. The cataclysmal consequences of lack of collaboration between architectures including environmental and ministries on profitable growth have existed easily apparent before the establishment of NITI Aayog.

ROLE OF NITI AYOOG:

1. To deliver a 'think tank' which provides Governments at the Central and State situations with applicable strategic and specialized advice across the crucial rudiments of policy.
2. To foster collaborative federalism via framed support enterprise and mechanisms with States, considering that strong States make a strong country.
3. To advice and promote cooperation between stakeholders and 'think tanks' at all situations, including educational and policy exploration authorities.
4. To produce invention, entrepreneurial support system and knowledge through public and transnational experts, interpreters and other mates.
5. To evolve a vision of public development precedence sectors and strategies by involving the States to fulfil the points of country, as a whole.
6. To give a critical directional and strategic input into development process.
7. To substitute 'Centre- to- State one- way inflow' of policy (that was the hallmark of Planning Commission period) by a genuine and continuing cooperation of the States of India.

8. To end the slow and tardy perpetration of policy, by fostering better inter-Ministry collaboration and better Centre- State collaboration.
9. To develop mechanisms to formulate important plans at rural position and enhance them precipitously at advanced situations of Government.
10. To give a frame for preparing plans to the States and the ultimate, in turn, to the lower situations of Government.
11. To promise the solicitations of public security on specified areas to incorporate in the profitable strategy and policy.
12. To pay special attention to those classes of society which may be at threat of not served sufficiently from the frugality.
13. To make long term and strategic programs and programmes, and enterprise, and to cover their progress and efficacy. These will be used to make innovative advancements, including necessary midcourse corrections.
14. To cover and estimate the enterprise and programmes, including identification of needed coffers, so as to enhance the delivery and success of NITI Aayog's enterprise and programmes.
15. To concentrate on the improvement of technology and capacity structure for enterprise and perpetration of programmes.
16. To give a platform for rules of inter-sectoral and inter-departmental matters to apply the docket for development.
17. To maintain 'State- of- the- art Resource Centre ', be a exploration depository on good governance and practices in development, and to help the stakeholders.
18. To have an administration paradigm in which the Government is an ' enabler ' rather than a ' provider of first and last resort '.

CONCLUSION:

The present exploration study explores that NITI Aayog provides a notable directional and strategic input into development process. The centre- to- state one- way inflow of policy, that was the hallmark of Planning Commission period, has now been replaced by a genuine and continuing cooperation of States. As a 'think tank', the NITI Aayog provides applicable strategic and specialized advice to both Central and State Governments in all policy matters. NITI Aayog also shares the vision of public development precedencies and fosters collaborative federalism, recognising that 'strong countries make a strong nation'. NITI Aayog develops mechanisms to formulate important plans to rural position and summations these precipitously at advanced situations of Government. Further, the NITI Aayog creates a knowledge, invention and entrepreneurial support system through a cooperative community of public and transnational experts, interpreters and mates. This gives a platform for resolution of inter-sectoral and inter-departmental issues in order to enhance the perpetration of experimental docket. either, NITI Aayog observers and evaluates the perpetration of programmes, and focuses on technology upgradation and capacity structure.

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