B.A.III. (Hons.)

POLITICAL SCIENCE

PAPER V: PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

TOPIC: Role of Public Administration in Developing Countries

Prepared by:

Aparajita,

Assistant Professor,

Department of Political Science,

G.J.College, Rambagh, Bihta.

Patliputra University.
Role of Public Administration in Developing Countries

Introduction:

Administration has been derived from the word ‘ministrare’ which means to serve or look after. Administration means to govern the country. According to Woodrow Wilson, “Public Administration is the systematic application of laws and public policies. The developing countries are also known as Transitional, Emergent, Expectant, Less Developed and Under Developed countries. The term developing is used because underdevelopment is not permanent and there is always hope for development. Most of the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America are included in this group of developing countries. These countries have social and cultural disparities but they have certain things in common. These countries have remained the colonies of the Western Europe and subsequently their political system is based on the system of their political rulers. They are telescoping the method of achievement. They have asiatic, feudal and capitalist mode of production. Public Administration plays an important role in each and every aspect of individual’s life and is an important instrument for development and making realistic policies.

Features of Developing Countries

Mostly all developing countries were the colonies of the western European countries. So, they have based their political system on the path of colonial rulers. These countries are agrarian in structure with poor organisation and primitive technologies. These countries suffer from illiteracy, low income, unemployment and poverty. Most of these countries suffer from political instability. In these countries, capitalism rises, capital formation is in dissolution and new one ready to replace the old one. There use to be set of officials or administrators who used to control all political, cultural, religious, social and economic policies. These countries suffer from violent conflicts because of disparities of tribal, religions and ethnic groups. They mostly have mixed economy with Asiatic, feudal and capitalist mode of production.
Role of Public Administration in Developing Countries

There was no development of social and economic forces at the time when it was colonies of the western European countries. These countries suffered from social and economic backwardness after their independence and the need for improvement was required. Subsequently, the role of Public Administration as being ‘Government in Action’ became very important for playing the development role. As a result, the role and areas of Public Administration increased to large extent. The main concern of public administration was on the ways to use the resources and skill for development and they had to act as a ‘Champion of Development’. Therefore, in many countries, Planning Commission was set up for development process.

Political Role

The political leaders are not considered capable and good at making pragmatic and realistic policies. So, the Public Administration plays an important role in formulation of policies for the development of countries.

Socio-Economic Role

There are many socio-economic roles of Public Administration.

i. Improving the well-being of the society.
ii. Removing poverty, diseases and social illness.
iii. Removing social and economic disparities and providing countries with higher education and intensive training in many fields.

Role in Nation-Building

Public Administration has important role in nation building.

i. Building up institutions like public sectors and public corporation.
ii. Developing man power required for developing these institutions.
iii. Human development that is shifting the temperament and adjusting with technological development.

**Role in National Unity**

Public Administration plays an important role in bringing about national unity among people of different religious, linguistic and cultural disparities.

**Role in Establishment of Democracy**

Democratic values are neglected in these developing countries. Public Administration plays an important role in developing and inculcating democratic feelings among the people of these countries. It also acts as a channel of removing political struggle.

**Leads to Political Socialisation**

Public Administration leads to political socialization by regulating and aggregating attitudes, values, norms, ideas and feelings among people towards political system

**Helps in Establishment of Framework of Unified Polity**

A unified polity can only be established through good public administration and administrators.

**Major Problems of Public Administration in Developing Countries**

**Lack of Requisite Skill**

There is lack of trained expertise, development skills and technical resources which is required for carrying out development process in developing countries.

**Involvement in Non-Productive works**

More emphasis on non-productive and non-development works as most of the administrators look for their personal gain instead of public interest.
Lack of Development Administrators

There is lack of development administrators, lack of machines and modern equipments and resources required for development which makes it difficult for the public administrators to carry out development process.

Corruption

The practices of corruption, formalism and other ill practices become hurdles in the work of public administrators in developing countries.

Nexus between the Politicians and Bureaucrats

It has been seen that there have been problems between bureaucrats and the politicians in policy making and other functions related to administration. The differences between the politician and bureaucrats lead to conflicts between them and thus hindering the process of development.

Impact of Colonial Rulers

The impact of colonial rulers on public administrators can be seen as they only thought about their status and not as the development process.

Conclusion

Public Administration plays an important role in development of a country both in developing and developed countries. There is a need of socio-economic development of the less developed countries. Public administration influences the person in each and every stage of their life. It acts as an instrument of change and forces of stabilization in society. One important thing is that Public administration should be result-oriented; place-oriented; change oriented; time oriented and should be committed to people. This will definitely bring about development in the society and help developing countries in the process of development.