



# SYNERGY

AN INSTITUTE FOR CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION

## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION FOUNDATION WORK BOOK

IAS 2022-23

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Work-Sheet – 01

Paper- I | Unit- 02 (Administrative Thought)



**"No Government On Earth Can make Men,  
Who Have Realized Freedom In Their Hearts,  
Salute Against Their Will."**

*Mahatma Gandhi*

by-

**M.K. MOHANTY**

**&**

**ASHUTOSH PANDEY**

# **PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

## **Work-Sheet - 02**

### **Paper- I | Unit- 1, 2, 3, 4**

The work-sheet consists of thirty (35) questions. Most of the questions are inspired from previous years public administration UPSC mains exams.

This exercise is value addition part of foundation programme for public administration.

The answers have been provided for a general framework related to the content of the questions & its exact orientation would be discussed in the class.

*\*kindly attach the worksheet with your class notes.*

### **1. “Public administration is not just implementation of laws; it is also a means of social justice and social change”. Comment**

The legalistic view of Public administration as advocated by thinkers like Wilson emphasized those administrative studies should be concerned with only implementation of laws and policy. But this is a very narrow view. Public administration encompasses wide range of activities ranging from policy formulation to social transformation e.g. Beti-Bachao Beti Padhao campaign and Polio eradication with the ultimate objective of social welfare.

The New Public Administration emphasized on making administration value laden, change oriented, equity oriented and relevant to the present needs. Thus making it an instrument for social change and emphasizing on administrators to become flag bearers in the cause of the deprived sections of the society. With schemes like Stand Up India, Naya Manzil and UDAAN the Indian administration is trying to focus on social transformation and generating self confidence in the deprived sections. Schemes like SUGAMYA Bharat bring social change.

The ultimate motive of administration is always social welfare be it with implementation of laws like Civil Rights Act or with the implementation of schemes like MUDRA Yojana.

#### **Some additional points;**

- Value Loaded aspect- Eg. Equity – Affirmative action, Dignity – Garima;
- Economic aspect of social transformation – Eg. Mudra, Standup and bunch of others.
- Change through participative management – SHG, Mahila e-haat;
- Inclusivity and universal design in service delivery – Sugamya, PDS;
- Collaborating with international organisations and Voluntary sector – Milinda Gates, WHO, Akshayapatra MDM;
- Mission mode time bound targets.
- Use of e-governance for social change;

### **2. “it would appear that any definition of this field [Public Administration] would be either so encompassing as to call forth the wrath or ridicule of others, or so limiting as to stultify its own disciples.” Mosher. Critically comment.**

- The question points towards confusion in defining the discipline. Highlight various aspects which give rise to such a situation.
- Conclude w.r.t. why a demarcated definition would not give justice to public administration as organic and evolving field.

Public Administration, though a field of scientific study, has evaded an all accepted definition. The is because it is the study of 'government in action' and government is never static rather its dynamic and rapidly changing over period of time.

Further the various attempts that have been made to explain the discipline are very wide ranging. Some argue that it is the study of the policy implementation arm of the state or study of tools and techniques to bring about the efficiency in production and management etc. This view restricts the holistic approach of Public Administration as a study as it ignores other aspects.

Aspects such as influence of judiciary, parliament, executive in the policy process, importance of effectiveness, psycho-social aspects in administration now a days. Also, the relations and interdigitation between society and administration. However this view blurs the boundary of Public Administration so much so that it is ridiculed to be a subset of political science or sociology or management science.

Nevertheless it should be noted that all disciplines now a days are multidisciplinary in nature and even though Public Administration has much in common with other disciplines, it has a staple core i.e. the 'government in action'. Thus, while the periphery vacillates the core provides it the identity, distinction and direction. Its about the inability of scholars to meaningfully, Comprehensively define Pub Ad. Waldo once said each phrase of definition was "Mental Paralysis".

#### **Various issues**

- Lacking of Narrow view (Only govt) and Broad view (Covers everything)
- Policy implementation vs Entire public policy;
- Legalistic approach – presence of non-legal elements;
- Process view – POSDCoRB vs Subject matter view – Ecological nature of Pub Ad;
- Welfare view – Presence of non-welfare functions;
- Various disciplines claimed their stake in Pub Ad; Both enriching PA and degrading it to the step sisters of those subjects.

It can be concluded that PA is a dependent variable with geographical, Temporal, Cultural, Ecological considerations; No definition can fully justify the nature of Pub Ad comprehensively.

### **3. A theory of public administration means in our time a theory of politics also.**

Among social sciences, Public Administration is most closely related to politics. It is necessary to bear in mind that both politics and administration are certain kinds of activities as well as the names of certain studies and so the relationship between the two must be considered in both the aspects.

Politics is concerned with the rules of accountability and control of administrative power while administration is concerned with the rules of effective work in an organization and task performance.

Traditional administrative thinkers, like Wilson & Good now etc., believe that administration lies outside the proper sphere of politics and administrative questions are not political questions. They say that politics has to do with policies while administration has to do with the execution of these policies.

With more and more policy-science orientation in public administration, politics however, came to be reunited with administration. But the real thrust toward political and value loaded public administration came from the New Public Administration for which public administration is just another expression for the study of politics. Appleby stated that public administration differs from all other administrative work by virtue of its public nature. According to him, public accountability, political character, breadth of scope, impact and consideration etc. differentiate public administration from private administration. He argues that administration is politics interests. Government organizations are not merely administrative entities, they are and must be political organisms.



**4. “The scope of public administration is ever expanding.” Comment**

The scope of public administration is ever widening, particularly in parliamentary democracy, where a healthy combination of politicians and administrator is most urgently needed. One of the views is that its scope includes all governmental activities whereas the other view, is that scope of public administration is confined merely to the execution of the policies. Whereas the former is supported by Woodrow Wilson, Dimock & Pfiffner, Gullick and Merson have supported the other view.

The former viewpoint considerably widens the scope of subject, vis-à-vis to latter. However, modern viewpoint about public administration is that it is government in action. It is being increasingly realized that with the concept of welfare state becoming more and more popular state is undertaking increasingly more and more responsibilities and this tendency in turn has widened the scope of public administration. Public administration includes political, legislative, executive, financial, defensive and many other functions.

Public administration is a great stabilizing force in society. Government changes very often, but administration seldom experiences violent changes. Thus the scope of public administration is over expanding especially in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**5. “The scope of administration is determined by the scope of government functions which is decided politically.” Comment**

The scope of the subject is ever widening, particularly in parliamentary democracies, where a healthy combination of politicians and administrators is most, urgently needed.

Modern view about public administration is that it is government in action. It is being increasingly realized that with the concept of welfare state becoming more and more popular state is undertaking increasingly more and more responsibilities and this tendency in turn has widened the scope of public administration. It is usually agreed that the functions of public administrator are similar to those of the state and as such it is difficult to narrow the scope of the former. It is the latter which infuses a sense of practicability in the abstract notion of the former. A public administrator is supposed to be an executive, legislator and judicial officer. Necessarily, it is to be studied as part of the larger political processes in a country. There is besides, that sector of activities which though not governmental in the strict sense is nevertheless supported, either wholly or partially by the public exchequer, educational institutions, cooperatives etc.

Thus, the scope of administration is determined by the scope of government functions which is decided chiefly politically.

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