

SOS POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION

M.A. PUB.ADMN.402

SUBJECT NAME:DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

UNIT:III

TOPIC NAME:PEOPLES PARTICIPATION IN
DEVELOPMENT

MEANING OF PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

1. People must participate in the decision making process of government.
2. Without people's participation there can be no democracy.
3. When people vote in elections they elect their own people.
4. People's participation is also expressed through debates, newspapers, demonstration.

INTRODUCTION

People's participation means participation of people in the administrative process. It implies citizens' effective performance of the administrative machinery. It makes the administration responsive to the needs of the people. It secures public support to the government policies and makes them a success. It constitutes an important means of enforcing administrative accountability. A democratic government is based on the „doctrine of sovereignty“ which means that the people are supreme in a democracy, or the final authority in democracy is vested in the people. Therefore, administration in democracy is or should finally and ultimately be responsible to the people. It is in this context that the people's participation in administration assumes importance. It transfers the representative democracy into participatory democracy. It facilitates what is known as “bottom-up rule”.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this article is to articulate the concept of people's participation in general administration and participation which is pertinent to African countries on account of them belonging to a group of developing countries of the world.

PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

People`s participation in development administration means direct involvement of people in the process of administering development programmes meant for bringing about socio-economic changes in the society.

following dimensions:

- a) Participation in decision-making
- b) Participation in implementation
- c) Participation in monitoring the activities and the evaluation of the policy results
- d) Participation in the sharing of benefits including profits and services

People participate in development administration through various mechanisms like Panchayati Raj institutions, cooperative institutions, mahila mandalas, farmers service societies, yuvak Kendra's and other voluntary/ non governmental organizations.

IMPORTANCE OF PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

1. The Government work smoothly.
2. Development happens fast because people participate actively.
3. People can check government.
4. People develop a sense of ownership.

MODE OF PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

1. Voting during elections.
2. Joining political parties.
3. Meeting elected representatives and discussing problems.
4. Taking part in public meetings
5. Joining NGO's
6. Keeping a check on the development projects of the government.

PUBLIC OPINION IS THE OPINION OF PEOPLE ON DIFFERENT PUBLIC ISSUES.

• Importance

of public opinion:-

1. People share their opinion with local elected leaders.
2. The Government then takes care of the needy people.
3. If the Government does not take care then there will be no development.

PUBLIC OPINION CANNOT BE CALLED THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE BECAUSE:

1. It is not the opinion of all the people in the country.
2. It is a collection of opinion of different people.
3. It aims at the welfare of the whole community.
4. It helps to influence the decisions of the government.

AGENCIES OF PUBLIC OPINION:-

- 1. Print Media:- Newspapers, magazines etc. through news articles, news stories and letters to the editors they contribute to the formulation of public opinion.
- They present public views, criticism, suggestions of Government policies.
- 2. Electronic Media: Cinema, T.V and radio is an important tool to
- 3. Political parties: they feed the people with ideas and facts and help contribute in formulating public opinion..
- 4. Legislatures: These are places where discussions and debates on all important public policy and welfare take place.
- 5. Educational institutes: They impart political education and contribute to the formulation of public opinion.

ELECTIONS IN INDIA

- Members of the Lok Sabha, Vidhan Sabha and representatives of the Gram Panchayat get or Municipal bodies get elected directly by the people.
- The people in a democratic country have a right to elect their representatives. This right is called Adult Franchise. When the state gives this right to all adult citizens, it is called Universal Adult Franchise

- Kinds of elections
- the various stages of electoral process in India
- The returning officer
- Election commission of India

PEOPLE`S PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION IS BENEFICIAL IN VARIOUS RESPECTS IN THAT IT:

1. provides administration a wealth of information on local socio-cultural, economic, ecological and technical conditions. This information is highly useful in the process of planning, programming and implementation of development programmes.
2. leads to the selection of those projects which are of direct relevance to the people.
3. facilitates mobilization of local resources in the form of cash, labour, materials and so on which are very essential for the programmes success.
4. acts as a safeguard against the abuse of administrative authority and thus reduces the scope for corruption in the operation of programmes

5. prevents the hijacking of programme benefits by richer and powerful sections due to the involvement of poorer and weaker sections of the society. Thus, it leads to the equitable distribution of benefits.

6. makes the local community easily accept the developmental change and more tolerable to mistakes and failures.

7. reduces the financial burden on government by sustaining the programmes even after the withdrawal of its support. They can be managed by the volunteers or community-based workers.

8. enhances the ability and competence of the people to assume responsibility and solve their own problems. It develops a spirit of self-reliance, initiative and leadership among the people.

9. promotes spirit de corps in the community and thus strengthens democracy at the grassroots level

CONCLUSION

It has become apparent that people's participation is a very essential element of public accountability and control. It has been analyzed under two main heads, namely, a. participation in general administration under which such aspects as election, recall, pressure groups, advisory committees and public opinion, and b. participation in development administration which is intended to bring about socio-economic changes in the society. It embraces a number of dimensions such as participation in : policy making and decision making,