

**MAL GOVERNANCE AND RURAL COMMUNITY****Ekta¹ & Madhurendra Kumar²**¹*Research Scholar, Department of Political Science, CCS University, Meerut, U.P.*²*Professor & Campus Head, Department of Political Science, DBS campus, Kumaun University, Nainital-263001, U. K.***Abstract**

The governments both central and state have implemented a number of schemes particularly for rural development. It needs to be noted whether the goal of development has been achieved, whether the rural community is satisfied with the performance of the government, and whether people are reeling under the pressure of mal-governance. It needs to be checked what are the main factors for the mal-governance if any, and what steps should be taken at rural level to make the governance more effective, accountable and responsible. Responses to the queries can be obtained from the common people. Therefore an empirical methodology has been used in an attempt to extract the view point of the common people in respect of good governance and dignify of life. The government has schemes. In order to empirically check it a random samples have been gathered and they have been provided a close structure schedule for the purpose. Mostly respondents denied they revealed due to the dominant attitude of bureaucracy people's participation is marginal and corruption is rampant. A weak will power and unwanted political interference are the main reason why bureaucracy has failed in achieving the developmental goals.

Key words: *corruption, good governance, mal-governance, political, rural.*

Introduction

The concept of 'Good Governance' derives its relevance in the context of mal governance which includes non-feasance (a failure act of public servant), over-feasance (beyond limits) and mal-feasance (wrongful conduct). In many countries the democratic form of government has proved to be ineffective for checking swindling of public funds for private gains by the elected leaders as well as permanent bureaucrats. Misuse of power, fraud, chicanery and embezzlement of funds are systematically perpetrated by leaders of government and their minions. Mal governance is found all around, especially in the developing countries, in rampant degree. The concept of good governance becomes attractive as a remedy against his state of affairs.

Meaning of Good Governance

Good governance has suddenly entered the vocabulary of public administration since the 90s. This concept appears as a much publicized nostrum for the ailing third world countries, but its real pedigree has to be traced to the crisis of first world administration in the era of 'market' dominance. Let us start on home ground first. How did Indian administration get scent of 'good governance'?

Roots and Concerns

The Conference of Chief Secretaries

The conference of Chief secretaries held on November 20, 1996, all of a sudden woke up to the realization to that there was a crisis in Indian administration. It was necessary to take corrective steps to arrest the present drift before it becomes too late. In the agenda note entitled 'for an effective and responsive administration in India. It was admitted that:

The public administration and the civil service at all levels are passing through difficult times in terms of eroded credibility and effectiveness of the civil service, growing public perception of an unholy nexus between certain elements among politicians and civil servants and criminals (as elaborated in the vohra committee Report), and increasing criticism of the low level of honesty, transparency and accessibility to the political and bureaucratic elements in charge of administration.

The imperative need was for governments at all levels to reinvent themselves and redefine their roles and responsibilities and bring about reforms in all areas which have an Impact on the lives of the people.

The public image of the bureaucracy, it was candidly confessed, was one of inaccessibility, indifference, procedure-orientation, poor quality and sluggishness, corruption-proneness and non-accountability for results. The need of the hour was therefore "to assure the people of India of an efficient, open, responsive, accountable, and clean and dynamically adjusting administration at all levels." Urgent steps should be taken to restore people's confidence in the capacity and fairness of administration. Very significantly, the conference recognized that "governance has to extend beyond conventional bureaucracies to involve actively citizens and consumer groups at all levels, to empower and inform the public and the disadvantaged groups, and to ensure service delivery and programs execution through autonomous elected local bodies."

There were, thus, three admissions: (a) There was a crisis in administration; (b) there was urgent need to bring about reform in administration to make it people-sensitive, efficient and cost effective; and (c) there was need for a change in the mindset to that governing could

be newly conceived as “governance” – a wider term than formal “government” – opening up, in the process, possibilities of inclusion of other actors, such as citizens, consumer groups, elected local bodies, etc.

World Bank prescription

As the Bank’s document, entitled governance and development (1992), puts it, “governance is defined as the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country’s economic and social resources for development”. From its leading experience in many developing countries, the bank came to realize that “good governance is central to creating and sustaining an environment which fosters strong and equitable development, and it is an essential complement to sound economic politics.” Three distinct aspects are identified in the conceptualization of “governance”: (a) the form of political regime (parliamentary or presidential, military or civilian, and authoritarian or democratic); (b) The process by which authority is exercised in the management of a country’s economic and social resources; and (c) the capacity of governments to design, formulate and implement policies, and in general, to discharge government functions. The first aspect, it is admitted, falls outside the Bank’s mandate. The focus of “governance” is, therefore, basically on the second and third aspects.

Recounting its wide experience, the bank document narrates vividly the problems of “governance” for instance, despite technical soundness, programs and projects have often failed to produce desired results. Laws are not enforced properly and there are often delays in implementation. Privatized production and market-led growth do not succeed unless investors face clear rules and institutions. In the absence of proper accounting systems, budgetary policies cannot be implemented or monitored. Many a time, procurement systems encourage corruption and distort public investment priorities. Again, failure to involve beneficiaries and others affected in the design and implementation of projects has often led to substantial erosion of their sustainability.

Against this background of mal-governance, the bank has attempted to focus on some of the key dimensions of governance’, such as a public sector management, accountability, the legal framework for development, and information and transparency, as already stated.

In modern-day shortly, it can show ‘Good Governance in the forms of 4Ds & 4Ts.

4Ds- Democratization

Decentralization,

Delegation of authority

De bureaucratization

4Ts- Trained Administration

Technology

Technique

Transparency

We shall conclude that the end of good governance is happiness and welfare of the people but, unlike **Bentham's** utilitarianism. In India we have not approved **charvak**. We believe that it is better to be a Gandhi or Socrates dissatisfied than a pig satisfied. The means of good governance is promotion of rational will and moral power of people. Elites have to be austere and they must throw their consumer goods out of the window as they had done in case of western clothes and wine under *swadeshi* movement.

Hypotheses:

1. To evaluate the central and state level welfare schemes / Programs regarding rural Development and examine whether they have been squeezed to their maximum capacity?
2. Impact of mal-governance on the rural community and Factors responsible for the same.
3. To suggest measure as to how the 'governance' of grass root level may be made more effective, accountable as responsive in bread based consistence with democratic Principles.

Research Methodology

This study is based on both primary as well as secondary data. The primary data is collected through the schedule from the beneficiaries and officials of various concerned department. Besides this data collection, a few unofficial personal discussions and observation have also been made to collect the true information on welfare schemes. Responses to the queries can be obtained from the common people. Therefore an empirical methodology has been used in an attempt to extract the view point of the common people in respect of Good Governance and dignify of life. The government has schemes. In order to empirically check it a random sample of 100 families out of a total of 944 families have been gathered, and they have been provided a close structure schedule for the purpose. It is worth-while to note here that about 20 schemes and programs are being implemented by the central as well as state governments in the village.

Result and discussion

The preamble of the Indian constitution speaks that the state shall try tirelessly to achieve equality, liberty, justice and dignity for one and all. This is to be done within the framework of socialism, secularism and parliamentary democracy. In the last half a decade the governments both central and state have implemented a number of schemes particularly

for rural development. It needs to be noted whether the goal of development has been achieved, whether the rural community is satisfied with the performance of the government, and whether people are reeling under the pressure of mal- governance. It needs to be checked what are the main factors for the mal- governance if any, and what steps should be taken at rural level to make the governance more effective, accountable and responsible. It is quite hard for a researcher, local or national, to seek the answers of the issues raised.

Table 1.1 Structures of Rural Development and Administration

N=100

S.No.	Has the bureaucracy being able to properly implement welfare schemes? Yes/No	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Yes	25	25
2.	No	28	28
3.	Nil	47	47
	Total	100	100

Good governance is associated with efficient and effective administration in a democratic framework. Respondent's view have been shot on the point whether the administration being able to properly implement these scheme. 25 percent respondents responded positively. 28 percent respondents denied they revealed due to the dominant attitude of bureaucracy people's participation is marginal and corruption is rampant. A weak will power and unwanted political interference are the main reason why bureaucracy has failed in achieving the developmental goals.

Table 1.2 Public Responsibility And Administration

N=100

S.No.	Does the Administration provide you with necessary information when you ask for them? Y/N	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Yes	32	32
2.	No	68	68
	Total	100	100

Respondents views have been shot on the point whether the bureaucracy provide you with necessary information when you ask for them, 32 percent respondents replied positively they belong to high or middle class and they have connection with the bureaucrats in any ways. 68 percent respondents denied they revealed that bureaucrat's behaviour is very rude and they have dominant attitude. When they go to take information in concern department, the bureaucrats behave like a king and look them such as beggars.

Table 1.3 Rural Development and Efficiency of Administration

N=100

S.No.	Has the administration in comparison with the past, been simplified and more active? Yes/No	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Yes	38	38
2.	No	62	62
	Total	100	100

Conceptually, the bureaucracy has guardian, neutral and committed image in a political system. It is natural bureaucracy which should be given preference in a democratic system. To examine the fact, the respondents have been asked administration has been simplified and more active in comparison with the past, 38 percent respondents replied positively that they are more active than before. But 62 percent respondents replied negatively they are mostly illiterate and less aware about the laws like Right to Information. It is basic objective of policy planning and implementation that people should get what they need. Their aspirations should be fulfilled. Hence, the objective of the administration should be to implement the policies in such a way that the very objective is achieved. This can be ascertained by the people's level satisfaction on this count.

Table 1.4 Accountability and Administration

N=100

S.No.	Is the administration responsive and accountable to you? Y/N	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Yes	21	21
2.	No	79	79
	Total	100	100

To ascertain, how bureaucracy responsive and accountable to the people ? 79 percent of the respondents responded that they have to face many problems to getting ration, pension, aid, and loan etc. due to corruption. Then how can say that the administration is responsive and accountable. It is corruption in rural development planning which have an effect on the whole planning prospects negatively. 21 percent of the respondents who considered that administration is responsive and accountable, they belong to creamy lair of the universe and without need they are getting pension and aid etc. because of their power influence.

Table 1.5 Structure of E-Governance

N=100

S.No.	Do you think that in administration's different field new technologies and techniques are being used? Y/N	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Yes	3	3
2.	No	97	97
	Total	100	100

When enquired about the new technologies and techniques are being used in administration's different field 97 percent of respondents replied negatively. Only 3 percent respondents responded affirmatively that new techniques are being used but only in the agricultural field by using new technological instruments. It should mention here that government of India established Farmer Call Centers where Farmer can get any information regarding farming but most of the farmers are unknown about this. Basically E- Governance belongs to computerization of all documents recorded and uploaded that process of all departments let be fast. But in the block of study area it has not seen.

Table 1.6 The Universe and Good Governance

N=100

S.No.	Response	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Yes	3	3
2.	No	97	97
	Total	100	100

After identify the concept of Good Governance it has tried to ascertain from the respondents. If the good governance consists in a Transparent, Accountable, Efficient and Development Oriented Policy then, is there the nature of governance in your locality? Out of 100; 3 percent respondents responded positively, they all were above 70 years old illiterate domestic ladies, 97 percent respondents denied. They told due to corruption, dominant and weak will power of bureaucrats all development programs or scheme become fail. So it is more need to be done to establish Good Governance or *Ram Rajya* in the study area.

The detail of expectations level of the respondents, from the governance/administration in different sectors may be observed in the table below.

Table 1.7 Suggestions

N=100/3*

S.No.	Administration sector	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Administration should be alert, accountable & capable	79	35.7
2.	Strongly advertise the welfare schemes	21	9.6
3.	Establish a police station to remove the crime and corruption	17	7.6
4.	More openness	18	8.1

5.	Rural Autonomy	1	0.4
	Social sector		
6.	Health care	4	1.8
7.	Focus on sanitation	28	12.6
8.	Only needy person should get the aid	24	10.6
9.	Focus on women and children's programs	20	9
	Economic sector		
10.	Loan process from bank and governmental agencies should be simple	3	1.3
11.	Employment	4	1.8
12.	Development of cottage industries	2	0.8
	Total	221	100

*** Note: Maximum three suggestions from each respondent.**

As far as the nature of the suggestions of the common people maximum three suggestions to be suggested. In the area of social, administrative and economic concern they are very ordinary. In administrative segment the common suggestions of the respondents belong to efficiency of administration. 61.4 percent suggestions have come from administrative sector itself. Out of these 35.7 percent have suggested accountable and capable administration, 9.6 percent propaganda of welfare schemes, 7.6 percent to remove corruption and crime, 8.1 percent want more openness, 0.4 percent want autonomy.

Total 34 percent suggestions have come from Social Sector, 1.8 percent suggested health care need more attention, 12.6 percent focus on sanitation, 10.6 percent suggested that only needy person should get benefit not creamy lair. 9 percent focus on women and children's programs.

In economic segment total 3.9 percent suggestions have come, out of these 1.3 percent attention on loan process should be easy. 1.8 percent suggested improvement of employment and 0.8 percent focus on development of cottage industries.

However, it is seen that the common men's expectation from the governance/administration as such that a democratic welfare system must provide this to its people.

It is needed that each problem is addressed quickly and resolved effectively and efficiently within the democratic framework so that people's problems are resolved without delay. It needs to be kept in the mind that democracy is a system in which the governments are accountable to the people who have voted them to power and this accountability can only be measured in terms of the degree of governance.

References

- Annual Report (2009). Government of India, 2009.*
- Ashok, M. (1998). *Reinventing Government for Good Governance. Indian Journal of Public Administration, vol. XLIV, No.3.*
- Bhattacharya M. (1998). *Conceptualizing Good Governance. IJPA, Vol. XLIV.*
- Chaturvedi S.K. (2005). *Facets of Good Governance. Refresher course, C.C.S. University, Meerut, U.P., 21 May-11 June.*
- Dey Bata K. (1998). *Defining Good Governance. IJPA, vol. XLIV, No.3.*
- Dwivedi O.P. (1998). *Common Good and Good Governance. IJPA, Vol. XLIV No.3.*
- Indian Infrastructure Report (2008). Government of India.*
- Kashyap C. Subash (ed.). (1997). *Crime, Corruption and Good Governance.*
- Minocha O.P. (1997). *Good Governance: Management in Government. IJPA, vol. XXIX, No.3.*
- Oxford Reference Dictionary, 1995.*
- Sengupta B. (1996). *India: The Problem of Governance Delhi, Konark.*
- Sharma L.N and Sharma S. (1998). *Koutilyan Indicators of Good Governance. IJPA, vol. XLIV, No.3. Times of India, Patna, August 15, 1998.*
- Uttar Pradesh Development Report (2008) Vol. II.*
- www.ddws.nic.in
- www.drd.nic.in
- www.rural.nic.in