

METHODS OF COMMUNITY CONTROL OVER ADMINISTRATION

Meaning of community (people's) participation in administration:

Participation in generic sense has been conceptualized in terms of citizenship; it is a right on its own strength. Participation is generally referred to when common people play a role in the activities of the government. It is defined as all forms of actions by which citizens 'take part' in the operation of administration. Taking part may be of any type e.g., advisory or in decision making or in implementation etc. People may participate through their representatives or voluntary bodies.

In other words, people's participation in administration means collective and continuous efforts by people themselves in setting goals, pooling resources together and taking actions which aim at improving their living conditions.

Accordingly, participatory governance means a convergence of social and political participation and the scaling up of *participatory* methods, state-civil-society partnerships, decentralization and devolution, participatory assessment and other factors.

Thus, with such extended meaning of participation beyond traditional voting and political rights, there is a serious search going on in all democratic countries for more participatory approaches to processes of democratic governance.

Different means of community (people's) participation over administration: People's participation may be formal or informal; direct or indirect or it may be political, social or administrative in nature. Professor S.N. Mishra has classified the means of people's participation in administration into the following four categories:

1. Participation in decision making: This mode of participation involves generation of ideas, formulation and assessment of options and making choices about them, as well as the formulation of plans for putting selected options into effect.

2. Participation in implementation: People participate in implementation of projects through resource contributions, administration and co-ordinate efforts and programme enlistment activities.

3. Participation in sharing of benefits: People participate in project generated benefits which could be material, social or personal.

4. Participation in monitoring and education: This is rural people's participation in project evaluation, either directly or indirectly, through political activities or lobbying activities or through some co-operative organization.

Thus, people's participation in administration may take many forms and refers to those activities which show the people's involvement in the process of administration, i.e, participation in policy formulation, programme planning, execution and evaluation of policies.