

## **DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION**

### **Genesis of the concept of Development Administration:**

The concept of Development Administration is a development of the post 1945 era. The term came into use in the 1950s to represent those aspects of public administration and changes in public administration, which are needed to carry out policies, projects, and programs to improve social and economic conditions. During a period of 15 years following the end of World War II, in 1945, colony after colony threw off the imperial yoke. Country after country achieved independence and political autonomy. This new status gave promise of freedom and liberty and self-determination in political systems of representative democracy. It gave hope of greater individual freedom and equality of treatment in the society. Even in countries which had not been colonies but had been administered by some other form of authoritarian government, this was a generation of rising and insistent expectations pressing for rapid political, social, and economic change. New governments and their bureaucracies, their administrative agencies and processes, were expected to give reality to these anticipated fruits of independence and liberty. These new functions, these demands upon the administration system, were not only enormous in size and weight; they were novel and complex in character.

In fact, development administration is a mid 20th century concept. It was an attempt to make public administration more goal oriented and democratically driven one. The concept is largely encouraged to evolve developmental programmes and policies suitable for developing and developed countries. It is an action oriented and strategy packed aspect of public administration.

**Main exponents:** The term ‘development administration’ was first coined by Goswami in 1955 for making distinction between Rural Development Administration and Regulatory Administration. In 1962, Edward Widener was one of the pioneers, who introduced the concept of development administration in a more comprehensive way. Subsequently, the concept was developed and popularized by thinkers like F. W. Riggs, Joseph La Palombara, Albert Waterson and many more.

### **Factors responsible for the emergence of Development Administration:**

The following factors may be attributed to the growth of the concept of Development Administration:

**1. Emergence of newly independent developing countries:** The traditional concept of public Administration as was underwent transformation with the emergence of the ‘Welfare state’. The

narrow vision of public administration as “law and order machinery or revenue administration” underwent overhauling to get armed with socialistic centred path of welfare state during the 20th Century. The development administration as movement was a response to the emergence of the ‘Newly Independent states’ in Asia and Africa, and they were trying to address the problems of poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, malnutrition etc. The governments in these countries were entrusted with an agency role of welfare and development. The exigencies of time have made the administration in developing countries development – oriented or welfare oriented.

**2. Development schemes in the developing countries:** These developments have had a profound impact on the public administration. Development becomes a multi system management. Complex socio-economic compendium gets processed by the political systems for gaining balanced change. Developmental Administration in developing countries represents a cluster of politico-bureaucratic nexus. Further, most developing countries have realised that national development is essentially an integrated process of change. It is a dynamic process directed towards transforming the entire society, enmeshing its economic, social, political and administrative aspects, for an all-round, balanced change. School of Distance Education

**3. Establishment of Comparative Administration Group in 1960:** D. Waldo, Fred Riggs, Weidner etc were talk about New Public Administration. These scholars in 1968, in Minnbrook conference, attempted to define public Administration a new. They focused on the concept of development administration, in different ecological settings, operates in order to achieve a set of social goals. The CAG attempted to make comparative study of Public Administration as evolved in the developed nations with as adopted in developing as well as under developed nations of the world. Hereinafter the public administration treated as a tool for ensuring development in developing and under developing nations.

**4. Attempt to make Area Studies in Administration:** Area studies mean that we have to understand the administrative system of each country with its own social, economic, cultural and regional uniqueness. For instance, the administrative tactics used by Indian Government must have close bearing with the plural culture of India. Nature of distribution of power, role of civil service, the core areas where the governments have given more importance like irrigation, agriculture, infrastructure, education etc.

**5. Administration is not a technical matter alone:** Development administration is not the application of administrative theories for the improvement of administrative machinery alone. It is a legitimate method for social transformation. It follows an evolutionary process though which transformation of society is made possible. It fetches both internal and external reformation; internally the system corrects itself to absorb social needs and externally the society becomes capable of accepting the government as their sole agency of social change.

**Meaning & Definition:** The term ‘development administration’ is closely connected with the process of change. In simple words, it means administration of changes through plan and refers to the structural and organizational behaviour required for the implementation of schemes and programmes of socio-economic and political changes undertaken by the government. In

other words, it refers to the administration of development programmes, to the methods used by large scale organisation, notably government to implement policies and plans designed to meet these developmental objectives.

Following are some of the definition forwarded by scholars to understand the meaning of development administration:

- Edward Widener defined development administration as, “action-oriented and goal-oriented administrative system.”
- According to Fred W. Riggs, “development administration refers both to administrative problems and governmental reforms.”
- According to **Hahn Been Lee**, development administration involved management of government as an agency to ensure capability to cop up with social change and sustained growth.
- **Gant** observed that development administration is "that aspect of Public Administration in which focus of attention is on organizing and administering public agencies in such a way as to stimulate and facilitate defined programmes of social and economic progress. It has the purpose of making change attractive and possible."

The above definitions reveal that the development administration involves two elements:

- a. The bureaucratic process that initiates and facilitates socio-economic progress by making the optimum use of talents and expertise available; and
- b. Mobilisation of administrative skills so as to speed up the development process.

Thus, the development administration means an integrated and well-directed action for obtaining all-round socio-economic and cultural development in the society. It concentrates on the needs and desires of the people. Presently, it is concerned with the task and processes of formulating and implementing four (4) ‘P’s-plans, policies, programmes and projects in respect to goals and objectives determined politically. It is not only concerned with the application of policies as determined by the political representatives in existing situation but also with introducing efforts to modify existing situations so as to serve the cause of the people.

**Main objectives:** The development administration is an action-oriented and goal-oriented administrative system. The Development Administration has following objectives:

- a. The application of innovative strategies for development.
- b. Emphasis on development at the grass-roots level.
- c. Development has to be a need-oriented and self-reliant process.
- d. Stress on social development and human capital as a major resource.
- e. Development has to be viewed not merely as a technological problem but also as an ideological norm.
- f. It gives birth to new administrative approaches like ecological studies in administration.

- g. Profound and rapid change in order to establish a distinct and just social order.
- h. Recognizing and highlighting the unity, rather than dichotomy between politics and administration.
- i. Effective and efficient use of scarce resources.
- j. Creation of a politics-administrative environment which is oriented towards securing basic needs of the population.

Thus, the modernization, socio-economic and institution were regarded major objectives of development administration.

**Distinction between Development Administration and Traditional Administration:**

The differences between development administration and traditional administration as follows.

<b>Development Administration</b>	<b>Traditional Public Administration</b>
1. Change – oriented	1. Status –quo oriented
2. Goal and result oriented	2. Emphasis on economy and efficiency
3. Flexible and dynamic	3. Hierarchal and rigid
4. Its objectives are complex and multiple	4. Simple and limited objectives
5. Concerned with new tasks	5. Concerned with routine operations
6. Believes in decentralization	6. Believes in centralisation
7. Stress on planning	7. Does not relay much on planning
8. Creative and innovative	8. Resists organisational change
9. Stress on participation of people	9. Organisational stress due to control and command structure.

**Important Characteristics:** Following are some of the important Characteristics of the development administration:

- 1. Change-oriented:** The first important characteristic of development administration is its change-oriented element. It is intrinsically intertwined with the process of change specifically the socio-economic, cultural and political changes in the society. It is this feature of development administration which distinguishes it from the traditional administration which basically tries to maintain status quo.
- 2. Result-oriented:** It is result-oriented. It expects specific results and expresses in most areas clear-cut norms of performance. Consequently, it would also be judged on the basis of results achieved.
- 3. Goal-oriented:** This is another feature of a development administration. The development administration faces numerous problems including socio-economic, political, and cultural in nature. Hence, the development administration is the only means through which the perpetual problems can be solved and the goals of development administration like social equality and justice, modernization and economic growth can easily be achieved.

4. **People's participation:** Development being a process of social and economic change, people's participation in the task of administration is vital. The people are the active participants in the development especially public programmes. Thus, a close affinity is maintained between the 'public' and 'administration', is an essential traits of development administration.
5. **Commitment to development:** Development administration requires a firm commitment to work, therefore, a sense of involvement and concern on the part of bureaucrats, if the goals of development are to be realised.
6. **Client-oriented:** The development administration is client-oriented towards satisfying the needs of the people. The fulfillment of these needs is the sole criteria for evaluating the performance of the development administration.
7. **Integrated and holistic process:** Development administration is inter-related in nature. It refers to the structure, organisation and behaviour necessary for the implementation of schemes and programmes of socio-economic change undertaken by the governments.
8. **Its scope of operation is wide:** Traditional public administration was limited to its function of maintaining law and order in the society. But the scope of development administration is much wider in comparison to the earlier one.
9. **Stress on planning:** The development administration seeks change through proper planning. The administrative capabilities are strengthened to achieve developmental goals. This objective is closely linked with the planning. Because, the planned development is intended to achieve specific results within the specified time.
10. **Believes in decentralization:** The traditional administration believes in centralization, whereas the development administration believes in decentralization. This obviously implies that the development administration is in favour of mass involvement and active participation of the people with the administration.
11. **Time-bound:** Since socio-economic changes have to be brought rapidly, the time factor plays an important role in development administration. All development programmes are undertaken for a defined time limit and must be completed within that period.
12. **Democratization of Administration:** Space for people's involvement in the decision making process is another feature of development administration. Citizen's Charter, Grievances cells and roll of Grama Sabha etc. are examples for popular means of participation in decision making in the government at different levels by the people.
13. **Interaction between Administration and Environment:** FW Riggs placed greater emphasis upon ecological dimension of development administration. Because the development administration is directly related to the environment in which it works.

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