

Good Governance At Grass Root Level

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Abstract: Available literature indicates though that the concept of good governance has been studied and evaluated in prose cultural setting and in Indian context. It has been accessed in metropolitan and urban environment but very little attempt has been carried out in rural setting where almost 70 percent population resigned and where the thrust of planning concern more particularly in the western part of Uttar Pradesh such deficiency of research is visible the present study try to fill the gap. 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. The basic indicator of good governance is: 1) the number of people taken care of by the system, and 2) the quality of life assured to them. The yardstick is: benefit to maximum people means better governance.

Keywords: governance, rural.

I. INTRODUCTION

For men an expectation for a peaceful and cooperative life is rational. How such a life can be ensured had always been a big question before him? The state is an outcome of his constant thinking in the direction so that he may achieve the ultimate objective of peaceful and progressive life. Good Governance is the anchor sheet by which the performance of the state is measured: whether whatever the state is doing is in favour of each and every Individual; whether such opportunities are being utilized. Historically speaking right from the ancient times to present times the performance of state has been assisted by the measures it has taken for the welfare of masses. This is the crux of good governance.

The ancient Indian scriptures, Greek philosophy and sermon of great saints and sages, kings and emperors, social reformers emphasis that the state needed to work with the sole motive of Sarve Bhavantu Sukhina, Sarve Santu Niramaya. In modern times, particularly under a democratic system, the meaning of good governance is associated with efficient and effective administration towards achievement of developmental goals in an attempt to improve the quality of life of the people. The paradigm of good governance in

present time is associated with World Bank report of the year 1992. Later global community made it a point to incorporate this concept in its mode and methods of good governance as well as political philosophy of governance. India as a champion of democracy could not keep itself out of this ambit and made a point that good governance shall be the ultimate objective of government of the day and it shall be a duty of government to wipe tears from each eye: by ensuring food for empty stomach, clothes for naked body, water for the thirsty, roof to the roofless.

Political leadership and bureaucracy are two agencies who are ultimately responsible in the context. Political leadership is supposed to plan in accordance with values enshrined in the constitution. Bureaucracy is supposed to achieve the goal, decided by the political leadership, by managing available resources: men-power, technology in an attempt to achieve the goal.

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.

Good governance is a theme of perennial interest. There is a growing body of literature on this subject published every year. As India is the biggest democracy and also a welfare state, there are new challenges to be faced and new difficulties to be over come out of this experience with all its success and failures.

The review of available literature indicates though that the concept of good governance has been studied and evaluated in prose cultural setting and in Indian context. It has been accessed in metropolitan and urban environment but very little attempt has been carried out in rural setting where almost 70 percent population resigned and where the thrust of planning concern more particularly in the western part of Uttar Pradesh such deficiency of research is visible the present study try to fill the gap at attempt will be made to the examines following hypotheses.

HYPOTHESES

- ✓ To evaluate the central and state level welfare scheme/programs regarding rural development and examine whether they have been implementing their maximum capacity?
- ✓ Impact of mal-governance on the rural community and factors responsible for the same?
- ✓ To suggest measures how governance at grass roots level may be made more effective, accountable and responsive in consistence with democratic principles.

II. 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.

For conducting a proper empirical study some area of study is required. From this point of view village Khirwa Jalal Pur, District Meerut of western Uttar Pradesh has been chosen for the purpose. The village Khirwa Jalal pur is a big village. The village is influenced both by rural and urban environment. Geographically, Khirwa Jalalpur lies under Sarurpur development block of Meerut district. It is located on the road that goes from Meerut to Sardhana Tehsil. It is eight km from Meerut Nagar Nigam and is situated on Meerut's south East. The capital of the country is seventy seven km far from the village. Sardhana is the Tehsil of Khirwa Jalalpur.

It has a known history of more than five hundred years. It is being said that in the early phase of 17th century (Prime

Shahanjahan period) Sayyad Jalal, the DIWAN of Chittode village. He used to go to Delhi via khirwa jala pur. He liked it more and settled down there. But after that he started spreading his terror. He was so cruel that he violently and forcibly converted the religion of the villagers. Some people left to settle in Kithor and some in Rardhana villages near it, and some people converted their religion. After that the Khirwa came to be known as Khirwa Jalalpur. Some people considered that in the period of *Aurangzeb*, Sayyad Jalal had established this village. There is the grave of Sayyad Jalal at Eid Gaha, people call his grave 'peer'. In the period of zamindari system the village was put on auction in Malgajari and bought by Makhnallal the Lambardar of Batjewara village. After settling down there he had brought with him some dalit thus there is all categories of castes as general class, other backward class, scheduled caste as well as minority. So from this point of view the study area is very special.

Khirwa Jalalpur is not a developed village. In the absence of any major road and transport system it has not developed. In 2001 Khirwa Jalalpur had a population of about 6981 out of which 3640 are males members and 3341 are females. Obviously in sex rate ratio the female members are less than the male members. Out of this population 2687 belong to general class, 3159 backward class, 1135 schedule caste. Total families are 944. Economically most of the population depends on agriculture farms, labour and animal husbandry. As record (2001) speaks 534 people engage in farms, 574farms labour, 366 household industry. In other work like government and non government services, animal traders and general labourers are 735. The numbers of non worker or unemployed members are 4770 out of which 2032 male and 2738 female. The labourers are engaged in construction work. The main agricultural products here are rice, wheat, sugar cane, mango, pear etc.

Development wise the village has a high school, four junior high school (up to class 8th), three Urdu schools (mdarsa), one small market where all things of daily use are available. One post office, one health centre, two government ration shops, one water tank, nine small water tanks. All these are situated in about 8.092 hectares. In a big sized tank there is Fish culture. Every twenty minutes auto rickshaws are available for going to Meerut city or Sardhana Tehsil. Education is one of the indicators of development. As per records of 2001 35% of villagers are educated. Of these 35%, 63.57 percent are male members and 36.53 percent are female members.

In development process it is backward as only 35 percent literacy is there keeping the backwardness of the village into consideration that we have chosen it as area of study so that it may be assessed how far bureaucracy is made successful in providing a developmental fill up to the village. The fact may be assessed from the bare statistics about the village.

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. This includes self employment, housing, transportation, communication, water, health, and training.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The very first hypothesis was drawn to know whether the development programs have been pushed to their maximum capacity, and whether the people have been benefited by the schemes. 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.

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

Table 1.1: Structure of Rural Development and Administration

Twenty five percent respondents responded positively. Twenty eight 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.

N=23

S. No.	Reasons	Frequency	Percentage
1.	The welfare policies and schemes are introduced early enough	2	8.69
2.	The welfare policies and schemes are introduced partially	2	8.69
3.	After the implementation of policies the benefits at least partially reach all section of society	19	82.60
	Total	23	100

Table 1.2: Factors of compatibility of Governance/Administration

In the above context, how far bureaucracy or administration to implement the various policies and schemes, 19 percent of the respondents considered that after the implementation of policies the benefits at least partially reach all section of society, 2 percent respondents response welfare policies and schemes introduced early enough and 2 percent respondents considered that welfare policies and schemes introduced partially. Though it is true that without proper maintenance of law and order nothing substantial development can be achieved yet, more vigorous attempt need to be taken in the formulation of developmental strategies.

N=100

S. No.	Have you benefited from these programs/schemes? Y/N	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Yes	46	46
2.	No	54	54
	Total	100	100

Table 1.3: Effectiveness of the Rural Development Programs/Scheme

The respondents have been asked whether they have been benefited from socio-economic and political field and whether development has been experienced in these segments. In this concept 46 percent of respondents replied affirmatively. As it has exposed in table 1.3 that some respondents have been benefited with the development scheme and programs, due to them they raised their living and health standard. Yet 54 percent respondents denied.

People participation in policy making is lacking considerably as the required information is not provided by the administration to them. Similarly the administrative setup is still complex in the view point of majority of people. It is neither accountable nor responsible to them. Though development has taken place in the segment of education, road construction and housing and people have benefited by the schemes yet a section of the society is still left behind.

A silver line in the whole process is that the people are aware about the concept of good governance. Its parameters are achievements of programs planning and policy etc. and political parties, political leaders and educational institutions have made the people aware about it. Bureaucracy which is supposed to do this job has failed miserably the administration should be alert while keeping in its focus different problems faced by the masses in the rural community such as sanitation, health care et respondents wanted more focus on women and children programs and expected the administration to be more open and transparent to the local community.

It may be mention that good governance is not a mechanical process. It is more of an ethical process tagged with the emotions of those who are responsible to deliver it. In other words, the political-social leadership needs to be more cautious about the problems of left out segment of the society. It is required on their part which problems are effectively channeled to politico-bureaucratic subsystem whereas on the part of bureaucracy 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. The basic indicator of good governance is: 1) the number of people taken care of by the system, and 2) the quality of life assured to them. The yardstick is: benefit to maximum people means better governance. We are yet to achieve the goal of better governance. Only then the concept of good governance can be realized in words and spirits. Let all of us put our collective might in the direction so that tears from each eyes can be wiped out.

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