



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

PUBLIC POLICIES REFORMS IN INDIA

Dr.Jagadeesh Bidardkoppa

Research scholar

Introduction;

Public policies are the governmental programmes, goals and purposes individually as well as collectively. They are expressed in various forms like laws, ordinances, executive orders, rules and regulations. Due to complexity of work load in the policy formulation the Indian bureaucrats are participating in policy making and policy evaluation stages. Public policy formulation and policy implementation are inter related functions of the center-state Governments. Public policy in India is led down by the political authorities. But the policy implementation is in the hands of Indian bureaucracy which is administrative arm of the Government. This distinction is in accordance with the traditional concept of Wilsonian politics of administration dichotomy. The policy led down by legislature in general terms are the forms of legal and constitutional documents. Therefore, policy making and policy implementation are in the hands of bureaucracy. Following are the various stages in the policy making:

- a. identification of policy problems for the governmental action.
- b. Focusing the attention on specific public problems
- c. Formulation of the policy by legislative and executive wings
- d. Implementation of policies through the bureaucrats.
- e. Evaluation and analysis of policy implementations.

In parliamentary democracies like India there is a formal control over the civil servants by the political executives, pressure groups and political parties are constantly exerting pressure. Public activities have grown to the maximum extent. The legislation cannot provide all the details required in the public policy. Hence, the civil servants are granted discretionary powers to execute the legislation. The execution of public policies is dependant upon the support of civil servants (Upper level bureaucrats, middle level bureaucrats and lower rungs.) They have to work with political authorities. At the top level bureaucrats are the policy formulators - policy innovators - policy monitors -- policy implementer- policy advisors -policy analyst and policy evaluators

POLICY FORMULATION:

Policy formulation is the craftsmanship of the legislature. In recently bureaucracy is involved in shaping of policies like Identification of Policy problems and preparation policy agenda. The civil servants have to contribute to shaping of the policies, but, they are not expected to confine themselves in the implementation of- the policies. The judiciary also plays an important role in the review of policies if they go against the legal and constitutional norms. It is often understood that the top level officers like the Heads of the Departments and their subordinates are involved in policy advise, policy formulation and policy monitoring. But middle level bureaucrats are also engaged for the drafting of the bills and amendments to the existing laws and pointing out their superiors about the implementation. Some times the minister by-pass heads of the departments and old consultations with the middle level bureaucrats. But the policy proposals of middle level bureaucrats are scrutinized by top level bureaucrats. The top level bureaucrats serve as clearing house between the ministers and the middle level bureaucrats. Because they have direct contact with ministers. They have to go along with the political authorities. They have to find out the resources, man power and alternative practicability. Though policies are formulated by ministers, the bureaucrats will have to be neutral in

theory. The bureaucrats may not like political authorities. They cannot act independently and they have to accept the ministers' authority. Some times the politicians and bureaucrats have an adversary relationship. But there is a growing role of bureaucracy in the formulations of the policies. The following are the factors which put the bureaucracy at an advantage."

A. INFORMATION BASE: The top political bureaucrats have a constitutional responsibility to advise on policy options within the framework of constitutional laws.

B. KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE: The top bureaucrats have higher education qualifications and direct experience with the operation of public policies.

C. PERMANENCE OF SERVICE: The bureaucrats hold permanent posts in the organization but ministers have frequent rotation. Due to the expert knowledge gained by the Bureaucrats while working in their departments they are in the unique position.

D. ADVISORY EXPERTISE: Public policy must be realistic. They should provide the complete data through the elected political authorities and advise them on all the implications of policy alternatives.

(ii) POLICY IMPLEMENTATION :

Public policies are implemented by the civil servants. Thus the relationship between policy makers - ministers and the policy implementer - bureaucrats is likely to effect the policy implementation. The bureaucrats are the instruments of the government for implementation of various policies. Policy implementation has a number of steps. First step is to study and understand the policy statement.) The bureaucrats play the double role of performing the output functions and input functions. Policy legislation becomes significant when it is efficiently implemented. The bureaucrats have direct powers while implementing policies. Without the co-operation of the bureaucrats, the ministers find themselves confronted with various problems. Because the policy implementation is a complex problem. There is a continuous exposure of the bureaucrats of the political masters. They have an expert knowledge. The bureaucrats participate in deciding the policy of the government irrespective of the party in power.

(iii) POLICY MONITORING FUNCTIONS:

There cannot be an absolute dividing line between policy advice and policy formulation. The main purpose of the policy monitoring is to obtain the information which will enable the bureaucrats to advise the ministers on policy results. The causes and consequences will have to be explained to the ministers. The purpose of the policy monitoring is to find out the implementation of the policies in accordance with the policy goals and objectives. The targets have to be achieved through the implementation. Policy monitoring is done by the ministers with the co-operation and support of the bureaucrats. The bureaucrats have to overcome several hurdles to ensure the smooth policy monitoring process.

(iv) **POLICY ANALYSIS FUNCTIONS:** Policy analysis involves examining and bringing improvements in the process of formulating the policies. Policy making bodies are supplied with data relating to cause and consequences and costs. Public policies are descriptive, prescriptive and comparative. There are nine standard yardsticks for policy analysis according to YEHEZKEL DROR

- (1) There should be clarification about the values, objectives and criteria for policy making.
- (2) The method should include the identification of the alternatives.
- (3) The method should include the estimation of expected expenditure from the various alternatives.
- (4) There must be need for establishing possible results of alternative policies.
- (5) Quantitative and qualitative factors will have to be analysed.
- (6) There should be method to decide more comprehensive analysis.
- (7) There must be experience and rationality.
- (8) There must be scientific technique.
- (9) Policy making will have to improve by encouraging intellectual efforts.

Conclusion

The bureaucrats are hard pressed in the day to day functioning, Their major time is spent in the administration of executing policies They have to forecast expenditure, prepare the explanatory note on policies, negotiate with interest groups and administer the subordinates. on account of such heavy work load the top level bureaucrats find it difficult for concentrating their attention in the process of policy analysis and policy management. They have to put intensive efforts in the training of middle level bureaucrats in policy analysis and management. Urgent action is required in the preparation of suitable texts, training materials, and computer programmes. Policy analysis has become complex contemporary context against the backdrop of liberalization, globalization and privatization. In the light of bureaucracy in policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and analysis functions bureaucratic reforms in India have suggested.

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