



Challenges of Good Governance in India

Sanjay T. Salve

Assistant Professor in Political Science
Siddharth Arts, Comm. & Science College,
Jafrabad, Dist- Jalna (Maharashtra)
Email: sanjay.salve2011@gmail.com

Introduction

Good governance often refer to the task of the running government in an effective and smooth manner. It is qualitative concept not quantative. Governance is very old concept. It is as old as human civilization. Governance means the process of decision making and the process by which decisions are implemented. Governance can be used in several context such as corporate, international, national and local governance.

“Good governance is perhaps the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development”

By Kofi Annan

In India the concept of governance is very old. It reflects in ancient history of India. In Buddha's period it is bounded by 'Dhamma.' 'Rajdharmā' was the code of conduct or rule of law in ancient India. In modern India the concept of governance was decisively shaped by the freedom movement by freedom fighters like Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru and maker of Indian constitution Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. Every nation guided by the certain values greatly influences the content and the quality of governance. The values in Indian context at the time of the inauguration of Republic of India were those of nationalism, secularism, parliamentary democracy, non-alignment and mixed economy. In India there is various culture, caste, religion, environment and languages also, and this is big challenge before good governance in India.

Features of Good Governance

- Citizen centric service.
- Good education, Health, security facilities offered by the government having good employability.
- Development of basic infrastructure like road, school, hospitals, bridges, power, telecom, airport, irrigation and transport.
- Safety of public life and property, peaceful law and order.
- Creating a new employment opportunities in government and private sector.
- Good business environment with good market economy.
- Reducing inequalities in the society through positive discrimination in the favour of poorest of the poor.
- Providing freedom of speech and work in country.
- Provisions of more concessions to citizens without any bias.



Challenges of Good Governance in India

While the evaluating India's stand amongst the other countries of the world, it is revealed that India is compared favourably with many developing countries though it has long way to go to attain the level of developed countries. The criminalization of politics and corruption are the major challenges in-front-of good governance in India.

Corruption

The corruption has virtually spread in almost all aspect of public life. The person lying on the street is left to struggle incessantly with corruption throughout his life. Corruption is relatively inherent in terms of client public puzzle, harassed by opaque rules and procedures, excessive delay in disposal of public matters. It is not only averts the benefits of globalization to reach common men but also denies the transparency, accessibility and accountability confuses rules and procedures, mindless control and poor commitments not to make dishonest compromises which would put down the moral values and ethics of life.

Criminalization of Politics

Criminalization of the political process of the unholy nexus between politician, civil servants and business houses is painful influences on public policy formulation and governance and political class as such losing respect. Every political party lose its respect due to criminalization of politics. India being the largest democratic country, struggling as emerge as world class leader in the field of social and economic development. However, the nexus of crime and politics is so strong that the common citizens of the country having no stand to say or exert their rights. In order to prevent such misuses, the Supreme Court of India has given a historic judgement following the public interest litigation led by the NGO that, every candidate contesting an election to parliament, state legislation, and local self government has to give true declaration of the candidates educational qualification and criminal charges and financial records. Though many commissions and committees have been framed to bring improvement.

Law & Implementation

The rule of law expressed through the axiom that no one above the law. All are equal before the law. One has to clearly understand that the rule of law is different rule by law. Under the rule by law, law is an instrument of the government is above the law under the rule of law there is no one above the law. In Indian constitution Article 14 stated that 'Equality before the Law' and equal protection under the law. No person can be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to the procedure adopting by the constitution of India. In India caste system, religion and gender inequality are the obstacles to implement the rule of law.

Employment

India have 65% population from the age group of 18 to 25 years. Generation of gainful employment for the youth is the most challenging task facing India's political economy. India's working age population is over 50 percent. This share will continue to rise and reach 60 percent in 2050. A fast-growing working population will ensure more workers, more saving and hence more investment. This mechanistic view of growth assumes that demography is destiny and that economic policies and programmes play little or no role. But population growth by itself does not add to



prosperity, unless young people are educated and new jobs are created. If we fail to generate employment and equip the youth with good quality education and skills, India's demographic dividend could become a demographic liability. The need is to prepare the youth with such education (we have more than 300 million illiterate children adding to the enormity of the problem) that would help them acquire vocational skills and mastery over new technology, including internet. This would make the youth employable in the job-market and also help those who want to work on their own.

Empowerment

An empowering approach to poverty reduction needs to be based on the conviction that poor people have to be both the object of development programmes and principal agency for development. Our Constitution is committed to two different set of principles that have a decisive bearing on equality. First, is the principle of equal opportunities to all. A significant threat in terms of empowerment could come if moves are made to take a religious or sectarian view of secular, political and economic action. We must take into account the presence of extremist elements among different religious groups, i.e. the Hindus, the Sikhs and the Muslims, who are occasionally nourished by the communal violence that they stir, in our task of maintenance of peace and order in the country.

Regional Diversity

In India there are many diversity in geopolitics, environment, cultural, caste, religion etc., Abraham Lincoln stated in the House Divided speech that 'the United States could not endure half slave and half free. It would become all one thing or all the other – all free or all slave.' Indians are at a level of economic development where India's southern and western states have enormously developed in economic and educational terms while the northern and eastern states are lagging behind. The level of frustration on account of this disparity is becoming evident in the spread of naxalism and insurgency. India cannot have for long time co-existence between California and Sudan for either we will have all California or all Sudan. It is true that the nation-state is deeply concerned about this phenomenon but it is only through the quality of governance in northern and eastern states combined with high level of investment that regional disparity could be bridged. Generation of employment among the youth in rural areas in northern and eastern States could be the catalyst.

Administrative Responses

Indian administrative scene is marked by few successful innovations and practices in public service delivery and a large number of pathetic performances. The general weakness of accountability mechanisms is an impediment to improving services across the board. Bureaucratic complexities and procedures make it difficult for a citizen as well as the civil society to navigate the system for timely and quality delivery of services. The lack of transparency and secrecy that have been associated with the administrative system from colonial times, besides generating corruption, has also led to injustice and favouritism. The frequent transfer of key civil servants has enormously contributed to failures in delivery of services. In some states, the average tenure of a District Magistrate is less than one year. Development projects have also suffered as a result of frequent changes in project directors.



Another important factor in delivery of services relates to the role of political leadership. In a State where the Chief Minister has been reform oriented, it has invariably resulted in better delivery of services. Stable governments with clear majority in the State assembly too have contributed to better service delivery. The political realities vary from state to state and from time to time in India. Stable governments with a clear majority in the State Assembly are always better positioned to carry out the vision of the Chief Minister. Public signaling of support by the state leadership always helps civil servants reach the poor people by ignoring political interferences that are aimed at securing individuals or group interests of comparatively better off people in the society.

Conclusion

The effective functioning of the governance is the prime concern of every citizen of the country. The citizens are ready to pay the price of good services offered by the state, but they have transparency and accountability and intelligible governance system without any bias. In present situation, India moving towards prosperity and development. There is need to reformulate our strategy to accord primacy to the Gandhian principle of *antodaya* to restore good governance in India. In such circumstances when the nation-state machineries become more efficient and accountable the citizens. After all, the good governance in the country can thrive only when every citizen would ignite themselves in the flame of patriotism adhering to truth, peace and non-violence as means to perceive India of our dream.

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