

THE STUDY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN INDIA: A CHEQUERED JOURNEY (?)

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Public Administration, as a discipline, is witnessing dawn of a new era in its study, which now by stepping out of its orthodox/conventional mould seeks to create an independent space in Social Sciences. The overzealous endeavour at making Public Administration an instrumental and goal-driven technical exercise has taken out the dynamism of the discipline as an organic search for administrative solutions for socio-economic problems in the country. The discipline is reduced to efforts at building specific skills which are required to address the identified problems without recognizing their socio-economic and political roots. The discussion that follows revolves around those major issues which remain critical in the framing of syllabus and in class teaching.

DEVELOPMENT FOR WHOM AND AT WHOSE COST: DISPLACEMENT DUE TO DAMS IN INDIA

SUBHASH SHARMA

The construction of large dams is not desirable in India from the viewpoint of the original land owners, especially the tribals in remote areas who are the ultimate losers, whereas, upper crest industrialists, rich farmers (interested in cash crops) as well as urban water and electricity consumers corner most of the benefits of dams. This article is divided into four sections: rationale of the building of dams, process of land acquisition, procedure of compensation, and the package of rehabilitation of the oustees.

REFORMING INDIA'S HIGHER CIVIL SERVICES: AGENDA FOR 21ST CENTURY REFORMS

KULDEEP FADIA

The ramifications of global changes are being felt by the government in the form of increasing citizen expectations for better governance through effective service delivery, transparency, accountability and rule of law. The civil service, as the prime constituent of government, must keep pace with the changing times in order to meet the aspirations of the people. The purpose of reform is to reorient the civil services into a dynamic, efficient and accountable apparatus for public service delivery built on the public service ethos and values of integrity, equity and neutrality.

PROTECTION OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE IN THE PRESENT IPR REGIME: A MIRAGE OR A REALITY

RAJU NARAYANA SWAMY

The Intellectual Property Right (IPR) regime needs to be fine tuned in such a way that it can bolster the cultural identity of indigenous communities and give them greater say in its management. This calls for a comprehensive strategy with community, national, regional and international dimensions. This framework should ensure that the control and sovereignty over biological resources rest with the local community and that they receive adequate compensation when these resources are utilised by outsiders. The present study aims to arrive at such an IPR regime characterised by a lucid interdisciplinary synthesis of anthropological, biological and economic perspectives essential for balancing the rights of local people with the obligation to preserve viable ecosystems for posterity.

CONFERRING RIGHTS ON CITIZENS—LAWS AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION

P.R. DUBHASHI

When a government chooses to neglect growth to launch populist welfare schemes it faces the hazard of half-hearted implementation because of inadequate resources and resultant low sustainability. The last one decade witnessed a slew of measures to bestow a number of rights on citizens which are already obligatory on the state by virtue of directive principles enshrined in the Constitution. But the initiatives too often suffered from faulty conception or slow and ham-fisted implementation. Several such measures have failed to make the desired impact because of prevailing ground realities, desultory attitude of the state governments and overall wider economic factors. Putting 'rights' on statute book will not be effective unless appropriate implementation strategy is in place.

THE RELEVANCE OF 'WEDNESBURY UNREASONABLENESS' IN THE LIGHT OF 'PROPORTIONALITY' AS A GROUND FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW

RAJAN VARGHESE

The principle of primary review and proportionality on the one hand and the principle of secondary review and Wednesbury reasonableness on the other hand gave a new dimension to Administrative Law, the former applying in the case of fundamental freedoms and the latter, in other cases. Proportionality as a legal test is capable of being more precise than a reasonableness test, besides requiring a more intrusive review of a decision made by a public authority. Judicial verdicts have not openly held that the proportionality test may replace the Wednesbury test. Practically what is found is that the proportionality test is applied more and more, when there is violation of human rights and fundamental freedom and the Wednesbury finds its presence more on the domestic law when there are violations of a citizen's ordinary rights.

COMPLACENCY: COMPOUNDING THE URBAN WATER CRISIS

ANUSHREE JAIN

It is important to recognise that the entire urban water scenario is linked not just to infrastructure, finance, and governance, but to urban developmental choices. At present, cities are promoting water-intensive developments, while a more sustainable trajectory is essential for it. It is against this backdrop of global and national scenarios of water crisis/stress and their ramifications in context of basic needs, development goals and poverty reduction that the importance of attitudes towards water emerges as the crucial factor.

GANDHIAN JURISPRUDENCE OF NON-VIOLENCE AND GLOBAL PEACE

JAI S. SINGH

The most important contribution of India to the contemporary world is the message of non-violence and global peace. It was formulated and practiced by Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi's thought process was an outcome of his political struggle first in South Africa as a revolt against the practice of apartheid. It was developed in India as a non-violent battle against British imperialism for national independence. Gandhi's concept of Ramarajya or the Kingdom of righteousness on earth stands for an egalitarian and non-violent democratic social order wherein moral values pervade all spheres of human life. The law of 'Dharma or righteousness' and the morality of the individuals bind together the members of the society, and make them to fulfill their social obligations. Dharma or social ethics exerts strong moral pressure on the individuals and sustains social cohesion. Each individual works for the 'greatest good of all', and the society will provide maximum opportunities to all individuals to develop their potentialities.

GANDHI'S VISION OF DEVELOPMENT: RELEVANCE FOR 21ST CENTURY

NUTI NAMITA

Development through the use of state apparatus is integral to the notion of freedom, and poverty becomes a problem of politics and power. This process confers rationality and acceptability of practices and techniques of the government (and its agents) among the individuals in society. Mahatma Gandhi was deeply suspicious of the power of state to influence growth, and hence relied on the self-control of an individual as the force that could transform the society. He believed that there was no need to have a society based on the Western notions of greed and wealth but on moral individuals who cared for each other and followed their spiritual goals. This translated, in his vision, to a more equal society based on different religious groups showing tolerance towards each other, and engaged in small-scale economic activities.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION: HOLISTIC APPROACH FOR ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE INDIAN CONTEXT

NEELIMA DESHMUKH

The environmental education becomes an integral part of the strategy for ecological development, environmental improvement and protection as well as prevention of environmental degradation. Such an approach to education becomes a medium and process of creating awareness about man's relationship with his natural as well as social and man-made environment. It should aim at enabling individuals and communities to understand the complex formation of environment that results from interaction of their biological, physical, social, economic and cultural aspects along with knowledge, values, attitudes and skills acquired over the years.

MEDICAL EDUCATION IN INDIA: AN INTROSPECTION

R. KUMAR

Medical education in India is at crossroads. The age old approach and structure of medical education leave much to be desired in meeting the rising challenges, both internal and external, to medical profession. As the challenges multiply, a new strategy is needed to drive medical education to the next level of excellence. The time has come to introspect whether to continue with the medical education system and curricula established over a hundred years ago or to take a fundamentally different course, guided by contemporary innovation and new understanding about the aspirations of the society and demands of the profession. A view has to be taken now if this paradigm of medical education can continue to meet the rising challenges, both internal and external, to medical education. An assessment of the prevailing situation of the medical and health care demands new approaches towards shaping the minds, hands and hearts of physicians. Fundamental change in medical education will require new curricula, new pedagogies, attitudinal changes and new forms of assessment.

EMPOWERING LOCALES: NEED FOR AN

EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY MEDIA

MOINA KHAN

India is a pluralistic society, and a synthetic mosaic constructed with an amalgamation of different kinds of communities and hence community communication becomes an urgent need. Though with the phase two of FM licensing in July 2005, airwaves were made accessible and many community radio stations belonging to non-government organisations and educational institutions were set up all over India. Many campus community radio stations have been set up in urban areas under the governance of respective educational institutions, with an aim that these will act as a good communication agent. In Indian metropolitan cities, where there are many sources for information and entertainment, what is the image of community radio stations among its audience ? Campus people, can be aware of it, but what about the community it caters to? Why do they actually listen to it? Do they actually depend on this kind of communication strategy?