AN ANALYSIS OF THE CONCEPT & CHALLANGES OF GOOD GOVERNANCE IN PRESENT SCENARIO

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INTRODUCTION

The term of '*Governance'* was first used in the 12th Century in France, where it was a technical term, designing the administration of baillage, or bailiwicks. As with the word government, it comes from the Latin word "*rudder*" conveying the idea of "*steering.*" Governance thus focused on unity-not uniqueness of interests (Awasthi & Meheshwari 1982). In the broadly perspective, we may say that the '*governance'* is a decision-making processes that through consultation, dialogue, exchange and mutual respect seeks to ensure co-existence and is some cases, coherence between different and some time divergent point of view. How does "*good governance*" develop? Relation between rules and rules varied from country to country. History, customs, law, society and political economy affect the rule in the country hold rules to account for their performance. The relative openness of a socio-political system or economy and degree of predictability in government decision making and interaction with public, the development of accountability are useful perspective on the evolution of governance (Baghal, C.L and Yogendra Kumar, 2006).

The **United Nations Development Programme** (UNDP) has defined the word "governance" broadly as "the exercise of economic, political and political authority manage a country's affairs at all levels. It comprises the mechanisms, processes and institutions, through which the citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their Obligations and mediate their differences. The concepts of good governance and human Right are mutually reinforcing, both being based on core principles of participation, accountability, transparency, reciprocity and state responsibility. Human rights and good governance go along with and strengthen each other. Providing good human rights atmosphere also helps in achieving the ultimate goal of good governance. i.e. sustainable social and political development. Human rights and good governance are related each other multi-dimensionally. Where good governance aims to make government and political institutions it helps in empowering general masses with the basic human rights of being aware about the politics and legislation under formation for them. Keeping in view, the multi-dimensional notion of '*good-governance'* which is a '*composite form'* of the efforts made by various welfare oriented governing agencies. Thus it is a '*Composite Index'* which include the parameters like economic reforms, creation of statuary independent regulatory mechanism which is gaining wider support.

All these '*governing agencies'* are the government, the press, the pressure groups, e-governance, non – government organization and globalization (Bull, Benedite and Dismount, M.C. Neil, 2006) All above mentioned agencies have been proved conducive to develop the environment for '*good governance*.' With the result, a considerable transparency, responsiveness and sense of vigilance have been developed among the officials, belong to different administrative hierarchy.

The other form of '*good governance'* which is a '*Decentralization'* of power has also been proved conducive to devolution of power to the grass-root level, which is called '*Decentrised democracy'* too. The different modes of '*good governance'* have also paved the way to mitigate the *red-tapism* and corruption from the different strata of administrative hierarchy (Das, S.K. 1995). The government which reforms to the administrative machinery and institutional arrangement of exercising the sovereign power for sewing the internal and external interest of the political community and function to develop governance which help to make '*feel good'* for the people. The government develops such a system which facilitates to be good enough to entertain the needs and problems of the people. As Prof. *Amartya Sain* says, "It is not a question of more or less government, but what kind of government which lead us to issue of governance." In the subsequent years, this notion has been faced by numerous of challenges with the changing scenario (Dayal, Ishwar 1975)

MULTI-FACETED VIEWS ON GOOD GOVERNANCE

The *judiciary* which is supposed to function in accordance with the laws, laid by the Indian constitution, by barring any type of biasness, non-affiliation and the real justice for the people, belong to different strata of society. It has been often observed that the judiciary is some time influenced by the media or pressure groups, as a result deviate from the *spirit of the justice*. It has also been observed that the directions given by even the apex court are not been followed by the government. For example, the direction given by the Supreme Court on SYL, the Sutlej Yamuna Link has not been implemented even till now by the Punjab government. This type of tendency has always been proving a 'wet *blanket'* in developing good governance for the people.

Since independence, the '*Bureaucracy'* has been playing a significant role in formulating and executing the government derived public policies for the people belong to different strata of society. The bureaucratic functions are within the set of rules framed by the government, but the bureaucracy has always been functioning in accordance with the undesirable *political pressure,* as a result considerable deviations are often observed in the responsiveness of these '*Bureaucrats'* at different administrative hierarchy (Arora, Ramesh 2006).However, in the recent years, a scenario has been changing in this direction as more works are appearing to provide a clear understanding of globalization governance/ administrative hexes. There are many issues that have been receiving attention include the impact of globalization on

national/ administrative system are across the world, the way national administrative system are responding to change brought about by globalization, and the identification of best practice that the national administrative system can adopt to fit the new mode of operation in the globalised world myriads of other issues (Sahni & Uma Medury, 2007).

E-governance, which implies the use of LAN (Local Area Network), WAC, the Wide Area Network, internet, mobile cells and other computer technology are accountable by providing access to requisite information, computerization of government official records, enabling public to interact with officials, making operations of transport and offering public services on line. The time has come, when e-*governance* will be proved conducive to break the chain of offering the scope of negotiating the bribe system among the public officials, eliminating the discretionary power and standardization of decision making process. It is expected to pave the way for transparency, demystification of process and procedures, multi-level accountability and detecting the prevailing phenomena like non-doing, wrong doing, *queue-jumping*, favouring or disfavouring. Now the e-*governance* has now been widely recognized as an important means for transformational improvement in quality, efficiency and effectiveness, noticeable progress in the delivery of e-governance in both developed and developing countries (R.K.Sapru and Yudhishthra, 2014).

The RTI, Right to Information Act. 2005, has provided an ample scope for knowing the factual figures to a considerable extent to the people, belong to different strata of society. It is a '*Land mark'* right among the various rights for the citizens of India. Since its implementation, it has paved the way to understand the status of the government machinery, the factor which improved development, problems and constraints faced by the people for an effective implementation of public policies. In addition, the RTI has paved the way to understand the working of government's citizen-centre schemes, bottlenecks in the way of development, level of corruption etc. On the basis of information which is made available under RTI Act, a periodic assessment may be worked out for knowing the '*factual picture'* of the actions taken by the authority (Mathur Kuldeep, 2008)

The media play a significant role to develop the *good governance* for the people living in rural and urban areas of the country. It is a vehicle, capable of assuming forms which is characterized with massages and covering a sizeable numerical strength of the people with rapidly, effectively and *cost-effectively*. We have observed that the media is a source of engine of '*public opinion formation'* regarding any issue of public interest. It provides a catalyst force to affect the judiciary, the government authorities on policy matters, develop transparency and responsiveness in public and private administration.

The pressure groups also play a significant role to develop the 'good governance' at various fronts. There are numerous of pressure groups, working at different levels like trade unions, professional associations, student unions, consumer's forums and non-government organizations which have

been playing a vital role for developing a for as ' collected bargaining' for '*judicious decision making'* for the people belong to different strata of society. In order to review the concept of good governance under globalization, Jain, R.B (2005) says that the globalization have over the years received little in relation to visibility given to political and economic aspects. However, in the recent years, thing have been changing the direction, as more works are appearing to provide clear understanding of globalization- governance administrative nexus. Large numbers of issues that have drawn attention, include the direct and indirect impact of globalization on national/ public administrative system across the world, the way natural administrative systems are responding to changes brought about by the globalization and identification of international best practices that national administrative system can adopt to shape into the changing scenario of globalised world.

The process of globalization brought a considerable pressure for constructive reforms have recently been generated for regulating globalization (Issak N.Obasi, 2006) It is emerging as a major political and administrative issue, and given rise to take forms such as '*regulation'* and should take in accordance with changing scenario. This process has given a new dimension of transparency, accountability, ethics, reform of bureaucracy, the basic ingredient of good governance as well the political values which might inform it. On the other hand, the reform which is taken by priority wise in many developed as well as developing countries along with a political debate about the necessity, desirability and possibility of democratizing global polity and global governance.

The process of decentralization and good governance has a positive relationship. The impact of decentralization process for achieving the different aspects of good governance, now become a wider priority in administrative as well as in the corporate world too. Since the beginning of '*globalization period,*' it become imperative to make an alternative in the democratic planning, so that the rigid system in decision making more responsive for the people. Earlier the concentration of power and closed system under rigid political environment has given rise to make the decision making process biased and lop-sided. This type of rigid system has also been given rise to develop the flaws in formulation of public policy at various levels. Various studies show that the decentralization of power in the '*Panchayati Raj System'* has been proved a '*panacea'* for the development programmes in accordance with local conditions at grass-root levels. In this context, various studies indicate that the '*de-concentration'* of power in the form of '*decentralized democracy'* in the Panchayati Raj system in India, has led to more responsiveness, consensus-oriented, transparent, co-ordinate, accountable, and flexibility at implementation front. It has been proved conducive to take a regular periodic feedback under decentralized system of Panchayati Raj system in India. On the other hand, the civil society which can influence the policy and project proposal through membership of committees, submission of memoranda directly through elected representatives and interactive rules making for implementation of policies, projects and Schemes affect the citizens. Civil

society act as "*watch dog*" against violation of human rights, entitlement and responsibilities and government about the pulses of the people, and mobilization of public opinion for or against a programme or policy for restoring the '*good-governance'* in the society. State government is accountable for its policies and action and capable of organizing a clean administration supported by predictable economic and social policies, an independent judiciary, and commitment to be part of the international civil society. As areas of specific concerned for India, *Ray*, *Binayat* (2013) lists population growth, the quality & stock of human resources, access to energy resources, and agrarian reforms. But beyond these more immediate concerns, yet the study is with fundamental questions of *good governance* in India.

There is both need and scope for regional and global co-operation for achieving the good governance for *sustainable development* too. Some of the areas of common concern are marine and riparian issues, trans-bounding environment impact, and management of bio-resources, technology sharing and sharing of experiences of sustainable development. In order to develop the '*good governance'* it become imperative to have a periodic review the role of the governments for formulation and execution of their policies with periodic responsiveness from the people, belong to different strata of society. Only then we shall be in a position to get the desired results.

Hence, it is obvious from the multifaceted study on '*good-governance'* which indicates a varied visions and view points, given by the different authors and researchers. They have highlighted various problematic areas and tried to establish a '*causes-effect relationships'* of various quantitative and qualitative parameters to achieve the desired objectives of 'good governance'. It is expected to pave the way to make the system more democratic, flexible and capable to face the challenges in accordance with prevailing conditions in the changing scenario. The concept of 'Good governance' is to be strengthening so that this notion may face the challenges, posing in the changing scenario. Every faceted of 'Good governance' is to be reviewed in accordance with the changing scenario. Only then, the concept of *good governance* will ensure the social stability for the people. It will also ensure to full fill the dream of the people belong to rural, urban areas and the tribal areas and also help to fill up gap of 'cultural lag' between the tribal and non-tribal culture in the different parts of the country.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the study of *good governance* and its multiple dimensions- tradition and modern indicate a continuity and change in accordance with changing scenario. The rate of change has been varied from time to time. The historic past reflects its "*propagation*" of the notion of *good governance* which has been changing from time to time, but the basic spirit of the notion has not been changed till now. All the traits of *good-governance* are aimed at '*welfare of the people*.' The multiple-dimensions of *good governance* include the *judiciary*, the *media*, *the press*, the legislatives, the e-*governance*, the RTI Act. and the *decentralization*

of power to the grass-root levels have cumulatively worked for developing the 'good-governance' as a tool for boldly facing the *challenges*, posed by adverse environment in the society. It may be the press or other type of media or the pressure group or the civil society- the basic functions of these agents of '*good governance*' is to establish a *social stability* so that the whole system may become more responsive, transparent, vigilant and accountable at every front. Every action plan should be percolated into the grass-root level, so that we may attain the position of *sustainable development*. It is also expected to pave the way to managing the existing and future '*changes*' in accordance with need of the people. Only then, we can hope that the concept of '*good governance*' will ensure for '*holding good*' for the welfare and protecting the rights of the people, belong to rural and urban areas of India.

Finally, the *Mantra* of '*Good governance*' requires a drastic administrative and educational reforms in that direct the government of the day seems to be on the right track and here is that real test for the BJP government for rising prices, shortage of power, plight of the farmers, the pressing problems of the middle and low- income groups, increasing *Naxalite* violence, growing crimes against the women, rehabilitation & resettlement problem of the uprooted people due to land-acquisition, shifting to education from service sector to economic sector, recently in the name of reservation, caste-based violence in Haryana, suicide by a 'Dalit student in Hydrabad University, anti-national activities in the institutions like Jawaharlal Nehru University are some of present challenges before the BJP government. Sooner we address these issues with *job incentive system*. Here lies the key to "*good governance.*"

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