PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN INDIA: 21st CENTURY CHALLENGES FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE

About the Book

In recent times political leaders, public servants and academics in India and the world over have been concerned with the question of what constitutes "good governance", and how can it be achieved? The forces of globalization, liberalisation and the revolution in information technology have shattered many a myth hitherto held sacrosanct about the government and more specifically concerning its primary institution of governance --- the public administration. Governments can no longer afford to support rigid, bureaucratic, reactive, rules driven administrative organizations---rather today's administrative system ought to be flexible, consultative, result-oriented and proactive---at the same time encouraging and supporting creativity and innovation from the bottom to the top in order to govern and provide services to the citizens at large. During the last century, there has been a considerable rethinking on the ways the governments now conduct their business. They are now looking more and more towards innovative solutions to respond to an increasing number of new and complex environmental and global problems and pressures, which are further accentuated in a developing, multi-linguistic, and a multi-cultural country like India, having diversity of social and religious systems and tremendous ecological, cultural and external constraints. It is thus natural that students of good governance and public administrationists all over the world, more specifically in India must now concern themselves increasingly with more vital issues beyond the realm of mere regulation and maintenance of law and order. In the light of these new perspectives, the present book attempts to discuss some of the critical emerging concerns of good governance and the 21st century challenges to public administration in India. The range of issues chosen for an in depth analysis relate to (a) India's Pursuit of Good Governance (b) The Socio-political Structure and Public Administration (c) Human Resource Development (d) Globalisation, Liberalization and Human Security (e) Public Policy Management (f) Accountability and Political Control of Bureaucracy (g) Citizen's Charter (h) Political and Bureaucratic Corruption (i) Citizen Participation in Governance (j) NGOs and the Civil Society (k) Criminal Justice System (l) Managing Foreign Affairs, and (m) Management of Environment. In addition three crucial problems of significant academic importance viz. (i) Research Methodology in Public Administration (ii) Problems of Comparative Public Administration and (iii) the elusive search for a Theory of Public Administration have also been dealt with. All these issues have been critically examined both from historical perspective and an depth analysis of the various parameters involved with some fresh thinking and insights, with a view to offer some constructive suggestions to resolve some of the inherent problems, and their implications for the body politic and civil society as a whole. Hopefully the book would be found immensely useful both by the students and practitioners of public administration, and would serve as a reference book to encourage further debate and discussions amongst the academics, intellectuals and policy makers in India and abroad.

About the Author

Dr. Randhir B. Jain is a former Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Professor and Head of the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, Delhi. He has been Professor and Head of the Department of Public Administration at Punjabi University, Patiala and Professor of Public Administration at the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi. He has held appointments as Visiting Professor at various Universities in Canada, USA and Germany and has lectured as Guest Professor at a number of Universities and Research Institutions in all the continents. A former editor of Indian Journal of Political Science, and a member of the Editorial Board of The Indian Journal of Public Administration, he is currently on the editorial board of
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