

Sustainable Development in the Era of Artificial Intelligence

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Chapter 2

Urban Good Governance in India: Theoretical and Policy Perspective

DR. KHURSHED ALAM

There is no doubt that promoting social justice and long-term economic success requires improving governance. Whether or not this is realised will depend on how rapidly leaders in the federal, state, and municipal governments can adjust to the intricate developments in the social, political, and economic spheres. Therefore, in order to improve public goods and services delivery as well as the effectiveness and efficiency of the functioning of political and governmental institutions, reforms are required. This asks for the decentralisation and fortification of local governments in order to facilitate public participation in development and governance, in addition to allowing civil society organisations to take ownership of development initiatives and activities. Transparency promotes openness through feedback and reporting, clear policies and procedures, and the conduct of individuals in positions of power. It gives the public clear guidelines and information that is easy to understand. Decentralisation, including political devolution, de-concentration, delegation, and transfer to non-governmental organisations, promotes public administration and good governance by offering an institutional framework to bring decision-making closure to the people and by encouraging collaboration and synergies among actors and organisations to achieve economic and human development goals. Legislators, development specialists, and officials have so backed decentralisation plans and initiatives over time. In light of this, the current paper aims to examine the definition, development, structure, and results of governance. The primary sources of data for the paper are relevant literature and secondary data.

Introduction

In an attempt to foster democratic ideals, the Indian government has tried to modernise its administrative and political structures at the beginning of the twenty-first century. A change in development paradigms has caused the focus of development planning to move to participatory development with social justice and equity. In order to ensure public involvement in decision-making and give local demands

more weight, it called for decentralised governance. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts of 1992 included provisions for safeguarding local self-governance by granting local authorities increased authority. As a result, the units of local self-government were granted statutory standing and the state governments were given the necessary guidelines for creating three tiers of local government in both rural and urban areas. Remarkably, local organisations have developed into parts of the governments and actively take part in the process of developing the socioeconomic growth of the region. A significant change to decentralise power at the municipal level in the country's metropolitan areas started with the 74th Constitution Amendment Act of 1992.

As a result of significant global developments, many industrialised and developing nations embraced new approaches to public administration and governance in the 1980s and 1990s. Among the principles and characteristics of the new public management movement were catalytic change, community empowerment, competitiveness, mission-driven, results-focused, customer-driven, enterprising, decentralisation, and market orientation. These characteristics developed into the tenets that guided the government-reinvention initiatives of multiple federal agencies, state governments, and local governments in the 1990s. Although they are necessary for promoting human development that is sustainable and reducing poverty, governments are unable to achieve these goals on their own. Collaboration and collaborations with corporations and civil society organisations through democratic, transparent, and participatory methods are essential for successful government. In the twenty-first century, governments have four important roles to play in fostering sustainable social and economic prosperity. Building institutional competency is the most crucial of them since it creates the environment and foundation for all other tasks. The second most important thing is the formulation and execution of policies that support the conditions necessary for productive engagement in a global economy. The third function focuses on policies that assist the underprivileged in order to attain economic growth that is socially just. The last one highlights how important government is to improving public administration's capacity to promote socially just economic growth, enable global economic participation, and combat poverty.