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DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNANCE AND EXTREMISM IN NORTH-EAST INDIA

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In North-East India, development and extremism have an intrinsic relationship with governance. Extremism is often cited as the offshoot of maldevelopment. When the genuine process of governance failed to address the concerns of certain sections of the society, extremism rises as a potent weapon in the hands of the people. When extremism spreads its wing, people's participation cannot be ensured in the development process. In such a situation governance is a causality. In India the project of postcolonial modernization generated discontent among certain sections because their identity and survival would be harmed in the process of development. The capitalist model of development imposed on the traditional communitarian societies generated a fear psychosis among various communities of North-East India. Their apprehension was based on the fact that democratic government was not able to simultaneously accommodate conflicting interests and promote socio-economic development. Ethnic identities, on the other hand, started thinking in terms of the particularities in order to secure benefits from the development model. Development model with its modernization project brought deprivation instead of improvement in the living conditions of the people. Deprivation is not merely a psychological phenomenon but is the reflection of existing material conditions in the society. When some sections of the society drive away the benefits of the development and others are denied their due share creates a sense of alienation from the mainstream development process. Developmental deprivation and exclusion play a vital role in spreading extremism. Democracy generates expectations among the people. Whenever, they feel their expectation did not realise in the development process it forces them to adopt non-democratic way. In other words, when the political establishment gives inadequate attention to the genuine demands of some sections of the society it forces them to adopt certain non-democratic means in order to achieve their objective.

Keywords

Development, Extremism, Governance, Ethnicity

Introduction

Development is a multifaceted phenomenon. It envisages different things to different people. As a result, various theories and interpretations have been offered to examine what constitute 'development'. The classical economists like Adam Smith and Ricardo viewed development in terms of economic growth. However, such conception of development was confronted with the Great Depression of the 1930s which necessitated an alternative approach to development. As a result, Keynesianism recognized

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BRINGING GOOD GOVERNANCE THROUGH JNNURM REFORMS: A STUDY OF LUDHIANA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, PUNJAB

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World is facing the enormous challenges of urbanisation and urban degradation everywhere. The causes are several but remedy can be the development which is 'sustainable' and governance that is 'good'. Therefore, it is universally accepted that there is need to renew and re-develop cities. Consequently, the Government of India has announced a mission mode programme, named, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) in 2005. JNNURM on the one hand is redeveloping/renewing/reshaping the cities with infrastructure projects and on the other is bringing good governance through its reforms thrust at the urban local bodies level. The research paper is an attempt to analyse the implementation of reforms in Ludhiana Municipal Corporation Further, to find out the viability of these reforms in transforming the governance to good governance as it argues.

Keywords

Urban Degradation, JNNURM, Good Governance, Sustainable Development, Urban Local Bodies

Citizens, around the world over, look up to the nation state and its organs for high quality performance. When good governance is guaranteed, citizens go about their personal business and pursuits with enhanced expectations. Conditions of good governance allow citizens to maximize their returns on investment. Good governance does not occur by chance. It must be demanded by citizens and nourished explicitly and consciously by the **nation/state**. It is, therefore, necessary that the citizens are allowed to participate freely, openly and fully in the political process. The presence of a strong civil society including a free press and independent judiciary are pre-conditions for good governance.

What is 'good' governance in the Indian context? The central challenge before good governance relates to social development. In his famous 'tryst with destiny' speech on 14th August 1947, Jawaharlal Nehru articulated this challenge as 'the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunities'. Good governance must aim at expansion in social opportunities and removal of poverty. In short, good governance, as it is perceived, means securing justice, empowerment, employment and efficient delivery of services.¹

There is no single and exhaustive definition of "good governance," nor is there a delimitation of its scope, that commands universal acceptance. The term is used with great flexibility; this is an advantage, but also a source of some difficulty at the operational level. Depending on the context and the overriding objective sought, good governance has been said at various times to encompass: full respect of human rights, the rule of law, effective participation, multi-actor partnerships, political pluralism, transparent

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1 <http://workspace.unpan.org/sites/Internet/Documents/Challenges%20for%20Good%20Governance%20in%20India.pdf> accessed on 26th October 2013.

FREE NUTRITION TO PRIMITIVE TRIBES IN KARNATAKA: NEED FOR ANOTHER STEP

Bhubaneswar Sabar*

The free nutrition scheme to Koraga and Jenu Kuruba tribes by Social Welfare Department, Government of Karnataka is, of course, a positive step to address the scourge of malnutrition among them. But a recent visit to few Koraga and Jenu Kuruba villages in Dakshina Kannada and Mysore districts respectively found that the incompatibility of rations with their food culture and the bad quality of ration, basically rice, distributed under the scheme many time forced some households either to sell it or exchange it for culturally consumable one at the local market or non-tribal market. So there is a need to revive the quality of ration under this scheme.

Keywords

Free Nutrition Scheme, Malnutrition, Food Culture, Households, Local Market, Non-tribal Market

Introduction

Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) (1996) food security definition¹ has largely influenced the policy makers to implement various food security related policies. The academic discourse still banks on this definition. Nevertheless many pro-poor service deliveries, many parts of India still experience poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition and other livelihood problems that are largely blamed for the lack of accountability and transparency to political economy of existing policies. Given the high incidence of malnutrition largely among the children, pregnant women and lactating mothers, both the state and central governments have adopted various comprehensive nutrition policies to extend nutritional supports to these vulnerable groups and thereby reducing the malnutrition level. Despite, it has not yet trickled down the pang of malnutrition as expected due to various unavoidable factors. Thus "...nutritious food" within the definition is still a challenge for the government.

The nutritional level varies across regions and communities, which is directly attributed to the capability of consumption of and access to nutritious food. Almost half (48%) of children under five years of age are stunted and 43% are underweight. The proportion of children who are severely undernourished (more than three standard deviations below the median of the reference population) is also notable 24% according to height-for-age and 16% according to weight-for-age and 20% children between 0-5 years of age are found to be wasting. The children from scheduled tribes are nutritionally found more vulnerable on every measure as evident from 28% wasting children between 0-6 years of age (NFHS-3). The nutritional level in Karnataka, particularly, is alarmingly high as evident from the high presence of malnourished children between 0-6 years of age compared to other Southern states. However, other indicators of development are found to be good. As per NFHS-3 (2005-06), the Infant Mortality Rate

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DECENTRALISED FOREST GOVERNANCE, INSTITUTIONS AND LIVELIHOOD POLICIES IN ODISHA: DOES POLITICS MATTER¹

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Forest policies of Odisha since the pre-independence period and even after independence have passed through different stages while providing focus on the livelihoods issue of forest-dependent communities. The process also paved the way for the emergence of neo-political order, and has opened the era of integration between the state and the non-state actors in the state's forest policy process. However, despite the emergence of neo-liberal economic regime, forest policy in the state has provided new dimensions, while emphasising the role of both the state, and the non-state actors.

The present paper is a part of ongoing research study entitled "Decentralised Forest Governance, Institutions and Livelihoods in Odisha: A Study of Evolution of Policy Process and Politics" which aims to provide analytical glimpse about the evolution of livelihood-based forest policies in Odisha, particularly in the post-independence era. The key objective of this paper is to understand the nature of forest policies in Odisha and extent of implications of such policies on the livelihoods of the forest-dependent communities. The paper is based on the analysis of secondary data, review of literature and discussion with key informants, about the major policy specific developments in the state forestry sector. The paper concludes that forest policies in the state are guided by the process of decentralisation and have provided some positive effects on the livelihoods of the forest-dependent communities. Particularly in the context of implementation of the Forest Rights Act in 2006, the livelihoods issue of the forest dwellers has gained adequate importance.

Keywords

Decentralisation, Livelihoods, Forest Dwellers, Governance, Institutions

Introduction

Decentralisation has increasingly become a global phenomenon for managing natural resources and improving institutional capacity. In the case of forest, decentralisation has become an instrument to improve the institutional capability in order to achieve effective results. Further, the emergence of the global economic regime has also pushed many countries in the world towards the path of decentralisation with the sole intention to improve forest governance and livelihoods of forest dwellers. Thus, in the

¹ I would like to thank Dr. M.Gopinath Reddy, Professor, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad, and Prof.K.Srinivasulu, Department of Political Science, Osmania University, Hyderabad for their valuable comments on this paper. My thanks to Dr.H.C.Srivastava, retd.professor, IIPS, Mumbai and Dr.H.Lhundgim, IIPS Mumbai for their valuable comments on my paper during the presentation of this paper at the National Seminar on population, health and environment.

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WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES IN THE SELECTED VILLAGES OF KURNOOL AND ANANTHAPUR DISTRICTS OF ANDHRA PRADESH

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Water, sanitation and hygiene service are very important for human beings. Provision of pure drinking water, sanitation and a clean environment are vital to improve the health and life span of people. Most of the women and girls are fetching water from different sources and spending valuable time for fetching the water. Sanitation is a basic need like food and drinking water. Majority of the villages are not having the Individual Sanitation Latrines (ISL) in their houses. Due to lack of sanitation facilities at household, women, men, and children are going to open defecation. The practice of open defecation leads to many diseases like diarrhoea, amoebiasis, dysentery, jaundice, cholera and so on. However the government of India is encouraging people to shift to usage of toilets by giving subsidy for the construction of Individual Sanitation Latrines. There are no toilets for the individuals in rural households and in this backdrop, we have surveyed for the water and sanitation services in rural households. The present data is based on the WASH Cost Project data (India). We have collected data from the households in the villages. Based on the land, income and caste 50 samples have been collected from 11 villages in Kurnool and Ananthapur Districts of Andhra Pradesh. Primary data was collected during 2010-2011. The main objective of the study is to investigate influence of caste on the water and sanitation assets. The households received sub-standard service levels. About 20 percent of the households have the tap connection in scarce rain fall zone. No village fell under high services. The overall water service delivery is very poor. During non-summer majority of the households are fallen under sub-standard service level. Among the villages Upplapadu village provided better services during non-summer. About 36 percent of the socially advanced group (OC) households have own toilet access. In Gargeyapuram village, households have better access to toilets than other villages. Majority of the villagers are not using toilets and they come under no service category. In the most of the villages, SC & ST households are not using the toilets.

Keywords

Decentralisation, Livelihoods, Forest Dwellers, Governance, Institutions

Introduction

Water, sanitation and hygiene services are very important to human beings. Provision of clean drinking water, sanitation and a clean environment are vital to improve the health and life span of people. Most of the women and girls are fetching water from different sources and spending lot of valuable time for fetching the water. Sanitation is a basic need like food and drinking water. Majority of the villages have no Individual Sanitation Latrines (ISL) in their houses. Due to lack of sanitation facilities, women, men

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POLICY ISSUES IN REVENUE GENERATION AND EXPENDITURE MANAGEMENT IN HILL STATES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO HIMACHAL PRADESH

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The present paper focuses on the challenges of fiscal management in hill States in India, with special reference to Himachal Pradesh. Policy options are considered to reduce dependencies of these States on special central transfers. This is sought to be achieved through a combination of revenue enhancing and expenditure management policies within an eco-system of good governance.

The paper highlights that the difficult mountainous terrain, extreme weather conditions, little capacities of these economies to generate their own resources, sparsely disbursed population, high cost of providing public goods & services and high transportation cost are some of the bottlenecks in fiscal sustainability of these hill states. It then examines the problems being faced by Himachal Pradesh in managing its finances and steps being taken by it to come out.

The paper explains the policy options like expenditure containment, improving the service delivery and governance with an objective to reduce the cost of delivery, improving the tax administration and enhancement of the non-tax revenue by harnessing the hydro power are some of the measures, which could reduce the dependence of these States on Union Government for special financial assistance.

1. Preface

- 1.1 The present paper is an attempt to look into the peculiar challenges the hill States, especially along the Eastern and Northern Himalayas in India, are facing in their fiscal management. These States due to their hilly topography and extreme climatic conditions have been recognized as the Special Category States and are given preferential treatment in fund devolution by the Union Government.
- 1.2 The paper attempts to illustrate how these hill States face hardships in their financial management and how limited tax capacity in these States has always made these States to look towards the Central Government for financial assistance for meeting their development needs. It then examines the problems being faced by Himachal Pradesh in managing its finances and the policy options available with it for enhancing its receipts and managing its expenditure, without compromising the developmental needs.

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Book Review

THE PROCESSES OF POLICY MAKING IN INDIA

Kuldeep Mathur, *Public Policy and Politics in India: How Institutions Matter*, New Delhi: OUP, 2013, Rs.795, pp. 344, ISBN 978-019-807759-6.

Research on public policy making in India has grown in importance over the years. Though studies on public policy making have been the concern of researchers all through there is a renewed concern on studying different aspects of policy making in the present context. Much of the research and publication on policy studies concentrated on the policy objectives and the impact assessment aspect and less on the policy processes. However, in a country so heterogeneous with diverse socio-economic conditions, public policy making has become increasingly complex to cater to the needs of all. Therefore, in the process of policy making for growth and development, we have moved away from the conventional approach. In the new policy making apparatus, apart from the governmental mechanisms, non-governmental and non-state actors are increasingly playing an important role in policy making in India. Much of our policy researches so far do not seem to have given enough attention to this aspect of policy making in India.

The book precisely discusses some of these issues in public policy making India. Taking examples from different sectors, the author explains how the corporate sector and the civil society are playing an important role in policy making in India. Though non-state actors have been playing their role in policy making, however in the present context slowly their role in public policy making is being institutionalised through diverse kind of partnerships.

Public Policy and Politics in India contains 11 chapters. The Introduction chapter (Chapter 1) discusses that much of policy studies in India are concentrated on policy goals and its evaluation. Citing illustrations from diverse literature on policy studies and periods ranging from Nehruvian era to the implementation of liberalisation policy, the chapter states policy studies in India is largely confined to the critical evaluation of policy goals and its implementation. It identifies gap in research and availability of literature relating to role of institutions in public policy making in India.

A discussion on the evolution of public policy processes in India is carried out in Chapter 2. Starting with the Nehruvian years when emphasis was put on the state led development to the implementation of liberalisation, the policy outcomes are reflections of the changes in the society and the polity. There is a discussion on different sources of policy making which include; state bureaucracy, planning commission, research institutes, government appointed committees / commissions, parliamentary committees and the emergence of NGOs as the latest source of policy advice in India. While the system is perceived as a closed one in terms of adopting policy advices from diverse sources, however in recent times there is acceptability of policy advice from diverse sources though limited.

Chapter 3 deals with policy analysis and the research bases in India. It discusses the hegemonic role economics played in framing of political issues and the pattern of policy analysis in India for several decades. It is argued that the field of policy analysis in India has developed and is rooted in the form of participatory politics.

In the past several decades several autonomous policy research organisations have come up in south Asian countries. Consequently there has been a considerable attention paid to the working of those organisations. An attempt is made to understand the factors leading to the rise of those organisations and the key role they are playing in public policy making in Chapter 4.

Chapter 5 examines the role of Supreme Court in India in environmental policy making in general and controlling pollution in Delhi in particular in the face of reluctant political class. It is argued that in the environmental policy making the government finds it difficult to solve social conflict arising out of competing demands from diverse groups. Therefore the government relies primarily on the Supreme Court in environmental policy making.

Book Review

WE DON'T MAKE WIDGETS: OVERCOMING THE MYTHS THAT KEEP GOVERNMENT FROM RADICALLY IMPROVING

Ken Miller, Governing Management Series, Governing Books, Washington DC, 2010, pp 124, ISBN-10: 0-87289-480-0, ISBN-13: 978-0-87289-480-8

This very interesting book by Ken Miller presents a new perspective and a novel approach to governance reforms especially at the time when countries around the world have experimented for decades to find the real answers to the problems aligning government agencies. The author has been exposed to the government system for a very long and worked at senior levels as a regulator, a planner, a deputy director of a large state agency and finally a government consultant. He demystifies the general misconceptions about the process of reforming governments and provides a threadbare analysis of what could comprise of the real components/elements of reforming governments. Reforming government according to him is one of the most rewarding endeavor as it involves transforming human lives.

At a time when governments world over are bogged down by pressures to cut their costs, to improve customer satisfaction, to be less bureaucratic and work faster, and to be performing well and show good results, Miller focuses on freeing the minds of the people who are engaged in changing the pace of the governments, from three myths that will help them to find the right solutions – 1) we don't make widgets; 2) we don't have customers and 3) we are not here to make profits.

There is always a comparison of the public sector with that of its private counterparts in terms of its efficiency. The author uses the example of Ford which has developed a number of sophisticated initiatives to measure, manage and improve its systems in order to get things done in an efficient and timely manner. The author suggests the need to use the similar concepts to improve government systems and process for improving service delivery efficiency by re-engineering processes, increase the capacity by minimizing errors etc and such other things. The author is very critical about the various Commissions and Committees which are set up by the government for enhancing their efficiency. He is of the view that these Commissions are headed by the people who don't understand the nitty-gritty of the system. They try to look at the government agencies from outside or from the top and provide solutions/recommendations which are usually very generic and can't create a dent to the system. In fact these recommendations create more complications than benefit the system. In a number of cases it has been observed that most of the recommendations given by these Commissions mostly revolve around organizational restructuring, human resource management, use of technology, and so on. These recommendations if implemented in an organization can really make no difference until and unless the basic systems and the processes of the organization are streamlined and improved, that will actually bring in the desired change and efficiency. The example of a government agency has been quoted which works for providing for foster care subsidies. The agency will be able to provide efficient services and help children better only if it can improve its process of selection of foster parents, paying them on time, providing them food assistance and access to health care etc. Thus like any other enterprise or a factory, the government agencies also have clearly drawn systems and processes for delivering services which can be made efficient by improving them and enhancing the efficiency of the system as a whole.

Miller also drives home a very important point that the major flaws in a government agencies are that the work is often done at a very slow pace and is usually cumbersome and complex. There is a need to build in the speed factor which will give the necessary fillip and improve the overall functioning of the organization. Another conflicting issue with governance reforms terminology is the usage of customers. According to Miller the people who make use of the products and services provided by the government (parks, hospitals, schools etc) are its customers. The end users are actually the real customers and all our focus must be placed on ensuring that they are satisfied to the core and are offered choices. Miller also emphasizes the need to focus on results and that leaders in government must clearly ask questions like what results are we expected to achieve and how do we do things differently to achieve the results? How do we know that we are achieving them? What strategies should we use and how do we know that they are working?

Overall the book presents a fresh thinking on governance reforms and ways of improving governments world over.

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