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Public Policy in India: Process of Formation and Implementation

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Introduction

The Process of Policy Formulation and implementation is one of the conteral processes of government. Public policy as an academic pursuit emerged in the beginning of 1950's and since then it has developed as a discipline in the area of policy science – According to Appleby, "The essence of Public Administration is policy making, policies help the Executive to act in line with legal requirements and to realise the desired objectives.[1]

Public policy analysis is concerned with governmental behaviour. What the government actually decide to do or not to do forms the core of policy inquiry. Major policy decisions are taken by the government in various areas like defence. Industry, education, health etc. these decisions involve enormous costs to the nation. Besides financial expenditure, such decisions produce important and wide ranging consequences. Since policies determine the future of society.

Public policy meaning and definitions:

Public policy is related to public So the nature of public policy is public or not private or individual. The concept of policy is not a precise term it may take the form of i) a decision of goals. ii) a declaration of course of action iii) a declaration of general purpose and iv) an authoritative decision. According to Terry, "A policy is verbal, written or implied basic guide

to action that is adopted and follow by a manager."[2] In the words of Dimock, "The consciously acknowledged rules of conduct that guide administrative decisions."[3]

Policy and Administration :-

Policy making is a political function while administration is concerned only with the enforcement of policies. L.D. White in the first edition of his book, Introduction to the study of Public Administration, made a clear destinction between policies and administration. He defined Public Administration as "the enforcement of public policy."[4]

Louis Brownlow Says, "There is and always will be a difference between politics, on the one hands, and administration on the other, no matter how closely they may be related in democratic society."5

Forces in the Policy-Making Process : In India :-

Power is an important part of the machinery for public policy-making. Policy-making is essentially a manifestation of power. It is there fore, important to understand how power is exercise in the policy making process. Power is described as the ability to bring about some change in the behaviour of other people. In terms of public policy, power may be define as the capacity of an individual or groups or holders of public offices to determine policy decision.[6]

Policy-making is a collective activity in which many powerful organs such as, legislature, executive, Judiciary, administrative agencies, political parties, pressure groups, print and electric media, individual chitizens, participate. According to Gladden, four different-levels in policy making may by distinguished :

I)   Political or general policy framed by the cabinet.

II) Executive policy frame by the cabinet.

III) Administrative policy, that is, the form in which the administrator carries out the will of the government.

IV) Technical policy, that is the day to day policy adopted by officials in the working out of the administrative policy.

Public policy has five stages : I) Identifying the problem II) To develop alternatives to deal with the problem III) To choose a specific and more suitable alternative and make into a resolution, order rule and law IV) Its execution or implementation V) The evaluation of the policy to see its success or failure or impact. According to Michael Howlett and M. Ramesh[8] "The terminology of the five stages of the policy cycle are as follows :

I) Agenda-setting.

II) Policy Formulation.

III) Decision-Making

IV) Policy Implementation

V) Policy Evaluation.

In India policy making is shaped within the framework of the constitutional system. Parliament is the supreme public policy making body. It enacts laws which will bring the policy into effect. However it does not determines policies except in a constitutional term. In real case power reside in the Executive body of the government.

Policy Implementation process :-

The success of administration and development can be measured only in relation to the implementation of public policies. The implementation aspect is now becoming a concern and key element in development strategy. Implementation is a difficult exercise because it involves various factors : According to Barrett and fudge, policy implementation is dependent on,[9]

Knowing what you want to do

I) The availability of the required resources.

III) The ability to marshal and control these resources to achieve the desired end;

IV) If others are to carryout the tasks, communicating what is wanted and

Controlling their performance.

Besides these, adequate personal financial resources, administrative, capability, political, government and judicial support is necessary for the successful implementation of public policy.

Forces are responsible for the Implementation of public policy :-

The main agencies which are implementing government activities and public policies are :

1) The executive 2) The legislature 3) The Judiciary 4) Bureaucracy and Administrative system 5) Political parties 6) Pressure groups 7) Interest groups 8) Community Groups etc.

How to implement-public policy effectively?

Implementation success of failure is usually linked to the problem of achieving its stated goals. Effective policy implementation dependent on a variety of factors, i) different-kinds of uncertainties often accompany programmes and policies. ii) Resources may fall short of requirements and may not be flowing in time. iii) Organisational problems affecting programme implementation. iv) Leadership makes or destroys an organisation and its implementation. v) Success depends on inter-agency co-ordination.

In short, this is a checklist of problems of implementation and in real life there can be many more like, interpersonal relations, superior - subordinate relations, in ability to monitor, result in time, etc.

According to Sabatier and Mazmanian; following conditions are necessary for effective implementation.

1. Programme should be based on sound theory relating to target and group behaviour.

2. The leaders of the implementation agencies possess substantial managerial and political skill and are committed to statutory goals.

3. The programme is actively supported by organised constituency groups and by a few key legislators (or the chief executive) throughout the implementation process.

No doubt implementation is a complex problem. but the success of any government and administration largely depend upon successful implementation of policies. Through, strong determination, will power and action, policy translate into action.

Conclusion :

Public policy is nearly always the result of the cooperative efforts of many. The whole process is, indeed, two Fold, namely, a working down from the rules at the top, and a working up from the persons affected. In India many institution participates in policy making process in which legislature, Executive, secretariat are mainly involved, apart from these there are a large number of institutions and bodies which have an important role to play in policy making.

policy implementation is a complex problem. The success of any government and administration largely depend upon successfully implementation of policies policy does not implement itself it has to be translated into action. like policy making, implementation of public policy is a collective activity in which many organs participate. The main agencies which are implementing government activities and public policies are: Executive, legislature, Judiciary,

Cabinet, Bureaucracy, Administrative organization, interest group, pressure groups, political parties, Community groups etc.

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