

Public Administration in Sanskrit Literature

VVR Avinash Kumar, Research Scholar, Department of Sanskrit, Osmania University, Hyderabad, Telangana, India.

ABSTRACT - A good administrative system always needed by every civilized society. Administration is as old as our ancient civilization in India. To execute the government orders and functions, a good Public administration is essential. The history of ancient Indian governmental system begins from the Vedic times and continues till the establishment of Mughal rule. In the process of evolution of Indian administration, various administrative organizations rose and fell but the administration of villages still continues. This paper focuses on Indian administration the wisdom contained in our ancient Sanskrit literature to make the people happy both in spiritual and material sense. This paper is focuses on kings, sanskrit literature and public administration.

Keywords: Administration, Ancient Civilization, Government, Mughal, Sanskrit Vedic times.

I. INTRODUCTION

A government is a complex organizations created for the safety and welfare of the people. Administration always plays a key role and stands at core of all human affairs. As per Ancient Indian culture and Sanskrit literature, actions of the government should always result in Universal Welfare which is told as “*Sarva Loka Kalyankari Karma*” maintaining and protecting each and everyone in the creation which is told as “*Sarva Loksangrahamevapi*” and securing universal care for everyone which is told as “*Sarva Hitey Ratah*”. But every sloka denotes only one term “*Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah*” which means ‘Happiness for all’.

Present administration is following some mechanical steps to improve our system but it would lead us to more problems and decay. To eradicate this there is a greater need to follow the eternal principles of Human excellence which is clearly indicated in Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita and other literatures where the main aim is to build character and spirituality which would impel individuals in leading a moral, detached, service to people and animals, contended, non possessive and simple life.

It can be easy to transform our present governments into Ethical governments if the people in and out of the government follow ethical, spiritual and moral values and service to humanity as the fundamental principles throughout life. The permanent solution can be obtained by following the basic values from a great epic like Ramayana, a great Sanskrit Literature even. Other Sanskrit literatures like Vedas, Bhagavad Gita, Mahabharata and six schools of Indian Philosophy which consisted Yoga, meditation, prayers, mantra chanting which laid a greater emphasis on need for human excellence.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the Public Administration in Sanskrit Literature.

2. To study the basic fundamentals of ancient India to be followed by the people.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The great scholar Kautilya has highlighted the need for good administration for the smooth functioning of the government as well as welfare of the people. Following is the great sloka,

*Yesham Na Vidya Na thapo Na dhanam gnanam Na
sheelam nag uno Na dharmo
Tey mruthyu lokey bhoovi bhaar bhootha manushyu
roopena mrugaascharanthi*

It refers to “Those people who are not knowledgeable, duty bound and of good conduct, and they are burden on the society”.

Democracy has become confused with disbelief in great men. Bhagavad Gita says that great men are the pathmakers where the other men follow that path. An Indian life revolves around the Indian literature. Sanskrit is not only a language but also referred to as culture. It is the poetic composition of race and culture, thoughts and fancies. Sanskrit is the predominant language than any other languages. It maintained supremacy in languages in every region of India. The greatness of the Sanskrit literature was clearly emphasized by various poets and authors.

The main purpose of studying Sanskrit is to know the cultural history of our country and to connect whatever good in the past and present. The culture of India generally refers to the intellectual wealth and the stage of development of the people of the country. Sanskrit literature also provided for education. Following is the great sloka,

*Gnanam Thrutheeyam manujasya netram I
Samastha thathvarth- viloka dhaksham I
Tejonapeksham vigathantharayam I
Pravruthi matsarva jagathrayepi I*

The above lines refer that "Education is a third eye to man. The difference between mere learning and development of intelligence was known to the ancients". The importance of education was identified and the King used to make several arrangements in making the people literate so as to improve the knowledge of his people.

The word 'State' was first provoked by the first King named Manu whose original name was Satyavrata. People were fed up the monarchial systems prevailing as there were no a knowledgeable person to take care of the people and to solve their issues. In that case, people with a mutual concern appointed Manu as their King and paid him the compensation as taxes to look after the society and their issues. The King did the same and was regarded as a descendent from God. The stories of greater administration can be brought back again only from the Sanskrit literature.

The literature can be thoroughly understood from Kautilya's Arthashastra. Though in an autocratic agrarian state, it laid a big emphasis on Public Welfare. It is brief in the form of Sutras as a composition of 15 books (Adhikarnas), 150 Sections, 180 Chapters (Prakarnas), 6000 verses (Sutras). Adhikarnas consists of classifications like,

- Concerning the discipline of economics and statecraft
- Duties of government Superintendent
- Concerning the Law
- Removal of thorns
- Conduct of courtiers
- Sources of sovereign State
- End of six fold policy
- Concerning vices of the king and calamities that may arise as a consequence
- Work of an invader
- Relating to a war
- Conduct of a corporation
- Concerning a powerful enemy.
- Strategic way of capturing a fort
- Secret means like occult practices and remedies to keep of enemies or traitors
- Plan of the treatise and thirty two methods of treating a subject.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Secondary Data:

1. Articles published in various journals
2. Reports of various researchers on Sanskrit Literature
3. Several Vedic literature books

IV. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The public administration in ancient India is a monarchical system which helped in the execution of governmental functions. Talking about the ancient India, a number of administrative organizations rose and fell. Kings followed a two basic featured system wherein the primary importance was given to the villages and secondly concentrated on

coordination between the Centralization and Decentralization. Even today this system is partly followed the governments.

We have many sources of the administration in Sanskrit literature in ancient India. We can grab lots of information from the sources like Vedic literatures, Jain literatures, Buddhist treatises, Dharamasastras, Indian Puranas, Great Epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata, Arthashastra, Manu Smriti, Sukra Niti, etc. The main power of administering and controlling the government was rested in the hands of the King only where he used to take the decisions regarding the government (Rajyam), protection of the rights of the people, military decisions, development of the state, etc with the help of his ministry and advisors (Purohiths). The Ancient Indian administration was developed highly in the times of Chandragupta Mauryan and Ashoka which was carried further.

The decentralization process was been adopted from ancient India only. Kings followed this and divided the state into districts and districts into villages. King made the people to follow the basic fundamentals of the society. A principle of hierarchy was established between the King and the people. Even a place for records containing sensitive issues of the government is maintained in every kingdom.

Various authorities were appointed by the King to look into the issues of various departments. Every Chief was made responsible for their own assigned department and its issues. Various solutions were provided for resolving the certain issues arising in the kingdom by the appointed Purohiths and the advisors.

V. CONCLUSION

The present administration in India was not a totally created change as of a sudden. Every administration and the departments under it were a modified view with new procedures and techniques to the existed administration. The ancient kings of a kingdom were today called as the Presidents of the country but the ruling was changed to some extent only to contribute to the development of the economy. The King's rule in the ancient India was a great part of the Sanskrit literature. The literatures are being studied deeply so as to explore the administration procedures, innovative ideas to protect the economy and the fundamental ethics to be followed by the people.

REFERENCES

- [1] Aruna Goel, Good governance and Ancient Sanskrit Literature
- [2] Evolution of Indian Administration- Shodhganga
- [3] Provincial Administration in Ancient India- History Discussion