

PAKISTAN'S INITIATIVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND THE IMPEDIMENTS

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Abstract:

Successive governments in Pakistan have taken active interest in the issues of administrative development. The study of literature on the subject reveals that various attempts for reforming the administrative system have been made since the inception of Pakistan. But worth mentioning among these are the administrative reforms that were introduced in the Constitution of 1973 and thereafter a new era of administrative development begun. Through this paper an attempt has been made to make the interested readers aware of the fact that government of Pakistan is, from the very first day, striving to bring a visible change in its administrative machinery. But due to certain impediments the efforts do not show the desired results.

INTRODUCTION

Administrative reforms have existed ever since men conceived better ways of organizing their social activities. Yet the phenomenon has not received any systematic analysis. In the twentieth century almost all the countries witnessed a change from laissez-faire to regulation, from individualism to collectivism and from a state with limited powers to welfare and service state. According to Garnar (1979), "Laissez faire died with the dawn of the twentieth century, and today the state has to concern itself with the welfare of its individual members". Therefore, the expectation of its people, now, from the government is not only to protect them from external aggression and internal disturbances but the demand of the people is that the government must solve their problems rather than merely define their rights. It is also expected from the government to take care of its citizens from cradle to grave. Therefore the development of administrative process has become the essential element of the modern political philosophy.

The need for administrative reforms was felt because the increase in state functions further widened the gap between a government official and a private citizen. Prof Massey (1995) has very truly observed

the prevailing situation. He says, "Any good system of administration, in the ultimate analysis, has to be responsible and responsive to the people. But history bears witness to the fact that more often the impersonal bureaucratic system advertently or inadvertently tries to overwhelm the 'little man'".

The people of the sub-continent had shown their interest to establish a friendly administration but this dream could never come true till the creation of independent States in the sub-continent. After independence the need for administrative reforms was felt much strongly than before because the independence raised the expectations and hopes of the people for a better standard of living. The people of newly created State saw the answer to the problem of inefficiency in the public sector in the process of administrative reforms. According to Dr Shah, administrative reform is considered to be an essential ingredient of development in any country, irrespective of the speed and direction of change, simply because administrative capability becomes increasingly important in the implementation of new policies, plans and ideas. (Shah, www.intanbk.intan.my dated 15-10-03)