

PUBLIC SECTOR PRODUCTIVITY- SOME OBSERVATIONS RELATING TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

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1- INTRODUCTION.

The concern for productivity in public sector organizations has been a constant theme, both in the literature on public administration/public sector management as well as in administrative practice. Like a decennial census, this concern reappears on the scene periodically, captures attention of scholars and decision makers for some time and then disappears to rise again at a future date when it becomes an issue. As a result of this, systematic attention to its conceptualization as well as for its ongoing measurement in government organizations, has not received the attention it deserves.

The problem is further accentuated by the differing concepts of "organizational performance" and some of its constituent parts, such as effectiveness, efficiency, productivity, etc. in different social sciences and because of the increasing competition between their proponents to get the ear of the political decision makers. The present context of its resurgence is the increased onslaught on state intervention and the demands for "debureaucratization", "divestiture" privatization" and for return back to "laissez-faire". Public Administration/ Public sector management has always been a "camp follower", succumbing to hegemonic overtures of one or the other social science rather than developing its own identity. The present era acknowledges the dominant influence of economics, specially supply side economics, public choice theory, property rights theory and in general ideas distrusting the role of the state in economic spheres. (Christopher Hood `1991).

Historically, both in the writings and in actual practice there have been sympathetic movements in developing countries, to the trends in the industrialized, western countries. At present also the ideas of reducing state intervention, privatization, commercialization of public