Ethics in Governance and Development

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ABSTRACT

Governance and Development are the cause and consequences of each other and affects the quality and sustainability. The elements and components of good Governance clearly reflect the ethics to follow for maximizing the benefits of development. Governance, Development and the People do have several challenges in the processes of service delivery systems which end up with several unhealthy consequences that affect the public and environment. At the same time, this linkage between different agencies gives several opportunities as a way for improving the inclusive and sustainable development with better role and share to the people. The Civil Society Organizations engaged with the people effectively works with bottom up approach that checks the limitations of top down approaches. Attempt made to match the conclusion put the Nation on top as a developed country to the dynamics of the given environment.

Key Words: Governance, Development, Sustainability, Disasters, Prevention, PART, Quality of Life.

Statement of the Problem

Poor Governance and limitations of the service delivery systems affect the development and reach the benefits to the people in general and the poor and marginalized, in particular. It further lowers their sustainability of growth and quality of life.

Introduction

Since independence, efforts are put to develop the Nation on the basis of equality. Poverty and Development are the cause and consequence of each other. Keeping this in view, the Government has initiated programmes such as "Remove Poverty and Save the Country" *(Garibi Hatao Desh Bachavo)* to provide basic needs to all people. In the process of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization (LPG) development and growth took place, but it mostly confined to a smaller group of people leaving larger population to more and more vulnerabilities. It means the fruits of development and growth were not shared by all the people, thus widening the gap between the rich and poor. All such unhealthy cause and consequences have resulted in poor access, poor affordability, limited opportunities, poor connectivity, depression, bias, abuse, marginalization, isolation, corruption, violence, crime, hazards, disasters and lowering the quality of life (QOL). It reflects that the development, growth and resources were

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not delivered to all the people to cater their needs but to the greed of a few. At this stage, several questions arise such as for whom the development is planned?..... why results of development are not reaching the common man?..... where is it going?..... is it moving around the investors or creamy layer?.... where is the problem?..... who is responsible? etc. Having resources in the hands of Government on the one side and not reaching the people who are in need on the other side is the phenomenon. The search for suitable solution ends at Governance, which is the action or manner of governing a country or a State or organization with effective participation, accountability, responsibility and transparency (PART).

Governance

Governance refers to "all processes of governing, whether undertaken by a government, market or network, whether over a family, tribe, formal or informal organization or territory and whether through laws, norms, power or language" (wikipedia.org). It means all the processes that coordinate and control a Nation's resources and actions. Its scope includes: ethics, resource mapping, excavation of resources, resource management processes, delivery systems, participation, accountability, responsibility, transparency, monitoring, evaluation and management controls.

The frame of governance is well controlled by Political System, Government, Investors and Outsources (PGIO) to reach the People with matching resources and solutions and is shown in Fig. 1. Details of these components are discussed and furnished below with strengths as well as limitations, with the aim of understanding the level of governance and its impact at the grass roots.
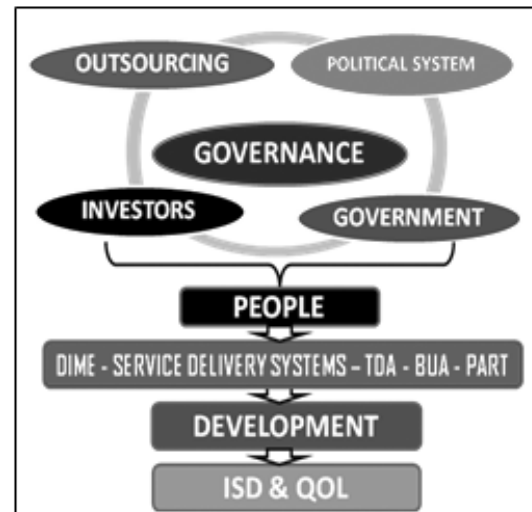

Figure 1

Political Systems: It is the powerful system to protect the Constitutional Frame Work with good governance reaching the people with need based strategies, interventions, service, supports, and products with innovation and creativity. In addition, Political Systems or Parties will have their own agenda to keep themselves in the limelight for continued stay in power. At all the stages, they need to maintain ethics, values, connectivity and support the Government to implement developmental works with better sustainability and quality. It means political parties and Government (formed by single or group of political parties) should work with better connectivity and coordination on People Oriented Development (POD). In view of dilution of National Parties, several Regional Parties have emerged with strong base in few States, single State or part of the State. This has changed the whole scenario at the national level and forced to have coalition at National as well at State level. In view of such dynamics of political scenario, the Governments, both at State and National level, are forced to deviate

from People Oriented Development (POD) and concentrate more on Political Party Oriented Development (PPOD) with the domination of investors who works on Business Oriented Development (BOD), without bothering much for the health and wealth of the people and environment. In view of such changes, people are struggling for their basic needs that include: Food, Clothing, Shelter, Water, Sanitation, Education, Employment, Livelihoods and other needs from time to time. On the other hand, people are vulnerable with deepened poverty, widened gap between the rich / urbanites & poor / ruralites, pollution, poor access & affordability, health hazards, poor sustainability, and finally poor quality of life (QOL). All such unhealthy vulnerabilities and their consequences put people at cross roads. This needs self assessment to have a system with ethics and values for inclusive growth of people, where the poorest of the poor can get access for the benefits of the development.

Government: A Government is the system by which a State or Community is controlled. In the Commonwealth of Nations, the word 'Government' is also used more narrowly to refer to the collective group of people that exercises executive authority in the State. Government of any kind affects every human activity in many important ways (wikipedia. org). Government of India has got well established Constitution. With a Parliamentary system of Government, the Government also has got material and human resources with the systems to reach the people at all levels and with the aim of empowering them socially and economically for leading better life.

The existing service delivery systems (SDSs) are mostly dominated by the top down approaches (TDAs) to reach and cater the needs of the targeted groups and are shown in Fig.2.

Fig.2.

At this stage, Governance is mainly influenced by Political Parties, Investors and Outsourcing Agencies (PGIO). They do not follow the model of Design, Implementation and Monitoring and are not favourable for participation, accountability, responsibility and transparency.

Again, these systems are poor in availability, accessibility and affordability and thus opens up unhealthy practices to divert the resources into the hands of wrong people. On the other hand, the cost of the SDSs is quite high compared to the benefit to the targeted groups. The common man expects that developmental works should continue irrespective of changes in the Political Systems. This calls for critical thinking and assessment to find better ways that are friendly to the people and environment.

Investors: Majority of the elected leaders do have their own businesses to business (B2B) interest ignoring the health and wealth of

the people and environment. The investors or business group try their best to exploit the resources including natural one. A wise thinking here is that the business should be to people (B2P) with adequate measures to protect natural resources and environment as well.

Outsourcing: Outsourcing is the practice of handing over control of public services to profit making Corporations, which includes both foreign and domestic contracting, and sometimes also offshoring. This may be good in the case of emergency or exceptional cases but many times turns as safer way for the investors or business groups to grab control over Government, with high profits without bothering for the welfare, protection and safety of the people and environment. This process leaves the Government officials without much work, except paper based monitoring and evaluation. One of the best businesses today is with 'water' which our intelligent ancients never thought of!

People: People are the most valued human resources for the Nation The poorest of the poor should have the access for benefits of the development with better sustainability and quality. It is the general acceptance that 90% of the people are wise and hardworking but unfortunately elect the leaders mainly from the remaining 10% only. For all such unpleasantries people need to be blamed for selecting the wrong candidate for the right position, and certainly solution lies in the hands of people only.

Good Governance is the need of the hour and it has got several components ||(shown in Fig. 3.)
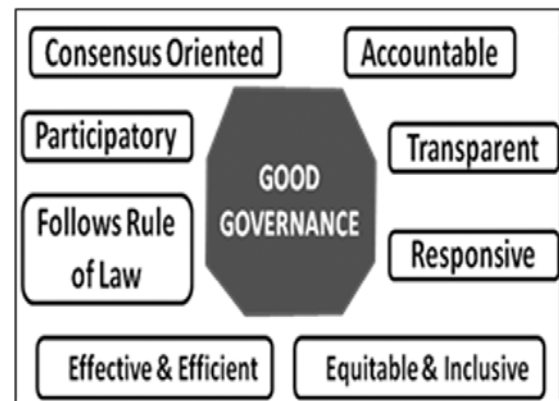

Figure 3

The reflections on the components of Good Governance are as follows:

1) It should be Participatory with better access.

2) Accepting by the larger group of population with broader perspective.

3) It should be more accountable for the work planned and done, with suitable time frame.

4) It should be transparent with better visibility for the seekers and executors, with evidence based documentation.

5) It should be responsive in making a desired or positive way quickly and timely to help the people in general and in particular the poor and marginalized groups.

6) It should be equitable and inclusive for all the seekers, particularly for persons with special needs.

7) It should be effective and efficient in decision making and service delivery.

8) It has to follow the rule of law irrespective of the position of the people on both the sides, without giving chance for injustice for the right group.

Role of Political Systems and Government is to work with good governance for the need based development of the people with better sustainability.

Development

Adding the component of Development to the linkage of Resources, Governance and People (Fig.1) gains priority and is shown in Fig. 4. Some of the reflections over this frame work are as follows:

1) Developmental works should be on regular basis with better quality and sustainability.

2) All the business activities should be deviated from the tradition of B2B to B2P with ensuring effective participation of the people with better sharing of growth and benefits.

Figure 4

3) The Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) who work by staying very near to the people, have several advantages and dominantly work with Bottom Up Approaches (BUAs) by balancing the limitations of TDAs.

4) The Government should work with NGOs on partnership basis with the model of Design, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation (DIME) with improved participation, accountability, responsibility and transparency (PART).

5) All the processes of development should work with inclusive environment to create Inclusive Society (IS) with equal opportunities.

6) The need based and sustainable development works as an empowerment of the people both socially and economically, which further improves their quality of life (QOL).

7) Finally all such need based and positive thinking approaches lead India to move from developing country to Developed Country.

While implementing the developmental works with Governance and Service Delivery Systems, like any system, there will have some challenges and are shown in Fig. 5.

Figure 5

Challenges: Some of the key challenges of Governance and Development to reach the people include:

1. All processes and systems are dominated with top down approaches (TDAs) to deliver the resources to the targeted groups as receivers only.

2. Majority of the Developmental works are not on life cycle basis with the model of DIME.

3. The Systems are working still with welfare mode which includes inputs supports for the targeted groups.

4. Improper mapping of the resources and their storing results in heavy damage making the resources unfit for use.

5. Planned development of business has been shifted from people oriented (B2P) to business or profit oriented (B2B).

6. Presence of barriers and pollution affects access and health of the people.

7. Benefits of development have not been shared by all the people, and thus widening the gap between the rich / urbanites and poor / ruralites.

8. The concept of providing urban facilities at rural areas (PURA) has not achieved its mission and objectives resulting in negative impact.

9. The accessibility and affordability for the basic needs covering food, clothing shelter and others like health, education, agriculture, employment, livelihoods etc., are poor and thus limits the opportunities for development.

10. The limited chances for participation, accountability, responsibility and transparency (PART) will affect the service delivery and further limits the scope for social auditing.

11. Land and other resources are heavily used for infrastructural development which is business oriented and not in the interest of larger population.

12. All such unhealthy and unpleasant causes and consequences results in bias, depression, abuse, violence, crime, suicide and migration which significantly changes the dynamics of the environments in general and the rural one in particular.

13. The exploitation of natural resources and mismatched infrastructural development has caused hazards and disasters, which have become more of manmade.

14. The cost of overheads and service delivery has become much more than that of the benefit reaching the targeted groups.

15. Continuation of such negative impacts forces larger population to the level of marginalization that includes isolation in the case of people with special needs.

16. At the end it results for poor inclusive and sustainable development (ISD) and lowered quality of life (QOL), keeping the country in the developing mode.

Under these circumstances, the need of the hour is to accept the challenges and search for better solutions as a way out and some of the opportunities have been shown in Fig. 6.

GOVERNANCE – DEVELOPMENT - PEOPLE:
OPPORTUNITIES

1. SHIFT TO BOTTOM UP APPRACH / COMBINATION.
2. LIFE CYCLE APPROACH WITH DIME.
3. RIGHT BASED SDS – INPUT SUPPORTS.
4. TECHNOLOGIES FOR MAPPING & STORAGE.
5. SHIFT FROM B2B TO B2P.
6. PREVENTION & BARRIER FREE ENVIRONMENT.
7. HEALTH & WEALTH FOR ALL AS A RIGHT.
8. IMPROVING PURA AS PER DIME & PART.
9. IMPROVE ACCESSIBILTIY & AFFORDABILITY.
10. RTI & SOCIAL AUDITING FOR BETTER PART.
11. NEED ABSED INFRASTRUCUTRAL DEVELOPMENT.
12. EMPOWERMENT FOR HARMONY - CONNECTIVITY.
13. PREPAREDNESS FOR DRR & MANAGEMENT.
14. BETTER MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT.
15. VISIBLE WITH BETTER CONNECTIVITY.

ISD – QOL - DEVELOPED

Figure 6

Opportunities: The key reflections over the opportunities are furnished below:

1) The Top Down Approaches (TDAs) need to be shifted towards Bottom Up Approaches (BUAs) and sometimes a combination to balance the positive impact.

2) All the works need to be planned with life cycle approaches with effective model of DIME.

3) All the service delivery systems (SDSs) should be right based with matching inputs support at the right time.

4) Need based technologies should be used both for mapping and safe storage.

6) Prevention with barrier free environment (BFE) should be the top priority to

minimize the negative impact and to improve the access.

7) Need to protect health and wealth of the people in general, and more particularly of the poor and other marginalized groups should be given importance.

8) Following the model of DIME and PART, the top priority should be given to work for effectiveness of PURA with innovation and creativity.

9) All the basic needs and benefits of the development should be made accessible with affordability in general and more for the poor and marginalized population.

10) The provisions of Right to Information (RTI) Act and Social Auditing should be effective for improved participation, accountability, responsibility and transparency (PART) of the people at all levels.

11) The infrastructural development for various purposes should be need based with effective and efficient use of land and resources for people oriented development (POD).

12) The processes of development as an empowerment should improve the connectivity with better harmony among the designated groups with concern and commitment.

13) People and community should be prepared to work for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) with better management of resources.

14) The processes of development, its growth and benefits should be managed effectively

and efficiently to deliver them to the poorest of the poor at the right time.

15) All the processes of development should be visible with creativity and need to be well connected with the stakeholders for achieving its targets.

While working, many more opportunities can emerge as strength to build confidence among the stakeholders. All such opportunities are expected to resulting the inclusive and sustainable development with improved quality of life (QOL) which finally puts the nation as a Developed Country.

Conclusions:

The study made finds a key position as people expects matching solutions with resources as an empowerment and some of the conclusions emerged include:

1. It is positive to know that significant development took place and improved the status of the Nation: 2. The development is confined to limited group and area and thus resulted for wider gap between the rich / urbanites and poor / ruralites.; 3. It appears that the mission of Garibi Hatao has given limited results with majority of the population is struggling for the basic needs which include: Roti, Kapada aur Makhan; 4. Water is the added commodity and its poor access in natural way has attracted the investors to do good business. 5. Exploitation of resources including the natural one, has affected health and wealth of the people as well as the environment with irreparable damage.

6. The processes of liberalization, privatization and globalization has brought development on one side for smaller groups, mostly investors, and kept many at distance as a marginalized or isolated groups; 7. The unacceptable services at Government in the area of health, education, agriculture, production, marketing, water, sanitation, food, shelter, employment, livelihoods and other such needs, has opened the gates for the investors to do business with profit motto only, without bothering for the people; 8. Many Private Companies declare their profits in figures but fail to record the realities of land grabbing, discharge of pollutants, exploitation of resources including manpower and other unhealthy systems that are not visible; 9. The business oriented infrastructural development has consumed major land and other resources which are not people oriented; 10. The model of charity and welfare is going on and continuation of such measures put the people as passive recipients only, with limited opportunities for development with sustainability and quality of life.

11. The common man is at cross roads with lot of confusion and raises several questions on Governance and Development for which he or she expects matching supports as a solution; 12. Governance is dominated by Political System, Government, Investors and Outsourcing Agencies; 13. Good Governance should have components for effective and efficient systems with better participation, accountability, responsibility and transparency (PART); 14. The service delivery systems which are mostly dominated by top down approaches (TDAs) do have some limitations in delivering the resources to the targeted groups; 15. Political Parties having short stay either in ruling or opposition, do influence

the systems and curtails the powers of the planners, decision makers and implementers in reaching the people with resources to the people; 16. The Government has got several limitations to work independently on the model of design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation (DIME) and thus opens the gates for others to enter and support; 17. Many times the investors [having the motto of business to business (B2B)] and outsourcing agencies dominate rather than supporting or filling the gaps; 18. Public who have power in their hands do face several vulnerabilities and are forced to elect the wrong person to the right position. Naturally the consequences are unhealthy and unfriendly; 19. The Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) do play a major role in minimizing the limitations of top down approaches (TDAs) with bottom up approaches (BUAs) and works on life cycle basis; 20. The processes of Governance and Development do face several challenges and ends up with hazards, disasters, marginalization, violence, crime, poor inclusion, poor sustainability, poor quality of life (QOL), migration and keeps the status of the Nation as developing counrty.

21. Need of the hour is to accept these challenges and initiate actions to transform them as opportunities; 22. As a way out, opportunities are many and supports for inclusive & sustainable development with improved quality of life and to put a the Nation as Developed country with Image and Values; 23. Provisions of Right to Information (RTI) and Social Auditing will support for accessible and friendly environment with improved participation, accountability, responsibility and transparency (PART); 25. This further improves the availability, accessibility and affordability (3As) for the services, supports and products;

26. The models are simple, flexible, replicable, scalable and sustainable matching to the dynamics of the given environment.

Recommendations

In view of the importance of the study and need to continue, recommendations made include:

1. To organize more Trainings, Workshops and Seminars to the targeted groups at all levels.

2. To support Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) for catering the needs of the people as an empowerment.

3. To support students to take up the Project and Research Work with effective and efficient participation of the poor and marginalized groups.

4. To strengthen the youth for skill development as an empowerment with input supports with thrust on entrepreneurship.

5. To develop technologies with innovation and creativity with better transfer from lab to land on the model of design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation (DIEM).

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