



GROWTH OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ADMINISTRATIVE - A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The concept of 'development administration' has been almost exclusively used with reference to the developing nations of Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America.¹ Perhaps it was first used by Donald C. Stone, although the term was popularized by Riggs and Weidner in the 1960s. Whatever its point of origin, the conceptual genre of development administration has been distinctively Western. Two interconnected Euro-American traditions converge in it. One of these streams of administrative thought is the result of an evolving trend of scientific management that began at the turn of the century with the administrative reform movement. The second current is the somewhat newer trend towards national planning and government interventionism that emerged as a direct consequence of the Great Depression, the Second World War and postwar reconstruction. Events between the collapse of the international economic order in the 1930s and attempts to establish a newer one at Bretton Woods and San Francisco in 1944 and 1945 welded these two currents of administrative thought into a new synthesis that could be termed crisis management and reconstruction administration.

KEYWORDS: *political development, international economic order, economic growth, modernization, Marshall Plan.*

INTRODUCTION

Origin of Development Administration

Development Administration as a process and a subject has its roots in the period immediately preceding the Second World War. As the name (development administration) implies, basically, it is concerned with administrative practices in predominantly LDCS- aimed at stimulating economic and social development. Its origins are traceable to American efforts after the war to support socio-economic development in the third world. The Americans embarked upon such an effort along the same lines as it had done to Europe after the First World War. This effort called the MARSHALL PLAN succeeded in rehabilitating warravaged Europe. It was therefore based upon the success of the Marshall Plan that the Americans assumed they would succeed elsewhere. Following increasing waves of nationalist uprisings in the Third World, the Americans did not only support nationalist political self-determination but also endorsed the ideas (then becoming popular) that political independence was empty without economic self- determination. Based on the above therefore, the Americans went ahead to support national self-determination and to embark upon activities in the Third World which they thought would aid development.



The concept of development

The most important character of the concept of development is its complexity. This means that it is composed of several interrelated aspects and this character is often referred to as multi-dimensional. The several aspects of development include economic, social, political, and administrative development. However, it is not uncommon to find that economic development is emphasized over and above the other aspects. Our approach to the concept of development is not only to analyze its complexity but also to understand the context within which it is desirable; this context is that of underdevelopment. In other words, nations require advancement in the enumerated aspects of development so as to arrive at the stage described as development. A third element of development concerns the effect of the end result on society. That is to say, the result of development should have a positive impact on the living conditions of individuals in that situation. The most generally used definition of development is increase in gross national income or what we call GNP. Others have defined development to include social improvement, yet others have seen it in terms of increase in the capacity of the political system. Sometimes, others do not make a distinction between development and modernization. Another approach to defining development is to see it as a process of change plus growth. However, such change and growth should manifest in socio-economic progress and transformation of society.

Economic Development

Economic development is often portrayed simply as increase in GNP or income. To be sure, economic development consists of the following processes: A marked increase in production capacity which is a function of technological improvement and increased capacity of production that become sustained and irreversible. Furthermore, we should note that increased production capacity is a function of increased savings. That is a deliberate policy which diverts resources into productive investment must be pursued. An increase in production must be accompanied by improvement in the distribution function. This has implications on the availability of transportation, storage and commercial outlets. An important follow up to this function is that consumption patterns must change in two respects quantitatively and qualitatively. This however hinge upon increase in income. The overall effect of this element of development process is to enhance the living conditions of average member of the society in question.

Political Development

A second element of the development formula is political development. Political development is a very crucial aspect of the environment of development administration because the political element determines above all others what happens to the efforts to bring about development. In other words, the political system determines whether or not a suitable atmosphere exists for the pursuit of other aspects of development. Political development

generally concerns the capability of a political system to meet certain basic needs. These include sovereignty (political independence) meaning the ability of a country to stand on its own within the international system; military capacity (ability to defend the nation from external aggression and contain internal rebellion) and legitimacy of authority of the political regime to create acceptability. The last element (political legitimacy) in the components of system capability is very significant and on the whole determines the capacity of a political system to fulfill its other obligations. Political capability could be considered as a function of two variables, namely: Political institutionalization: It refers to the establishment of accepted norms (practices) within the political system. We can therefore distinguish the following which constitute political institutionalization and it comprises: rule of law which refers to respect for the constitution and established ways of doing things. In other words, this is understood to be constitutionalism. Another aspect of political institutionalization is the existence of a viable political culture which is in turn determined by the rule of law and democratic stability.

Socio-cultural Development

Social development should be seen in conjunction with cultural development. As a concept, social development can be understood by reference to the existence and access of the ordinary man to certain facilities (physical) which enhance his well being. Secondly, the existence of such physical facilities which are accessible should not only enhance physical well-being alone but should enhance psychological well-being equally. On the other hand, there must be other less tangible facilities which in turn (when available) reinforce physical as well as psychological well-being. The areas which concern social development in terms of physical facilities include the existence of the following :law, order and public safety; education; health, recreation; rehabilitation of the disabled; water; housing; electricity; transport; and communication.

The concept of modernization

The concept of modernization has been subjected to different interpretations based on the orientation/perceptions of the different authors. A school of thought posits that modernization is a systemic process involving complimentary changes in the demographic, economic, political, communication, and cultural sectors of a society. Modernization is a total or complete phenomenon that affects all facets of a society .A society is said to be modern when its members use inanimate sources of power or tools to multiply the effect of their efforts. Power refers to the ability to make things respond to ones wishes. Modernization involves a rapidly widening control over nature through closer cooperation among men. In modern societies, people come together to solve problems.

Economic Growth

Growth in economic theory refers to increase overtime in a country's real output per capita. Economic growth can also be seen as the quantitative improvement or increase in the resources or wealth of a country over time. Such increase could be the result of the following: technological improvement or introduction of new technology; discovery of new resources such as minerals or oil, due to favorable weather in predominantly agricultural economies. Each of these factors could lead to increased production or income which subsequently leads to economic growth. Some of these definitions have a member of uses. For instance, an increase in total output is important in determining a nation's economic power. Secondly, it involves an increase in living standard through increase in consumption and welfare. On the whole economic growth involves three essential variables as follows:

- An upward trend in GNP and revenue over a long period of time
- A self sustained character of growth that is largely irreversible
- Growth as a movement of structural transformation

RESULTS & ANALYSIS

In the context of the current developmental challenges that South Africa faces, dropping economics in the public administration curriculum does not make any sense. What informed this curriculum direction in the field of public administration is misinformed about the development trajectory that South Africa is pursuing. The strategic focus of government at this epoch that dawns the second decade of democracy in South Africa is on building and consolidating a developmental state. The imperatives of a developmental state necessitate that the quality of life of the citizens must be enhanced through an improved service delivery of public services and the creation of appropriate environment to maximize the participation of the citizens in the mainstream economy particularly those that were previously marginalized by the apartheid system. Improving service delivery and creating a befitting climate for equitable citizen participation in the mainstream of economy are two-pronged challenges confronting the government. These challenges necessitate the caliber of government officials who do not only master the art and science of governance, but also of economics. Given the emergence of public expenditure concept as an integral component in the economic studies between the period 1960s and 1970s, the foregoing is even more important. The concept of public expenditure focuses on the demand for and supply of government goods and services as well as resource allocation in the public sector (see Economics and Public Administration, undated). The knowledge of both public administration and economics is important in assisting government officials to improve, strengthen and reform their governance systems and administrative institutions; strengthen their policy making capacity; and improve overall efficiency of the government machinery. The societal problems are solved by public administration and economics explain choices. This means that public administration identifies normative rules that would lead decision-makers to make optimal decisions whereas economics identifies rules that decision makers are likely to follow (see Economics



and Public Administration undated). Of more importance in this “public administration economics nexus” is the ability of government officials to identify and effectively respond to emerging global trends and challenges. The current global financial crisis threatens the economies of the countries of the world and impacts negatively on the efforts to realize the Millennium Development Goals. This needs the caliber of government officials with sound economic knowledge to make informed decisions, particularly in dealing with the challenges as brought about by the global economic meltdown. Since the inception of the democratic dispensation in 1994, South Africa has committed itself to correcting structural injustices and improving the living standards of the people and recognizes socio-economic rights (access to basic services such as housing, health and education) enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa as an integral component of developing the country. The government, therefore, embarked on a variety of development initiatives clearly expressed in the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), developed back in 1993, Growth, Employment and Redistribution Strategy (GEAR), in 1996, and Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative (ASGISA), in 2006. All these development initiatives, with huge economic implications on the country, are aimed at addressing the socio-economic challenges such as poverty, unemployment, and unequal distribution of resources that face the country and public administration is expected to play a leading role in ensuring their successful implementation. In the context of South Africa, the knowledge of economics is even more essential for public administrators as it would provide a theoretical framework to understand these contemporary development initiatives. RDP is an integrated policy framework for socio-economic renewal, transformation and empowerment to establish a systematic approach to the democratization and development of the South African society. Its central thrust is to reduce the poverty of the majority of South Africans and make services of an economic nature accessible to all. To give rise to ample employment opportunities and a redistribution of resources, GEAR was developed as a strategic intervention aimed at accelerating the pace of realizing the objective of RDP. As a result of an increase in unemployment (from 26 % in 1994 to 30, 5 % in 2002), the 2004 government committed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set in 2000 (Development Report 2005), which is to halve poverty and unemployment by 2014. The government introduced ASGISA as another intervention to accelerate the pace of development. ASGISA focuses, in particular, on fast job creating growth, ensure availability of the needed skills, create opportunities for those marginalized, and maintain policies that brought macroeconomic stability. The theoretical antecedents of these development initiatives are embedded in the science of economics. Therefore, the “brightest and best servants” that the imperatives of a development state needs should not only be schooled in the science of governance but of economics as well. This would ensure that various programs of government, largely those that are aimed at eradicating poverty and unemployment, are properly managed by people with rounded-knowledge.

CONCLUSION

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This paper attempted an overview of conceptual issues in development administration. It presented a brief but cogent narrative on the origin of development administration, followed by in-depth explanation on the concepts of Administration; Development; Modernization; and Economic Growth. The constraints to development in Third World countries as underscored by factors or issues bothering on the environment of development administration were critically discussed and recommendations were proffered as deemed necessary in the body of the paper. The effective adoption and implementation of the suggestions would lead to better coordination of development efforts and redress the dismal development performance of developing countries with special focus on Nigeria.

Although the concept of development administration is becoming increasingly “fashionable” throughout the public administration literature, its focus, at least in the foreseeable future, is expected to remain on the study of those governmental administrative systems (or organizations), which are engaged primarily in the task of bringing rapid socio-economic and political change. Further, the dominant concern of those using the concept is likely to be with the “emergent” nations, which are facing the challenges of socio-administrative changes. It goes without saying that majority of the developing nations has traditional administrative structures, which are assigned the tasks of development administration. In regard to the ecological context of development administration, the primary emphasis in the literature has been on the political dimensions. Here, the major concern has been largely with the question of creating balanced and unbalanced polities. Debate on this subject, however, has put little stress on the need to study particular socio-administrative conditions of particular societies. Likewise, there has not been much discussion of the “performance” of these balanced and unbalanced polities. In addition, not much research has been undertaken on the influences of the economic and the socio-cultural systems on the administrative system, nor has much attention been given to the capacity of an administration to bring about changes in its socio-cultural environment. The need is to rectify this imbalance in the literature on development administration

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