

GOOD GOVERNANCE SYSTEM IN KERALA; AN OVERVIEW

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ABSTRACT

This article explores the temperament of the governance system in Kerala. Good Governance is a predictable term which open and enlightened policy making, a bureaucracy imbued with professional ethos, acting in furtherance of public affairs. Good Governance ensures a strong state carried of social development and sustainable economic conditions as well as institutional growth. Good governance, as a concept, is applicable to all sections of society such as the government, legislature, judiciary, the media, the private sector, the corporate sector, the co-operatives, societies registered under the Societies Registration Act, duly registered trusts, organizations such as the trade unions and lastly the non-government organizations (NGOs). Public accountability and transparency are as relevant for the one as for the other. Good governance also includes people's participation in both developmental and administrative functions of society. Good governance also means the attainment of ideals of democracy and participation of people in all activities of state. That is, participatory administration finds its fullest realization in a society which is governed properly.

Keywords: Governance, Good Governance, Development

Governance can be used to refer to all patterns of rule, the kind of hierarchic state that is often thought to have existed prior to the public sector reforms in 1980's and 1990's. The concept of Governance has been used since the 14th century. It emerged with a range of meaning from the act or manner of governing the office of power, which made it synonymous with government. After the treaty of Westphalia in 1648, it became fully synonymous with the government. This equilibrium remained till 1990's. It was in 1990's that the normative aspect of governance came into prominence owing the political and economic changes happened in the decade. World Bank was one of the first international organization to use the term governance. It defined governance as having three distinct aspects, the form of a political regime, the process by which authority is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources, the capacity of governments to design, formulate and implement policies.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

"Good governance" is a particular term that has become a part of the development and welfare organizations within the international arena. It means exactly, is an extremely elusive objective. It always considered different things to different organizations, but never deals about the different players within these organizations.

The rebirth of 'Governance' in the form of good governance can be attributed to the concept used by the World Bank for the first time in "Sub-Saharan Africa: Crisis to sustainable Growth" in 1989. This report mainly focusing the 'crisis of governance', the Bank identified certain factors which are negatively affect the sustainable development and will lead corruption, excessive personalization of political power, neglect of human rights and non-accountable governments etc. In these aspects World Bank periodically developed the governance agenda with new characteristics and renamed it as 'good governance'. The Bank argued that, good governance need sound economic, human and institutional development. There exist mainly four key dimensions of governance after the analysis as follows: public sector management, legal framework for development, accountability, Information and transparency

GOOD GOVERNANCE - CONDITION IN KERALA

Kerala, have emerged at the top of the rankings of 29 Indian states in a new good governance index for the country released by Public Affairs Centre, an NGO in Bengaluru. The first Public Affairs Index on good governance, measuring aspects like economic, social and infrastructure development in states, was released by former Chief Justice of India M N Venkatachaliah. The index has ranked Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat as the top five states in terms of governance after measuring them against 10 parameters comprising 25 subjects and 68 development indicators. Kerala governance focuses the developmental equality in every fields. The public development leads to sound administrative system. In order to make the development more and more public, the government adopted healthy governance system in a decentralized manner. The Kerala model is a significant concept which strengthened the above point of view. Kerala is a model for governance and decentralization in India. Over the last two decades Kerala's

decentralization has been accepted in the world wide. Decentralization introduced in Kerala with the background support of People's Plan Campaign on 17th August 1996 and the process was launched after the Panchayat Raj Act (1994) and Kerala Municipality Act (1994) and the constitutional amendments.

In Kerala the scope of the functions assigned to the three tiers of Panchayats, Gram Panchayat, Block Panchayat and District Panchayat which ensure the social welfare, development projects and local resource mobilization. The hierarchical system leads governance process in an easy way. Peoples participation is an important reason for the continues development of Kerala. The elected representatives ensure peoples direct participation in diplomatic or administrative actions through the form of decisions. Majority were stood for the common interest and for the common good it will lead a positive overview towards the democracy from the part of commons. Participatory planning as an important way for the decentralized governance, it also creates awareness to the people related with various programs or policies developed by the Government. Gramasabha provide opportunity to the public for making the administrative decisions with the administrators. This may facilitate the involvement of different sections, all of them have different development expectations. It ensures the relationship between public and elected representatives and through administrative officials. This results the administrative accountability and good governance is the result. Kerala has succeeded in providing a practical application for good governance through different methods they are as follows:

GramaSabhas; GramaSabhas are the direct participation stage for the people. This always identify the necessities of the public. It conveys the knowledge to the public related with new policies and programs implemented by the Government. Statistics reveal that 15-18% of the rural population has participated. The decisions are forwarded to the Local governments. Each meeting is chaired by the elected member and has an official as its coordinator

Women empowerment; The Neighborhood Groups and Kudumbashree Mission, were the two attractive women empowerment programs contributed by Kerala. This powerful organization of women has grown into an extremely effective system for grass root development. It ensures the progress of women and their participation in the society. All of these programs made women as a self-sustained element or make them stronger. The right to information is to be the strengthening factor for GoodGovernance.This right create a vigil feel to the administrative officers and give adequate knowledge to the public related with all governmental matters. Next one is Watchdog system; It was formed outside the jurisdiction of the executive. It may have stood against for the practice of political interest by executive accorded with elected representatives. Ombudsman and Appellate Tribunal are the two watch dog institutionary which scrutinize the powers and functions in a legal way. Ombudsman is a particular institution which headed by a High Court Judge (retired or serving) and has power to looking all functions in local governments. It has the right to give punishment who are practiced unauthorized way. Appellate Tribunal is a semi -judicial body headed by a District judge, he hearing appeals from the side of common people and take accurate decisions based on the complaints. Other important feature is delivery of public goods to the beneficiaries in a proper schedule is an important characteristic feature of Kerala. The Public Distribution System functions properly. There introduced new technologies for the distribution of goods to the citizens.one of them is the ration cardholders will soon be able to buy rations from any fair price shop in Kerala. The new service will be applied through the mobile application. in this case, one can retain his card at the mother ration shop but by food grains from other fair price shops. This focused to the migrant workers. The Social audit has a significant role in the present condition. It conveys all financial matters to the citizens this will also help to the reduction of corruption, malpractices, favoritism etc..., the administrative officials and elected representative's vigil about the governance and they do the maximum through the right kind of things. In the good governance system, the Influence of technologies plays key role. The Government of Kerala has already implemented many citizen-friendly E-Governance projects. E-governance does not stop at data collection in digital format. It has to convert raw data into useful information required for village-level planning. E-governance influence everyone, to develop trust, collaborative, and engages people. Some of the programs are;

- FRIENDS -Single window schemes for Taxes and other utility projects. It integrated departments like Revenue, Motor vehicles, Civil supplies, Local bodies, Universities, Electricity, Water and Telephones.
- AKSHAYA-Bridge Digital Divide, Public Delivery Services, Creation of employment, E-literacy
- SWAN (Secretariat) -Integration of Secretariat, VikasBhavan and Public Office. Paper less Filing.
- SWAN (State) -Integration of various District Headquarters with Capital
- SPARK -G2E Web based Personal Administration for service, Salary, IT and Account Matters

- KISSAN -Agriculture Information System KPCS.org Transparent Window for Recruiting Govt.
- SWEET- All Information and Services Relating to Kerala University Examination.
- VDCCs- e-Literacy, Digital Inclusion with Social Equity.
- Sutharyakeralam - Compliant and Grievance Handling directly by the Chief Minister.
- IDEAS- File Tracking System for Government Offices
- MESSAGE -Internet based application for the citizen services

Thus governance in Kerala plays a vital role in realizing the objectives of decentralized planning. Various government agencies in Kerala have already implemented the governance. It is a key attempt from the part of Government to eliminate gap between government and people and create a new way for the people to mold developmental activities according to their choices. The experience story of Kerala conveys the idea that good governance is the primary effective mechanism for the development. It creates feelings of security, friendship, general development. The most leading characteristic feature of Kerala's decentralization is the devolution of plan on the basis of equitable manner it is the result of a good governance system. Participatory administration and good governance as ideas are quite attractive. This system ensures certain aspect in the society that are participation of citizens in the administrative dealings, upholding the rule of law from the side of administrative officials, elected representatives and elected representatives, transparency of the public administrative system, responsiveness of the authority to the common public, equity and inclusiveness of the policy, accountability and transparency etc. Thus good governance is a key to the development for the society.

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