

Que 4 The scope of Public Administration is ever-expanding.
comment.

Public administration is considered as a socially embedded process of relationships, dialogue and action to promote human flourishing of all.

As against the NARROW VIEW of Pub Ad which concerned itself with only the Executive organ of the government, the BROAD VIEW of it encompasses all 3 organs of the state. There was a significant expansion of the scope of PA when the neo LIBERAL VIEW included in its ambit the institutions financed out of the taxpayer's money.

AS A DISCIPLINE

It concerns itself with 2 views :

a) POSDCORB view

It includes managerial functions like planning, organising, staffing, directing, coordinating, reporting and budgeting. That is to define the scope in terms of the tools, techniques and functions of Pub Ad.

b) SUBJECT MATTER VIEW

The emphasis was on the substantive or policy aspect of the discipline and categorised the govt activities into :

- 1) Developmental - education infrastructure
- 2) Non developmental - Defence
- 3) Symbolic - Republic Day Parade

AS AN ACTIVITY

As an activity, the scope of Public Administration expanded and contracted as per the role of the state.

The political state served as a Night Watchman performing limited functions (coercive) & so PA's scope was small, but absolute.

With the coming in of a laissez faire and then a welfare state, the scope expanded significantly as the govt and hence public administration dealt with everything from 'cradle to grave'. The NANNY STATE enlarged the field of activity of Pub Ad.

In the modern day 'minimalist state', the role of pub ad has not declined but has assumed new dimensions. It is no more a doer, but an enabler. Thus, to the conventional scope has been added the role of 'regulator'.

The scope has thus expanded over the evolution of Pub and will continue to do so as

KARL POPPER said :

“ Everything is provisional and permanently provisional. ”

Que 5. Popular belief is that ownership change from public to private brings about improved performance. Comment.

The disenchantment with the state, when it failed to discharge its welfarist role, led to a 'dual crisis' - a crisis of legitimacy and financial crisis.

The need for the state came to be questioned and it was felt that the change in ownership would bring about improved performance.

Various reasons inherent in the public sector were highlighted by scholars like :

- a) higher tolerance towards mal-performance (Gordon Tullock)
- b) monopolistic tendencies and empire building (Anthony Downs)
- c) Budget-maximising nature (William Niskanen)

Thus, there was an ever-increasing push towards 'Marketisation or Privatisation' of Public Sector Enterprises, emanating from the new Right Philosophy. Thus, were born Public choice approach and New Public Management.

However, one must bear in mind that there is no 'one best way' to do things or run enterprises. The efficiency concerns might be paramount in the private sector but the public sector is moved by SOCIAL WELFARE.

Thus, performance improvement has to be done keeping in mind the goal of 'social efficiency'.

For example, with the privatisation of the Telecom services, the performance of sector has improved manifold with equally high dividends for the general public.

However, privatisation is no panacea for success. The government in the past has also resorted to Nationalisation of Banks, to correct performance failure and to address economy's needs.

Similarly, there is little merit in privatising 'Railways', the lifeline of our nation.

Thus, the key to improved practices lies in 'Market Practices' and not necessarily 'Marketisation'.

Que 6. Public Administration as a discipline will remain rootless unless it is studied in the context of history. Elucidate.

Woodrow Wilson's Essay of 1887 was the inception of a systematic study of Public Administration as a discipline.

With the passage of time and maturing of the discipline, it started clamouring for recognition as a separate discipline though it borrowed heavily from other disciplines like sociology, politics, law, management, psychology, philosophy and economics.

Political science claimed its sovereignty over the discipline as a 'Mother Science' and believed that Pub Ad is nothing but a field of specialisation on political science as it dealt with only one aspect of state (govt. in action), while Pol science dealt with the whole of it.

claims were also made by Management science from whom public administration borrowed its tools and techniques.

Thus, the period of 1950-70 was a period of 'crisis of identity' and has been highlighted in 'Nicholas Henry's Paradigm III & IV'.

However, the scholars of Pub Ad like Dwight Waldo stepped in to maintain the credibility of the vocabulary of Pub Ad and Pol science and Management science were regarded as step mother and step sister respectively.

It was believed that Public Admin is a young discipline and it is multi-disciplinary.

in nature but has a distinct identity of its own.

While it has always been less technical than management and more technical than politics, the philosophical aspect was more than management and less than political science.

It deals with a difference value premise of 'social efficiency and public benefit'

In Henry's V Paradigm, the locus as well as the focus of Public Administration were clearly established and Pub Ad was recognised as Pub Ad. Its search for 'curricular autonomy' was finally over and it came to be acknowledged as Social Science, which is dynamic as well as progressive.

Thus, Public Administration has a long history of evolution and has gone through turbulent phases to finally emerge as a separate discipline of study.