

Que 16. NPM should not be blindly applied to any and every country without taking account of "contextual" factors. Analyse the statement wrt context of developing countries.

NPM, which envisaged the application of market practices & principles to the public sector emerged in western world as Thatcherism in UK and Reaganism in US.

It was aimed at addressing public sector inefficiencies and spread to the developing countries by 1990s. The African & Asian economies started 'downsizing' their govt and an era of 'contracting out' started (LPG in India) They failed to produce the desired results as these reforms were brought without taking account of contextual factors like :

- The value system of the developed & the developing world are markedly different - the west is consumeristic and individualistic, while the developing world insists on familial and communitarian bonds.
- The level of technology advancement is higher in the developed world.
- The developing countries like India usually run a deficit budget and financial resources of the govt. are meagre.
- The prevalence of an 'Imbalanced Polity' where the bureaucracy is dominant leads to nepotism, favouritism, clientalism and corruption.
- The western societies are homogenous & have a high level of social capital as against the heterogenous third world.

NPM or any western Theory should thus not be considered as a panacea for all the ills of the developing world. This was highlighted by the woodrow wilson, the 1st comparativist through his statement,

" We can borrow the art of sharpening the knife but without the intention to kill. "

Ques 17. "Publicness" of Pub Ad in an ideal democratic govt remains the ultimate value in theory & practice." Elucidate.

'Publicness' of Public Administration refers to the social welfare or service motive aspect of the govt.

An ideal democracy is founded on the principles of liberty, equality, justice and rule of law. It places the citizen at the core of its aims. It seeks to ensure that every individual leads a life of dignity & choice.

The 'fundamental values' of an ideal democracy are also the ultimate aim of Public Admin, which works out the will of the state. In theory of Pub Ad, the 'publicness' was emphasised in NPA approach with its emphasis on Relevance, Values, Equity and Change.

Though, ~~some~~ approaches like PCA and NPM diluted the publicness of pub ad, it was reaffirmed with subsequent theories of GG and DEG.

As a practice, pub ad is ~~more~~ engaged in policy-making & policy implementation. The emphasis is again on 'citizen-centricity' and societal good.

For instance, e-governance (faceless interaction), mob lynching laws, community participation, social audit, citizen charter, RTPS, EWIS, reservation, financial inclusion schemes like Ghan Dhan, community policing, disaster warning systems, PDS, LPG subsidy, insurance and PF schemes etc are all govt initiatives which aim at addressing social ~~welfare~~ ^{problems} and promoting public welfare, even if they incur losses to the exchequer.

The publicness of public admin is also reflected in areas where private sector cannot participate (due to scale, capital, access to resources) or does not ^{want to} participate (due to less profitability).

Such areas include:

- Defence (no private sector can maintain army, navy & air force)
- public goods like street lighting, parks.
- goods & services of utmost importance to reach the bottom of the pyramid.
- public transportation like Railway, metro etc.

The govt. is thus a 'service organisation' and looks beyond profits to attain the democratic ideals of LEF & justice.