

Globalisation and Public Administration

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Structure

- Understanding globalisation
- Discourse centered around globalisation
- Impact of globalisation on Public Administration



Globalisation

- Multiplicity of linkages and interconnections between the nation - states and societies that constitute the present world system
- Multi-dimensional in nature - simultaneous, complex and related processes in the realms of economics, politics, culture and technology




Globalisation- Different Interpretations

- Economists – Step towards a fully integrated world market
- Political scientists – emergence of supranational and global governing bodies under a new world order
- Business school scholars and consultants – unlimited opportunities in a ‘borderless world’
- Phenomenon driven only by private – sector firms and corporations

Globalisation – A Mixed Blessing

Opportunities and Challenges



Proponents	Opponents
Full of opportunities	Loss of sovereignty of the state
Expansion of trade and markets	Increased economic inequality as globalisation does not offer a level playing field
Push to economies	Lack of employment for unskilled
Better living standards and prosperity	Job layoffs
Collaborative arrangements and networking	Environmental problems –due to modern lifestyles

Debates with Diverse Disciplinary Perspectives

- With the spread of global capitalism and market supremacy, the state has become irrelevant - Ohmae (1990)
- Francis Fukuyama(1992)predicted ‘The End of History and of the Last Man’ as a result of fall of Soviet Union
- Samuel Huntington(1996)- spoke of ‘Clash of Civilisations’ between the West and East
- Thomas Friedman (1999) argued that the Westernisation and Americanisation of the world would sweep the Eastern cultures and their religions



The Sovereignty – Globalisation Debate :

Three Schools of Thought

- Hyperglobalists - Martin Albrow, Kenichi Ohmae and Susan Strange
- Skeptics - Robert Gilpin, Paul Hirst, Stephen Krasner and Grahame Thompson
- Transformationalists - Anthony Giddens, James Rosenau and John Ruggie



Hyperglobalists

- Globalisation reduces space for states to manage macroeconomic policy.
- States have to sustain a policy mix consistent with the requirements of global capital and international competitiveness.
- This is symptomatic of world order in which sovereign state is marginalised.



Skeptics

- Consider Hyperglobalist position as politically naïve
- State is not the victim of this process but rather its main architect
- There is need for capable states and a stable state system to function successfully
- The sovereign states need as much power internationally as they did in the past and that the most powerful states still control the process of globalisation

Third Perspective

(Transformationalists view)



- Rejects the tendency to juxtapose state sovereignty and globalisation
- Argues for inevitability of globalisation – state is neither diminished by globalisation nor unaffected by it. The role of the state is being redefined.
- Suggests adaptability and innovation as a response strategy to keep pace with the globalisation process
- Countries may differ as to how they perceive problems and opportunities



Major Changes in the Character of Modern State

- Decisions of supranational organizations binding over nation states
- Increasing degree of interdependence among states to handle host of issues
- Information age advantages for all functions of governance and administration
- Growing role of governments as partners
- Shift of administrative state from a welfare state to a corporate state



Changing Role of State

- Market based approach to Public Administration
- Privatize public services or their delivery wherever possible
- Traditional bureaucratic model losing significance

Impact of Globalisation on Public Administration



- Nature and processes of Public Administration
- Emphasis on acquiring new skills and capabilities
- Management of public information with the help of ICT
- Transform public agencies into externally oriented organizations - data warehousing, government websites and internet sites



Contd....

- Scope for enhancing Public Accountability and increased participation of citizens
- Improve decision - making and service delivery
- Government agencies linked to external environment
- E-governance – affected the way the public deals with the government
- Forging new partnerships-Public-Private partnerships

Impact of Globalisation on Developing Countries



- Globalization does not affect all countries the same way
- Challenging to countries which are low in terms of resources, skills, capabilities, technology with weak bargaining power
- In spite of ICT – accessibility to information uneven - lack of pragmatic and bold decisions
- Countries without strong institutional frameworks or social networks – suffer negative effects of globalization



State - Market Cooperation

- In 1994, some economists recommended a paradigm of ‘Socially Responsible Market Economy’
- State always accountable to people
- State to reconcile the objectives of liberalization and the pursuit of national interests and developmental goals
- State – balancing role – to achieve people’s welfare



Managing Globalisation

- Governments must upgrade administrative capacities to govern and manage
- Strong democratic states endowed with institutions capable of coping with domestic and international challenges to seize the benefits of globalisation
- The impact of globalisation has been significant emphasising change and reinventing public administration with a management orientation.



Quiz...

(1) Who is the author of ‘Clash of Civilizations’?

(a) Francis Fukuyama

(b) Samuel Huntington

(c) Thomas Friedman

(d) Kenichi Ohmae



Cont...

(2) Who considered globalization as symptomatic of world order in which sovereign state is marginalized?

- (a) Hyperglobalists
- (b) Skeptics
- (c) Transformationalists
- (d) Rationalists



Cont...

(3) What does ‘Socially Responsible Market Economy’ imply ?

(a) Improving administrative capacity

(b) Strengthening Institutional Framework

(c) Enhancing Public Accountability

(d) State Market Cooperation

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