

## **Political Science and Educational Administration: An Overview Of Some Important Dimensions**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Educational Administration is concerned with the management and operation of Educational Organisations. Educational administration is a subject which draws its contents from different branches of Social Science. It is a fact that the research works done in the field of Educational Administration have been very much lesser in quantity in comparison to the other branches of research done in human history. Historically, the quantity of female administrators has always remained lesser in comparison to that of male. Basically secondary data were used in this study. The study was desk based . The concepts, theories, ideas and new developments of other Social Sciences including Political Science, have a close relationship with the development of Educational Administration. An attempt has been made to analyse the different dimensions of relationship of Political Science and Educational Administration.

**Keywords:** Educational Administration, leadership, women, society, institute, research, Political Science.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Education is a field of study which is concerned with the management and the operation of Educational Organisations (Bush, 1999) . In fact, Administration primarily is the same in all types of institutions like military, industrial, governmental and Educational institutions etc. Educational Administration is a subject which draws its contents from different branches of Social Science. Its contents include many Arts and Sciences. Educational Administration may be of different levels like elementary, secondary, higher secondary, college, university etc . It is an obvious fact that the research works done in the field of Educational Administration has been much lesser in quality in comparison to the research works done in the other branches of Social Science in human history. Though in the recent past Education Policy has caught some immense attention in the field of analysis of political discourses, it has always remained an issue of subordinate importance . Two worth mentioning aspects of Education in recent times are the Privatisation and the Internationalisation of Education almost throughout the world . Again, historically the quantity of female Administrators has always remained lesser in comparison to that of male. Though in the male dominated societies, numerous barriers had stood as stumbling blocks for women to achieve leadership positions in the field of Educational Administration and the career path of women administrators were limited, in fact women as a teaching force are increasing in number due to various new developments like Feminism and spread of Liberal Education etc.

### **OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

The objective of the present study is to analyse and understand the different dimensions of relationship between Political Science and Educational Administration from the literatures available in these subjects and their related fields.

### **METHODOLOGY:**

The methods which will be used to carry out this research include - the critical analytical method, the descriptive method, the evaluative method and the comparative method etc. Basically, secondary data were used in this study. The researcher collected various government databases, books, magazines, seminar reports, research articles, Social Science Journals, PDF files downloaded from different websites etc. The study was desk based.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Fenwick English (2006) has expressed the necessity of criticism of the advancing scholarship in the field of Educational Administration. This kind of criticism should be sound and appropriate empirically, logically and philosophically. According to him, as a research field there has been a strong epistemological and ontological debate in the study of Educational Administration, He suggested for research of the contested grounds in defining Educational Administration.

Bourdieu (1998) aimed to remove the dichotomy between individual and society. In his theoretical insight, the indirectly accessible characteristics of practice could be made visible. The concept of capital, habitus, field and strategies provided clues for investigating the contextual constraints and individual possibilities within the framework of Educational Leadership. According to Bourdieu, the idea of school autonomy is only a deceptive device and in fact it is a tool of legitimising the Dominion of the state. He has mentioned that educational departments are normally highly structured entities and they are resistant to any kind of changes.

Brown and Irby (1996) have mentioned that there are several unique needs for women in the Educational Administrative mechanism. He expressed the needs of addressing the different concerns and challenges the women are facing in the Educational Leadership. A total of 36 broad categories of needs were mentioned by him (from his research of women's needs) for the women who are aspiring for entering into the administrative ranks of Education Sector.

According to Terborg (1977), in his research regarding the inter-relationship of gender and performance evaluation in different organizational patterns, the results were very uncertain. He has pointed out that in comparison to men the chances of getting appraisal in lower performance is higher in case of women. He also has mentioned that when an assignment is attributed to women, the chances of evaluation of the same assignment is lower in comparison with that of men. Again, he has found that if the attitude of women is unlike the expected pattern, they might be evaluated negatively. Also, a leader's gender has an impact on the value the members of a particular group give to their leaders.

McPherson (1995) has stressed upon the crucial role of teachers in the integration of technology in the Educational Process. He proposed for the use of a full range of technologies with the purpose to reform school, meeting the state and national goals, assuring equality education for each and every student, thereby, creating dynamic leadership. He has said that the lack of administrative support is a key obstacle to the use of technology in the educational institutions. He used LISQ (the Learning Improvement Strategies questionnaire) to monitor the quality of learning environment of educational programs. The LISQ is a fast and reliable educational course monitoring mechanism.

Meyer and Ramirez (2003) have mentioned that there has always been strong research work regarding Education in the Sociology discipline. But compared to it, the research works done regarding Education in the discipline of political science is lesser in amount. The consequences of Education have been elaborately analyzed by prominent sociologists. Important issues like social inequalities and the ways and techniques to overcome such problematic issues were the prime focuses of Meyer and Ramirez's work.

Evers and Lakomsky (1991) have suggested that the subject of Educational Administration should move to a level of much greater varieties rather than focusing on traditional viewpoints of Science only. According to them, the shift could be made realistic by alternative philosophical dimensions on the nature of the knowledge system, which was able to function as frameworks of opposing systematic ideas of the Administration Process. Evers and Lakomsky have explored the different types of indicators of Accountability in specific contexts and the features of schools that trigger and enhance realistic Accountability and Pedagogy.

## **DISCUSSIONS**

### **EDUCATION POLICY MAKING AS A NEGLECTED RESEARCH FIELD**

The rise of Privatisation of Education Institutions, the expanding nature of the Education Market globally trigger for research activities and emerging phenomena of Privatisation and Internationalisation in current scenario of educational processes etc. demand for further advanced research. An important area of significant importance is the relationship of political economy and education system. In the studies of the democratic governance mechanism and education, normative orientation has become visible, but researchers based on explanatory values have not been up to the mark. It can be said that Education "as a policy filled in its own right" is a premature stage. There is a need to look into the political processes and their preconditions as a research agenda to understand the new developments in the educational policies for the Study of Educational Process.

Larson and Murtadha have called for 'researchers in Educational Administration who believe that injustice in our schools and communities is neither natural or inevitable' to coalesce under an umbrella of inquiry called

“leadership for Social Justice”. They have mentioned the social institutions as mirrors of the society. In the United States of America, due to prolonged practices of injustice, some portions of the society do not see even the blatant injustices as unjust. The educators, the policy makers, the researchers and the administrators should shoulder the responsibilities of their part to eradicate the inequalities of different types and degrees of inequalities prevalent in the society.

### **THE PLACE OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND OTHER SOCIAL SCIENCES IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION**

The subject of Educational Administration has taken relevant ideas, developments, concepts and theories etc. from the other branches of social science. This lead to its programmes to transform into a more specialised and increasingly theoretical and growing field of study. According to Haller, among the disciplines Education was the most influential subject which influenced the researchers and relevant stakeholders of Educational Administration. After Education, Sociology was the discipline which helped in bringing positive developments in the field of Educational Administration. Psychology and Social Psychology are much behind in comparison to these two disciplines in this perspective. While understanding and analysing different critical and policy issues of Educational Organisations, the research Works of Political Science help a lot. Relevant rigorous scholarly works of this field trigger the utility and linkages among educational policy practices and research areas. Educational administration is a mechanism of integrating the available human and material resources for achieving effectively the objectives of divergent programmes of Educational Institutions. Educational Administration is considered more an art than a science by many. Educational Curriculum inculcates in the students the significance of democratic values and, thus, train them to become excellent democratic citizens of their respective native lands as well as the global village.

### **THE ROLE OF EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION IN PRESERVING SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ORDER**

The educational institutions are the venues for enhancement of social and economic prosperity, provided that they inculcate in the students the fundamental values of our political society. Loyalty of the system by citizens is utmost important for the upward movement and successful operation within a political and economic system. Educational Curriculum helps in promoting fresh blood in the workforce at the managerial levels in the industrial complexes too . The industrial, technological and military needs of a society are tied with the Education System of the state. A very prominent dimension is the threat of rival external political systems in the recent times. Individuals and pressure groups try to exert their influences by tailoring the educational materials to promote their way of thinking. Instance of rewriting of textbooks is a clear example of this kind of endeavor in which the revolutionary leaders are elevated to a level of paragons while the disposed leaders are generally erased from the memory or at least shown as villains. The perception of Educational Enterprises of being ‘a totally free and independent entity’ is only a myth because the dominant Political System has a direct and indirect influence on the Education System of a nation. Various religious, patriotic and labor groups etc. want their direct influence on the Educational Administrative System while others work in a pattern of indirect intervention. Educational Institutions function within a fixed guideline of procedures, rules, myths and various other kinds of criteria and the biases are mobilized in a planned direction. Due to varied political arrangements in different parts of the world, the labor unions face varying degrees of difficulties to get their ways of thinking be presented in the educational settings. The fact of the matter is that the administrative system of education is dictated by authorities who do have vested interests in perpetuating the prevalent political and economic system. This is why they wouldn’t like the embarkment of an ideological crusade to emerge by threatening the present system to bring about a new society. The non-political nature of Education is only a myth because the power patterns of our society handle the context of Curriculum of the educational endeavors despite its fluctuations in different scenarios. Politics is a business to some, and it involves conflicts and struggles, and in its competitive environment only a few emerge successful. Social mobility, political socialization and preservation of the present political, social, and economic system has a direct relationship with the educational administrative system.

### **A BRIEF LOOK AT THE POLICIES RELATED TO EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION IN THE USA**

Even during the time of Woodrow Wilson in the United States of America, there was little consensus regarding the need for politics to intrude into the administrative system of Education and the cities. Wilson was of the opinion to develop a new science of administration for efficient functioning, which was supposed to be a hierarchically ordered administrative system . Even today many people think that Politics should have no legitimate place in the process of Education. During the 1990s in the USA, attempts were made to insulate the Education System from corruption by adopting non-partisan arrangements, like in the bureaucratic and industrial lines, to work efficiently. Due to their expertise of the subject, professionally well trained Educational Administrators and Educators are considered to be better competent compared to the generalists in developing

an efficient environment of Educational Programmes. Since the 1990s, Education has been at the forefront of public policy analysis in the United States of America. Demands for substantive change in the preparation of aspiring Educators emerged at a time when powerful civil society organisations started calling for reformative measures in the field of Educational Administration.

## CONCLUSION

Education system must focus on providing an environment for eradicating undesired inequalities of all kinds in the society. Educational Administration must try to create an environment in which cultural differences are treated respectfully. Education should be utilized as an important agency for negotiating cultural, social and political changes. Today there is a utmost necessity of nurturing educational administrators who can be technology leaders too, as technology has become an integral part of modern life. The decentralisation of the educational system, through permitting parental and community participation and triggering responsiveness of educational administration etc. definitely will lead to the effectiveness of the system. An emphasis on greater degree of accountability of educators, educational administrators as well as the related political entities will lead to more and more efficiency and effectiveness. Well planned policies and serious introspection of their implementation will for sure ensure better informed priorities and choices for effective educational institutions for the future.

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