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**PUBLIC
POLICY**

By: *Rosy Laxman*, M.A. (English), B.Ed, P.G.D.M.A.

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QUESTION PAPER

(June – 2019)

(Solved)

PUBLIC POLICY

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

SECTION - I

Answer the following questions:

Q. 1. Explain the meaning and characteristics of the term 'Public Policy'.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 1, 'Meaning of Public Policy' and Page No. 3, 'Characteristics of Public Policy Making'.

Q. 2. Write a note on the meaning, genesis, theories and social mobilization of social movements.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-17, Page No. 81, 'Social Movements : Meaning, Genesis, Theories and Social Mobilisation'.

Q. 3. Discuss the role of legislature in policy implementation.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-19, Page No. 89, 'Role of the Legislature in Policy Implementation'.

Q. 4. Elaborate upon the importance, purpose and approaches of policy evaluation.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-27, Page No. 122, 'Meaning, Importance and Purposes' and 'Evaluation Approches'.

SECTION - II

Answer the following questions:

Q. 5. Write a note on the major dimensions of Policy analysis.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-29, Page No. 129, 'Policy Analysis : Major Dimensions'.

Q. 6. "There are different forms of policy analysis that ensure policies serve the intended purposes".

Ans. The three important forms of policy analysis are descriptive, perspective and comparative.

The descriptive and prescriptive are two major trends which can be identified within policy studies.

Descriptive: The descriptive trend is concerned with highlighting such issues:

- Important factors leading to the initiation of the processes of policy making,
- The part played by different governmental and non-governmental agencies and actors in reaching at policy decisions,
- The techniques made use of by the policy decision makers, and the policy impact.

Analysis of some policies emphasise on particular policy decisions and others on the general process of policy formulation with an endeavour to specify such elements which have place of significance in all such processes, or most of them. The descriptive analysis, by and large, emphasises upon the virtual happening and role played by different agencies in the policy making.

Also Ref.: See Chapter-29, Page No. 129, 'Prescriptive' and 'Comparative'.

Q. 7. Discuss briefly, the meaning and importance of inter-governmental relations.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 32, 'Inter-governmental Relations: Meaning and Importance'.

Q. 8. Explain policy formulation as a stage in policy cycle.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 11, Q. No. 1.

Q. 9. "The developmental potential of mass media to planned change is universally appreciated." Examine.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-16, Page No. 76, 'Mass Media and Planned Change'.

Q. 10. Write a note on the meaning of non-governmental agencies/voluntary organisation.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-21, Page No. 94, 'Meaning of Non-Governmental Agencies' and Page No. 96, Q.No. 1.

Q. 11. Discuss the impact of land reforms and the implementation issues associated with it.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-23, Page No. 102, 'Implementation of Land Reforms : Some Problems' and 'Impact of Land Reforms'.

Q. 12. Elaborate upon the meaning and importance of policy sciences.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 26, 'Meaning and Importance of Policy Sciences' and Page No. 29, Q.No. 1.

SECTION -III

Answer the following questions:

Q. 13. Briefly discuss the problem of conceptual confusion in the operation of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-26, Page No. 115, 'Conceptual Confusion'.

Q. 14. Describe the major characteristics of policy-making process in a developing State.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 16, 'Policy Making in Developing State'.

Q. 15. Briefly highlight the role of bureaucracy in policy-making.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 45, 'Role of Bureaucracy in Policy Making'.

Q. 16. Bring out the relationship between Parliament and Judiciary in the making of policies.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 57, 'Parliament and Judiciary'.

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Sample Preview of The Chapter

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PUBLIC POLICY

INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY



Public Policy: Meaning and Nature

INTRODUCTION

Public policies exist from time immemorial irrespective of the type of government existed in the very state or country. Public policies are the part and parcel of the government as no government can run without the laid rules and regulations. Thus public policies are the set of rules and regulations which are set and according to which the state or country runs. This can be broadly termed as decision-making and analysis of governmental decisions. It is an attempt by the government to address public issues. The government, whether it is city, state, or federal, develops public policy in terms of laws, regulations, decisions, and actions. Thus, it is Master Public Management: to manage public interests locally and globally.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY

Policy-making process and politics are interdependent as no policy can be formed if there is no politics. Political people are only responsible for laying down the policies for the uplift of the country. It's only when the input comes to the politicians about various happenings in the country that the output takes place which is in the form of policies which are formed for the reforms required in the various fields. The local elected officials including the Mayor, County Commissioner, School Board Members, State

Representatives, and Senators are the one who looks after the programme available to their constituency. State and local leaders who focus on economic development, use statistics to evaluate how their geographical area measures up in terms of employment growth, the unemployment rate, pay levels, demographic characteristics, occupations, and industries.

MEANING OF PUBLIC POLICY

Public policy can be generally defined as the course of action or inaction taken by governmental entities with regard to a particular issue or set of issues. Public policy manifests the commonsense and common conscience of the citizens as a whole that extends throughout the state and is applied to matters of public health, safety, and welfare. It is general, well-settled public opinion relating to the duties of citizens to their fellow citizens. It imports somethings that fluctuates with the changing economic needs, social customs, and moral aspirations of the people. Public policy enters into, and influences, the enactment, execution, and interpretation of legislation. Public policy is also considered as an academic discipline, as it is studied by professors and students at public policy schools of major universities throughout the country. Public policy is very important as it attends to the purpose of the country, intending to create positive impacts. It is established in order to gain favourable advantages as well as to steer clear of negative consequences that the country may experience. A public policy is important as it serves different purposes; it may be created in order

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to distribute supplies and services to the people of the country.

The public policies are the decisions made by the existing government and they are made to set some goals and for their implementation for the welfare of the country on the whole. In order to formulate the policies as well planned pattern of activities are required in order to implement the policies for the best of the society and mankind.

In order to understand the nature of public policies the points stated as under will help develop the ideas better:

- (a) The public policies are the programme which are set out by the existing government for the betterment of the people on the whole.
- (b) These are the final result of the collective actions taken by the government.
- (c) These are the image of actions which the government intends to take.
- (d) These policies have a positive impact as it tells about the government's efforts in seeking out results for the actions performed by the managers of the people.

Public policy is always of correcting market failures and providing goods and services that the market will not. In this sense, public policy formation, implementation, and evaluation is a non-market process of societal problem solving. But in democracies, the forms that public solutions to societal problems tend to take is difficult to predict and especially difficult to explain. The purpose of this course is three-fold:

1. To address some of the difficulties in explaining why public policies take particular forms;
2. To probe the extent to which political science theories can help understand different kinds of public policy; and
3. To identify problems in political science theories of policy making and in the research on which they are based with an eye to improving the quality of theory in this area.

Policy and Goals: Policies and goals are very much interrelated. Finally, the policies are made to reach the desired goals and therefore, it is very important to understand the meaning of goals. A goal can be interpreted as the final aim where the government aspires to reach in order to fulfil the aspirations of the people. Goals can be either specific or concrete. Like the government had laid a goal of giving education to

all and government has laid down various policies to fulfil this goal. Eradication of poverty is another goal and there are many more. The public policies are laid down to achieve such goals. There are some programmes which are designed to achieve these goals. There are some time period set and efforts done in order to get the desired results. Therefore, policy formation is must to get the best as desired.

It should be kept in mind that whatever goals are announced by the government for the welfare of the people does not become public policy. For e.g., if the government announces that their goal is to eradicate unemployment from the country, which does not becomes a public policy but can be referred to as the goal of the existing government. In the same way if they say they have the goal of providing homes to the homeless, will not be a public policy. In order to make it a public policy, the goals needs to be translated into action. Programmes needs to be designed for the action. They are committed to running the country in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner. They set the goals for continuous improvement in the development, sourcing, manufacturing, and transportation activities. As part of that commitment, they take a long-term and life cycle view, continually improving environmental performance, communicating openly and reporting regularly on their performance.

Policies and Decisions: Both the words seem to be same to many of us but they are very different in true form. Decisions are taken by every private organisation, at individual level, at group level or by the government organisation. But these decisions are not matters of policy. Decision can be described as a choice made out of the alternatives available. The decisions are for the welfare of the society on the whole. Decisions are made and further acted upon to get the desired results. The decisions are of two types i.e programmed or non-programmed.

Programmed Decisions: These programmes are of routine nature. They are repetitive in action. Programmed decisions are made in routine, repetitive, well-structured situations with predetermined decision rules. These may be based on habit, or established policies, rules and procedures and stem from prior experience or technical knowledge about what works or does not work in a given situation.

For example, organisations often have standardised routines for handling customer complaints or employee

discipline. Decisions are programmed to the extent that they are repetitive and routine and that a definite approach has been worked out for handling them. Because the problem is well-structured, the manager does not have to go to the trouble and expense of working through an involved decision-making process.

Non-programmed Decisions: These are novice in nature. These are basically not structured and every time needs a beginning and instructions to be followed. Non-programmed decisions are unique decisions that require a 'custom made' solution. This is when a manager is confronted with an ill-structured or novel problem and there is no 'cut and dried solution'. The creation of a marketing strategy for a new service represents an example of a non-programmed decision. For example, if there is a breakdown of any epidemic or flood, drought in the country then the training is required.

Public policies in the broader form are the directions which are laid down by the government to take decisions. The decisions are taken for the betterment of the downtrodden. A policy has a number of decisions in a series which correspond to each other. To an extent there exist some similarities in the way decisions are taken and policies made.

CHARACTERISTICS OF PUBLIC POLICY MAKING

There are some characteristics of public policy making which are stated as under:

(a) It is a very Complex Procedure: Whatever policies laid down by the policy makers goes through series of process which are very difficult. There are some parts of the process which are very obvious and there are other parts which cannot be deciphered easily. There are so many hidden channels which the officers are not aware of. There are series of components which are quite complex in nature and involved in making of the policy and cannot be easily discovered.

(b) It is Dynamic in Nature: It is an ever happening process taking place within a structure. In order to have its stability it needs a regular input of resources and feed back. It is not rigid but flexible. The policies get changed with the demand of time.

(c) It Comprises of various Components: As it is the formation of policy is a complex procedure and on top of it there are various issues, circumstance and changes in the society which are responsible for different structure which weave the various components of the policy making. There are many sub-structures

involved in forming a policy and it is very difficult to identify them.

(d) Every Policy Structure is a Contributor: The public policy involves a great variety of substructure and further each sub-structure contributes in the formation of policy. The entire substitute's makes a difference. The kind of contribution made by the sub-structures is based on the formal or informal part of it.

(e) Decision-making: It is basically the making of policy which contributes in the making of decision.

(f) Major Guidelines are Laid: It is the public policy which lays forms the basis of laying down general directions. They do not help in formation of detailed instructions. It's only after the main line of action executed that detailed sub-policies are required to follow it.

(g) Action Oriented: The decisions once taken are result oriented. It is only once the policies are laid theta they are the helpful guidelines as to which actions are initiated.

(h) Directed at the Future: It forms the most important characteristic as it directs the future. It helps the policy makers to make adjustments with the policy as per the resent facts and helps them from the unforeseen results.

(i) Mostly Formulated by Government Organs: They are mostly formed by government bodies but are capable of controlling private bodies also. The primary holdings are with public bodies but are secondary with non-government bodies.

(j) Tries to Achieve Public Interests: Public interests are in great deal influencer of public policies.

(k) Use Best Possible Means: Maximum benefits are sought with the public policy implementation. Its neither quantitative nor qualitative benefits which are viewed into.

(l) Various Bodies/Agencies are Involved: There are various agencies which help in the formation of public policies that may be industrialist, politicians, judiciary, bureaucrats, etc.

TYPES OF PUBLIC POLICY

(a) Substantive: Those policies which are made for the welfare and overall upliftment of the society are substantive policies. In these policies there are welfare thought for the society on the whole the provision of education, economic uplift, equal opportunities, development of the society, etc. are catered to. These policies are not bound to a particular segment of the society. These basically look after the socio-economic uplift of the society.

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(b) Regulatory: They deal with the regulation part of the trade. In our country LIC, RBI, Hindustan Lever, etc. are employed in regulatory activities. The duration of regulatory policy is subject to revision or repeal by plenary body.

(c) Distributive: By distributive, we mean those policies designed to ensure actions directed towards distributing the national interest between and within people be it public or private. These policies are made for only a specific part society. For example, adult education is meant only for older generation.

(d) Redistributive: Redistributive policies are those that are formulated if and when the distributive one has not been effective and a course or courses of inter-related actions are needed. Whenever there is unequal distribution of products within the society this is very helpful. Constitutive policies are those that establish measures designed to bring into conformity desirable measures to enhance systemic realignment processes and attendant variations and impact.

(e) Capitalisation: These are basically concerned with the distribution of money to the state or central government. Under this, there is no provision for welfare of the society.

STAGES IN PUBLIC POLICY PROCESS

The first step in the public policy is the identification of a problem. This step involves not only recognising the existence of an issue, but also in-depth study of the problem and its history. This stage often involves determining who is affected, how aware the public is of the issue and whether it is a short or long-term concern. Another key question centers on whether altering public policy can effect change. Answers to such questions may give policy makers a gauge for which policy changes, if any, are needed to address the identified problem.

After identifying and studying the problem, a public policy solution is usually formulated and adopted. This step in the public policy process is usually marked by discussion between governmental officials, interest groups, and individual citizens over how best to address the issue. The general purpose of this step is to set clear goals and list the steps to achieve them. The formulation stage often also includes a discussion of alternative solutions, potential obstacles, and how to measure the effects of the policy change.

A third stage in the public policy process is the implementation of policy changes. This step usually includes defining the agencies and organisations involved and distributing responsibilities to each. To be successful, this stage usually requires agency communication and co-operation, sufficient funds and staff, and overall compliance to the new approach.

THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC POLICY

The term public policy refers to the actions of the government and the intentions that determine those actions. It consists of political decisions for the implementation of specific programmes to attain the goals of the society. Although the term may also be applicable to other organisations such as private companies or non-government organisations, the term is focused more on the governmental aspect.

The main components of public policy are as under:

- (a) There is a meaning to every policy formulated.
- (b) Every policy is a well planned affair.
- (c) A policy is formed once the action has taken place.
- (d) It is basically the delineation of a time frame in which it needs to be achieved.
- (e) There is a proper plan of action during formation of a policy.

A public policy thus serves as a system, which is agreed upon to achieve the objectives of the organisation; this system may be financial, political, administrative or management. It is a set of interconnected decisions that are made by the government, private sectors or non-government organisations, which include the selection of goals and the ways of achieving these goals within a given position. In order for them to successfully accomplish the specific outcome, those decisions should also be within the limitations and the capacity of the institution. Policies and procedures are required for the simple reason that without them nothing can be achieved. Organisations will plunge into chaos without them and daily operations will halt. Policies and procedures reflect the way an organisation operates. They clarify what the organisation wants to do, why it wants, it done and how to do it. They can be both written and unwritten.