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## Good Governance: A Viable Option for Social Justice in India

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### ABSTRACT

*The philosophy of good governance has its origin dated back to the early days of human civilization. Today the term governance has come to occupy a central place in the development discourse. In recent years the word governance has become more fashionable term and is being used in a variety of ways and that covers a large number of organization both in public and private domains. Though, we are confining governance only to public domain. In modern time good governance and social justice are interrelated term that mean as the measure of all things has come to occupy the most important position in any concept of social justice in democracy, the individual is treated as an end in himself, and any concept of social justice must be based on this principal. Social justice means that every individual is given full opportunity to develop his capacities and removing disabilities arising from caste, sex, race, colour, creed, religion or nationality and providing opportunity in a positive way with a view to developing individual faculties lies the essence of social justice. This paper attempts to bring out nuance of how good governance play vital role to establish social justice by highlighting some pioneering government programmes and committed to institutional reforms for it.*

**Key Words:** Good Governance, Social Justice, Democracy.

### INTRODUCTION

The journey of the concept of good governance in modern time has gone through many phases, conceptually term of good governance has gradually changed with time and place. India's first prime minister made a statement 'Tryst with Destiny' in 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947 succinctly put the task before people's representative and the civil services in the following words; to fight and end poverty and ignorance and disease; to build up a prosperous, democratic and progressive nation and to create social, economic and political institution which will ensure justice and fullness of life to every man and woman. Today these words are still in progress. A deeper look at these tasks would clearly establish that these goals are entirely within realm of good governance. The term of good governance is unsettled in its meaning trough the 1980s and 1990s; donor countries and institutions trended to make aid conditional upon reforms in the recipient country, which was found largely ineffective in encouraging real policy change. More recently donor, such as the international monetary fund, the World Bank and the united state, are increasingly insisting upon performance and good governance as a prerequisite for aid. This is a means of requiring a recipient state to demonstrate the seriousness of its commitment to economic and social reforms. Good governance is a process by which government and people together identify shared value, needs and challenges, set priorities and develop programme to address those needs and challenges and jointly manage the implementation of those programme and available resources, through transparent and accountable process with shared responsibility and broad based. This

requires a climate of respect for rule of law, the existence of institutional check and balance and full respect for human right, with the expressed objectives of maximizing benefits to man and woman for common good. In other words good governance is proper and gender conscious, is legitimized by participatory processes, undertake anti corruption efforts, is bureaucratically accountable, is efficient and effective in the use of resources, and promotes the active involvement of private sector and civil society to counteract vested interest.

In modern time good governance and social justice are interrelated term for the reason that man as the measure of all things has come to occupy the most important position in any concept of social justice in modern democracies. In democracy, the individual is treated as an end in himself, and any concept of social justice must be based on this principal. Social justice means that every individual is given full opportunity to develop his capacities and this opportunity is given to maximum number of person in society. The creation of social justice means the creation of an environment in which every individual has got unreserved and unhindered opportunity for physical and intellectual development. In removing disabilities arising from caste, sex, race, colour, creed, religion or nationality and providing opportunity in a positive way with a view to developing individual faculties lies the essence of social justice. In other word social justice is concerned mainly with allocation of benefits, goods and services as well as burden among the members of the society, particularly in scarce situation. Therefore, the term social justice, implies a reordering of social life in such a manner that the material and moral benefits of social effort are not concerned by a tiny privileged class but accrue to the masses to ensure the uplift of the lower, weaker and underprivileged section. This involves a logical synthesis of liberty, equality and fraternity. To ensure justice in its true sense minimum requirement is of good governance which is transparent, accountable, effective and efficient, responsive and public oriented in nature.

It would be good to bear in mind governance refer to the interaction between government and other section of the social sphere and process of decision making in a complex world. Important thought it is the idea of governance need not be restricted only to the government. It is to be seen as a part of the complex matrix of relationship between the political and administrative structure and the society in the process of decision making, implementation and accountability. However, there is no accepted definition of governance, is divergence opinion about the meaning of governance between the conservatives and the liberals, between socialists and the Marxists. In recent years the word governance has become more fashionable term and is being used in a variety of ways and that covers a large number of organization both in public and private domains. Though, we are confining governance only to public domain, concerned with that form of good governance which serves the citizen by safeguarding territorial integrity of the state and securing individual security, rule of law and delivery of services ranging from education, health to livelihood and food security.

## **CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF GOOD GOVERNANCE**

The philosophy of good governance has its origin dated back to the early days of human civilization. The description of Indus valley and Vedic civilization bear the details of the concept. Today the term governance has come to occupy a central place in the development

discourse. Among the several development strategies governance is considered as an important element. Among the several development strategies governance is considered as an important elements. There are many means of achieving good result in governance. If you look at the traditional text such as Upanishads and in later period Kautilya's Arthshastra, delineate many method of achieving the good result with has gained new momentum after the collapse of the totalitarian state in east European countries and they cry for democracy in several developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The term governance and government appear synonymous in dictionary but after discussion both terms are different in nature. Government refer to formal and institutional process, which work at the level of nation-state to maintain and establish public order and facilitate state good to public sphere. There is a formal institution of the state with their monopoly of legitimacy, coercive power, refer to various forms of political system or the manner in which state exercise its power in utilizing socio-economic resources. The governance signifies new process of governing or changed condition of ordered rule of new method by which society is governed. Rhodes has defined governance is eight ways; minimal state, governance according to private enterprises model, new public management, good governance, a social cybernetic system and a series of self organised social network.

The World Bank and OECD has become great proponent of this concept. The World Bank has defined/ identified four distinct aspect of governance- the form of political regime, the process by which authority is exercised in the management of country's economic and social resources for development, the capacity of government of design, formulate and implement policies and discharge function. The OECD uses the World Bank definition of governance with the following links; legitimacy of government (degree of democracy), accountability of political and official element of government (media freedom, transparent decision-making, accountability mechanism), competence of government to formulate policies and deliver services, and respect for human rights and rule of law (individual and group rights and security framework for economic and social activities), participation.

When we are discussing governance in particular institutions, the quality of governance within the institutions are often compared to a standard of good governance. Good governance in modern democracy means democratization of governance. In participatory democracy people elected their leader to govern them. But governance is not monopoly of elected leaders. When governance becomes the privilege of select few or when the people who are governed are kept out of the affairs of governance, it degenerate into misgovernance and becomes a travesty of democracy.

We can say good governance is characterized by transparency and accountability and the best way to ensure transparency and accountability in government and is through increased and informed participation of people. People are biggest stakeholder in governance; they have a critical and crucial role to play. So that core values go into the making of good governance are participatory decision-making, accountability and transparency, effective and responsive structure underlying the political system and equity which involves fairness and rule of law, a

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society striving to achieve the ideals of good governance need to work on these value to ensure that people get their rightful share in the fruits of development to the country.

### **INDIAN CONTEXT OF GOOD GOVERNANCE**

When we are talking about good governance that the term of good governance is relatively a new concept which has come to limelight in 1990s. However, the principal of good governance is not new to the Indian society. While throwing attention over the state of affairs in ancient India, it is notice that the king or the ruler was bounded by the *Dharma* which precisely meant to ensure good governance to the people. The *Raj dharma* word was very famous in ancient Indian epic, meant by code of conduct or the rule of law which was superior to the will of the ruler. Even in the great epics like *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana*, the ruler abides by the principal of good governance which are more often linked in many occasion. *Arthashastra* was written by *Kautilya*, extensively deals with the policies of statecraft and state administration, have wide relevance in modern time. The key elements of *Kautilya*'s policy are the protection, welfare and prosperity of the state and its people which is the utmost concern of the ruler.

Indian state has a great diversity which varied culture, dissimilar lifestyle, languages and population and states having different level of socio-economic development. The well being of a community depends upon the choice made by the people and granted by the authority. The whole idea of good governance is the participative system of governance in which those who are called upon to govern on behalf of the people are motivated with a will to give their best, serving and doing well to people, solving their problems and making their live more liveable.

Indian national freedom movement was based upon the principal of nationalism, democracy, secularization, nonalignment and free mixed economy now turn to liberalise. During that time mahatma Gandhi advocated that the concept of Ram Rajya for India basing upon the principal of good governance which necessarily meant for dreaming India as a welfare state where the necessities of the down trodden, the welfare of the mass and their process through in digenesis industries would became the hallmark. After independence India adopted a democratic constitution which leads social change in traditional society. Indian constitution has also been framed for securing justice, liberty, equality and empowering to weaker section including woman, youth and poor, Schedule Caste/ Scheduled Tribe through making special provision. India's experience during the past six decade have clearly established that good governance in Indian aims at expansion of social and economic opportunities, removal of poverty and efficient delivery of services at the grassroots. There must be empowered and has rights to be informed, express their views which must be heard and considered, participative in various decision-making process of governance and contributed in meaning full ways.

### **CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF SOCIAL JUSTICE**

If people continue to remain under the influence of old traditions and believe, no amount of equitable distribution of public goods will be successful in creating a right environment for social justice. The term of social justice is relative and highly variable with time and place as well as journey of the concept of social justice in modern time has gone through many phases. The best brains of the world in the field of sociology, political science, law and jurisprudence have tried to

define social justice in their own way. The result is that the term has come to assume varied interpretations. Plato first political thinker has interpreted to justice, Plato's justice in society was to be attained by a division of labour according to natural attitudes. He held that three qualities are found in individuals in the society that is wisdom, courage, temperance and every individual in society should perform his duties according to innate quality.

Thus Platonic justice consist in the will to concentrate on one's own sphere of duty, and not to middle with the sphere of others, and its habitation, therefore, is in the heart of every citizen who does his duty in his appointed place. If the producer community attempt to intervene in the affairs of the ruling classes then nothing but confusion can result this will be an example of injustice in society. The ancient Hindus also tried to solve the problem of social justice by dividing the society into four Varnas; *Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Sudras* based on division of duties and occupations, and like Plato, Manu said that in general, it's better to discharge one's own dharma incompletely or imperfectly than to perform completely that of another. Later on Varna came to be determined by birth and heredity, and the result was the caste system. The Platonic concept of justice and Hindu caste system might have created social justice in society where population was slight and life was very simple. It is unsuited to the present day problems. The concept of social justice is dynamics, as society itself is dynamic. What our forefather considered just, we might considered unjust. For offences for which people were hanged in the past, we impose a lenient fine today.

## **ENSURE SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH GOOD GOVERNANCE**

Social justice, as the American philosopher John Rowls pointed out, is predicted on the idea that a society can be regarded as egalitarian only when it is based on principles of equality and solidarity, where human rights are valued and the dignity of every individual upheld. A just society is one which provides a degree of protection to its weaker, differently-abled and less gifted people. In a civilized society, reasonable constraints are placed on the ambitions and acquisitiveness of its more aggressive members and special safeguards provided to its weaker and more vulnerable sections. There considerations are basic to any scheme of social justice and their neglect will brutalize society. In a limited sense, the rights to social justice may be said to be the right to the weak, aged, and destitute, poor, woman, children and other unprivileged section, to the protection of the state against the ruthless competition of life. It is a bundle of rights, in another sense it is a preserver of other rights. It is balancing wheel between haves and haves-not.

*Dr. B. R. Ambedkar* founder of the Indian Constitution was fully alive to the need for providing safeguards to the weaker sections of the society as is evident from the preamble to the constitution and part VI of the constitution, which is the directive principle of state policy. In recent era, social justice has become a pressing issues across the world, especially in the larger context of globalization, which is altering traditional roles and relationships between states and their citizens and throwing up multiple challenges to the realization of socio-economic justice, whether in the form of devastating financial crisis, the rising cost of essential food commodities or the growing influence of transnational bodies such as the WTO, IMF, World Bank and Multinational Corporations. Despite, in this regards, good governance could be at expansion in

social opportunity and removal of injustice, poverty. As for as, good governance, as I perceive it, means securing justice, empowerment, effective delivery of services and people oriented administrative response. The concept and practice of good governance in a country demands that there should be constructive mechanisms and procedure that will enable the three principle actors-government, market, civil society- to play in concert and to supplement each other's capability. The working of all governments at the centre and in the states has clearly revealed the existence to powerful interest groups who have a strong vested interest in preserving the status quo. This comes in the way of government becoming the effective agent of change and guarantor of social justice.

### **EMPOWERMENT**

Empowerment is a process and is not, therefore something that can be given to people. The process of empowerment is both individual and collective, since it is through involvement in groups that people must often begin to develop their awareness and the ability to organize to take action and bring about change. Major attributes that contribute to empowerment of weaker sections are education, social, equity and status, improved health, economic or financial stability and political participation. An empowering approach to poverty reduction needs to be based on the conviction that poor people have to both the object of development programmes and principal agency for development. As, I perceive that when poor people are associated with public programmes, they have consistently demonstrated their intelligence and competence in using public funds wisely and effective. Indian constitution is committed to two different set of principles that have a decisive bearing on equality. First, is the principle of equal opportunities to all and the second, the principle of redress of educational and social backwardness. In the scheme of affirmative action that the constitution provides, the state has been authorized to make special provision not only for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes of citizen, for the SC/ST/OBC<sup>i</sup> and also for woman and children. Significant measures have been taken in this regard during the last sixty years. One such step relates to reservation of seats for woman in local bodies. Empowerment is an active, multi dimensional process which enables backward-section to realise their identity and power in all sphere of life. Power is not a commodity to be transacted nor can it be given away as aims, power has to be acquired and once acquired, it needs to be exercised, sustained and preserved.

Backward section's empowerment could be viewed and ensure to social justice through good governance as a continuum of several interrelated and mutually reinforcing components:

- ❖ Awareness building about Dalit's (weaker section) situation, discrimination, and rights and opportunities as a step towards equality. Collective awareness building provides a sense of group identity and power of working as a group.
- ❖ Capacity building and skill development, especially the ability to plan make decisions, organise, manage and carry out activities, to deal with people and institutions in the world around them.
- ❖ Participation and greater control and decision-making power in the community and societal structure.
- ❖ Action to bring about greater equality between haves and haves-not

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In summering up, empowerment is a process of awareness and capacity building leading to greater participation, to greater decision-making power and control, and to transformative action

### STRATEGIES FOR EMPOWERMENT

**Welfare-** the first stage, address only the basic needs of weaker section without recognizing or attempting to solve the underlying structural causes, which necessitate provision of welfare services.

**Access-** the second stage is essential for weaker section to make meaningful progress. This involves equality of access to resources, such as education, opportunities, land and credit. This path of empowerment is initiated when weaker sections recognise their lack of access to resources as a barrier to their growth and overall well-being and take action to address this.

**Participation-** is the point where weaker section are taking decisions alongside develop section equally. To reach this level, however, mobilization is necessary. By organizing themselves and working collectively, weaker section will be empowered and increased representation, which will lead to increased empowerment and ultimately greater control.

**Control-** is the ultimate level of equality and empowerment. Here, the balance of power between weaker and stronger (so called forward caste in India) is equal and neither party has dominance over other. At this stage in the empowerment framework, weaker sections are able to make decision over their lives, and play active role in the development process.

### ENSURE OF JUSTICE

There are several inter-related aspects of securing justice including security of life and property, access to justice and rule of law.

#### Access to Justice

Today access to justice is a major concern. The very concept of justice itself has become more malleable and flexible. In today's world, rights of the individuals have become more and more discretionary, public and private realms more and more confused and the extent and operation of state or public power more and more blurred. There is a prevailing view that the judicial system as it exists today is incapable of achieving justice or overcoming corrupt and secretive practices or erasing the abuse of the affluent sections. The recent judicial activism, however, has come as a welcome relief. This has rekindled the people's confidence and faith in our criminal justice system. However, this is only a short-term measure. Some long-term measures are required to streamline the system. It is equally necessary that an effective and transparent agency like *Lokpal* be instituted at the earliest.

The constitutional vision of justice is committed to people's values. The preamble spells out its pledge of justice, social, economic and political. Executive justice is often arbitrary and weighed in favour of the haves as against the haves-not. The legislative instruments at the state and central level likewise make provisions and laws, which favour the heavy weight society. The judicial process is operated by classes who do not represent the proletariat masses, but are

selected from an elite or middle class category. Long distance justice, over expansion methodology, unapproachable systemic inhibitions vis-a-vis the poor and the deck upon deck infrastructure make the law alien to the laity. Despite, the recent judgement of the Supreme Court upholding the constitutional validity of the amendments of the Civil Procedure Code (CPC) and allowing recording of evidence through audio and video technique will give a much wanted impetus to the justice delivery system. By providing a check on lengthy arguments and repeated filing of fresh pleading, factors which result in prolonged litigation, the CPC amendments are expected to speed up court proceedings. As the result of this if the amendments are implemented in letter and spirit, a civil suit will be over within a year at the trial stage, and backlog of cases would be reduces drastically.

Access to justice is based upon the basic principle that people should be able to rely upon the correct application of law. In actual practice there are several countervailing factor. Some people don't know their rights and can't afford legal aid to advocate on their behalf. The most severe challenge relates to complexity of adjudication as legal proceedings are lengthy and costly and judiciary lacks personnel and logistic to deal with these matters. Systematic solutions are, therefore, needed for straightening access to justice. At the same time ad hoc measure are required to provide immediate assistance to the needy people.

### **Rule of Law**

The concept of good governance is undoubtedly linked with citizens' right of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. This could be secured in a democracy only through the rule of law. The good governance lies in the rule of law. Rule of law ensures the operation of power and stands guard against the arbitrariness of absolute rule. It gives dignity to the weak and justice to the powerless and also protects individual freedom and civil liberties. Essentially rule of law implies:

- ❖ Law is sovereign over all authority, therefore it is government under rule of law;
- ❖ Law must be clear and certain in its content and accessible and predicable for the subject;
- ❖ Law must be general in its application;
- ❖ There exist an independent judiciary charged with the interpretation and application of the law to which every aggrieved citizen must have a right to access.
- ❖ The law must have procedural and ethical context.

Adherence to rule of law is essential in democratises. As *Lipset* notes, where power is arbitrary, personal, and unpredictable the citizenry will not know how to behave, will fear that any action may produce an unforeseen risk. Essentially, the rule of law means two things; one that people will be treated equally by the institutions, administering the law, the courts, the police and the civil services; second that they can predict with reasonable certainty the consequences of their actions, at least as far as the state is concerned. Indian constitution guaranteed, every person is entitled to equality before law and equal protection under the law. The rule of law as *Dicey* postulate is equality before law. This secured through formal and procedural justice which make independent judiciary a very vital instrument of governance. No person can be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to the procedure established by law. Thus, the state is bound to protect the life and liberty of every individual. In democratic and non-democratic state,



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the responsible to establish rule of law, the court have the find authority to test any administrative action on the standard of legality. The administrative or executive action that does not meet the standard of legality will be set aside if the aggrieved person brings an appropriate petition in the competent.

The rule of law, the notion of separation of power, despite its conceptual ambiguity and untidiness has been very influential. It entails a differentiation in the procedure adopted for legislation, administration and justice, such that the political order is subordinated to the legal order and vice versa, separation of power and judicial independence are taken to be hall marks of the states which combine respect for the freedom of the individual with fulfilling the requirements of collective security. A society governed by rule of law will be able to address many of the present critical problems. The general perception among the people that the rich go unpunished for their acts needs to be erased. Under guise law will take its own course nobody should be above of law.

### **CITIZEN CHARTER AND QUALITY IN DELIVERY OF SERVICES**

The principle feature of the scheme of effective delivery of services needs to be seen in the context of the fact that demands have to flow from the bottom up and not the top to down. A major theme associated with improving performance is the development of a customer or a client focus or service quality initiative in the public sector. Citizen charter is probably the best know example. This will improve access to public services and prompt quality. The key features of a charter are: a statement of the standards or service users can expect to receive; the arrangements for seeking a remedy should something go wrong; and brief information on the service provided. The charter help the staffs of the departments as well as, by setting out clearly the services their organization provides.

The charter should clearly set out the standards of service that user can expect to receive. Good standards are vital for an effective charter and should be expressed in a way that is meaningful to all users. Above all the standard should be relevant, meaningful, challenging, simple, measurable, monitored, published and reviewed. These initiatives aim to improve performance of service delivery as well as to provide service which meets people's needs. A number of central government departments and undertaking have framed citizen's charter. Some of the state governments have also taken initiative in this regard but the result is not very encouraging. The real issue is the need to bring about a total change in the attitude of public servants towards redressal of public grievances at all level and to pin point responsibility for action on grievances of the people.

The three institutions which have played remarkable roles in improving public service delivery in India are the judiciary, media, and civil society. The independent charter of the judiciary that the constitutional architecture has carefully provided for has been of immense help. The judiciary has intervened meaningfully to correct failures in service delivery by the executive. The public Interest litigation has emerged as a powerful tool in the hands of people as well as Non-Governmental Organization. The media have emerged as a source of pressure for change, it has brought to the fore aspiration of the common public. This in turn has exerted enormous pressure

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on public officials to deliver goods. The emergence of a large number of NGOs in different field and nomenclature ranging from environment to education, to culture has become instrumental in bringing forward the concerns of the public with a degree of regularity.

### **ACCESS INFORMATION AND REDRESSAL OF GRIEVANCES**

In post-modernity, information is power, in a democratic system of governance, people are expected to participation access to information is a condition precedent. Citizen must have adequate access to the information and analysis on which government business to based on. The fact is that we still continue to celebrate the bureaucratic culture of confidentiality and secrecy. This norm goes against the spirit of democracy. There is need to be changed due to access to information is one of the ways to make democratic security of the process of functioning of the government and thereby check responsibilities of corruption abuse and misuse of power and exercise of power on irrelevant consideration.

The increase in public grievances is a cause of worry. Accessible and effective grievance redressal mechanisms are a necessary component of accountability, the error of decision maker can be created, oversight highlighted, abuse and misuses rectified and shortcoming avoided. The public grievance primarily arise out of the inaccessibility of public servant, failure to even acknowledge application, non-enforcement of any kind of time limit, insensitivity and unsympathetic attitude of public servants at various level. Hence, a number of grievance redressal cells are created a various level but they lack effectiveness. It is common sight on the railway station and bus stoppage that 'May I Help You' counters are generally occupied by vendors/ beggars. So, there is need to be changed ineffectiveness to effectiveness and to established good governance at all level.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSES**

The Indian administrative scene is marked by few successful innovations and practices in public service delivery and a large number of pathetic performances. The general weakness of accountability mechanism is an impediment to improving services across the broad. The lack of transparency and secrecy that have been associated with the administrative system from colonial times, besides generating corruption, has also led to injustice and favouritism. The focus of these discussions has been to evolve a concrete action plan, for gearing up the government machinery to provide a responsive, transparent, and clean administration to the people and to address issues of reform and morale in the civil services. The action plan includes initiatives in the following areas;

- ❖ Making administration accountable and citizen friendly
- ❖ Ensuring transparency and the right to information
- ❖ Taking measures to cleanse and motivate services.

Such reforms involve the conscious intervention in the bureaucracy to introduce change infuse dynamism and motivation and redefine authority and functional relationship of the people as well as structural units the bureaucracy. It underscores the fact that there are problems in the administrative system or the system of governance, which impede the performance of the

government. Such reforms have a primary purpose, which is support the objective of good governance.

## LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND DECENTRALISATION

People around the world are demanding greater influence in the decisions of their government. Decentralisation itself is neither good nor bad. It is a means to an end, often imposed by political reality. Successful decentralisation improves the efficiency and responsiveness of the public sector accommodating potentially explosive political forces. Unsuccessful decentralisation threatens economic and political stability and disrupts the delivery of public services. How decentralisation affects access to and quality of public services depends on the way it is designed and implemented. What local governments can achieve depends on the resources and responsibilities they are granted. Improving local services requires an effective local service administration. Even a well-meaning political team cannot overcome incompetent administration. Moreover, it is necessary to strengthen local governments because they provide a pertinent political education for citizens. They are training ground democracy. Local government also provide a better quality of participation, based on the community and a familiarity with society and its members. Participation is the key elements of the good governance, through could be ensure social justice at grass root level. In a federal democracy, decentralisation of power is viewed as necessary to empower people in rural and urban areas to improve their lot. The empowerment of the local levels of administration would foster confidence and enable more individuals even outside the bureaucracy to come forward to handle community needs enhance public good effectively without hesitancy or the need of approval by higher level authority.

## OBSTACLES

While evaluating India's stand among other countries of the world, it is revealed that India is compared favourably with many developing countries though it has long way to go to attain the level of development countries. The criminalization of politics, illiteracy, poverty, social structure (divided-caste, race, region, religion) and corruption are major challenges of good governance in India which need to be addressed on the urgent basis.

**Corruption**-This needs no about introduction. The high level of corruption in India has been widely perceived as a major obstacle in improving governance. It is a menace eating the vitals of the government structure. The very characteristic of corruption is that it has its roots inside every possible level of governance starting from Panchayats to policy making authorities.

**Inability of securing justice**-Injustice comes from the lack of proper distribution of State goods rather essential ones and not getting the fair share of the deliverables promised by the policy or the programmes implemented.

**Inability of maintaining rule of law**-The political structure of the country has become so calamitous that every political leader seems to break the law related securing properties, finances and even favours that can manipulate laws. We could seen every level of the political realm and bureaucratic also.

**Lacks of transparency-**The government practices have always been questioned. The simple reason for this there is no information how government performs its works until and unless some scandal comes up.

**Lacks of empowerment-** The common man does not get to say while formulating policies due lack of government's desire to know the public opinion or timely consultation and lack of awareness among the public regarding policies that are being implemented.

**Inefficient delivery of services-** This jargon came from the private sectors where constant endeavour is done to deliver up to the expected levels of the customers or the promised ones. The government is a service organization basically in terms of the management who serves the people who elects them. But nevertheless no promises are ever fulfilled.

**Administrative Irregularities:** This is a common symptom of the Indian government where no proper maintenance of data and accounts ever been done. It is mostly the judicial intervention that brings out the reality of the system.

**Criminalization of politics:** Last but not the least, the criminalization of the political process and the unholy nexus between politicians, civil servants and business houses are having a baneful influence on public policy formulation and governance. Political class as such is losing respect. The criminalization of politics has given new dimension of embezzlement of public money where there was even no need for accountability was felt.

## SUMMING UP

To ensure social justice in its true sense minimum requirement is of good governance, governance is transparent, accountable, effective and efficient. Human rights are considered to be the basis for the exercise of and respect for human dignity. It is the people who are the ultimate sovereign in a democratic government. Hence, final and ultimate responsibility of the public officials is to the people. One of the major shortfalls in the implementation of development plans in India is the inadequate of integrity at the political and administrative level, vast power have come to rest in the hands of executive, increasing the scope for arbitrariness, maladministration, delay and injustice. There is possibility of deliberate and intentional exploitation of one's position, status and resources-directly and indirectly- for material gain, power and prestige. The trespassing of the legitimate and sanctioned norms is detrimental to the interest of the community and the nation. Though, check and balance have been provided in the Indian constitution to provide redress to the citizen via legislature and judiciary, yet in practice there are not enough and can't be approached easily. Therefore, there is need for creation of an Ombudsman type of institution has existed to provide to the aggrieved citizen, easy inexpensive and timely redressal. If we want to ensure social justice in the country in its totality, that is on the economic, political as well as social fronts the government and the society at large would need to work together. And also, need to change in social values, social attitude and social institutions is fundamental for achieving social justice. It is being widely appreciated that good governance is

dependent not merely upon good policy advice but more importantly on the process and incentives to design and implement good policies. Scholars as well as administrator agree that participation of civil society in decision making, public sector capacity building and rule of law are essential for quality and timely delivery of services. A multi sectoral approach to governance that serves the cause of growth as well as equity alone can help in achieving the goal of good governance. It is precisely here that NGOs, SHGs, Woman's group, legal assistance organization and several other civil society instruments can play an influential role. The role of good governance is to ensure that government is not only accountable, responsive to people oriented but is also performs its essential role as the guarantor of social justice.

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<sup>1</sup> End Note- the Supreme Court in a landmark judgment (Indira Sawhney & Oothers vs Union of India) delivered on 16.11.1992, while upholding the reservation of 27% of vacancies in the civil posts and services in the government of India in favour of other backward classes (B. P. Singh, 2013).

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