

NATURE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

There are two divergent views regarding the nature of Public Administration. These views are:

- (a) **Integral View** - According to this view, public administration is sum total of all the activities undertaken in pursuit of and in fulfillment of public policy. These activities include not only managerial and technical but also manual and clerical. Thus the activities of all persons from top to bottom constitute although they are of varying significance to running of administrative machinery. L D. White shares this view. According to him, Public Administration “consists of all those operations having for their purpose the fulfillment or enforcement of public policy. This definition covers a multitude of particular operations in many fields—the delivery of a letter, the of public land, the negotiation of treaty, the award of compensation to an injured workman, the removal of a litter from a park, and licensing the use of atomic energy. Similarly, Dimock holds that administration is concerned with the ‘what’ and ‘how’ of the government. The ‘what’ is the subject matter, the technical knowledge of a field which enables the administration to perform his tasks. The ‘how’ is the technique of management, the principles according to which cooperative programs are carried to success.
- (b) **Managerial View** - According to this view, the work of only those persons who are engaged in the performance of managerial functions in an organisation constitute administration. It is these persons who shoulder the responsibility of keeping the enterprise on keel and to run it most efficiently. Their job is to plan, program and organize all the activities in an organisation so as to achieve the desired ends.

Simon Smithburg, Thompson and Luther Gullick subscribe to this view of administration. Luther Gullick says, 'Administration has to do with getting things done; with accomplishment of defined objectives'. The term administration is also used in narrower sense to refer to those patterns of behavior's that are common to many kinds of co-operating groups or the specific technological methods used to reach these goals. The above two views differ from each other in many ways. The integral view includes the activities of all persons engaged in administration whereas the managerial view restricts itself only to the activities of a few persons at the top. The integral view postulates all types of activities from manual to managerial, from non- technical to technical whereas managerial view takes into account only the managerial activities in an organisation.

Luther Gullick defines these techniques by the letters of the word: POSDCORB which means Planning, Organisation, Staffing, Direction, Co-ordinating, Reporting and Budgeting. As study public administration examines the every aspects of government's effort to discharge the laws and give effect to public policy; as a process it is all the steps taken between the time an enforcement agency assumes jurisdiction and the last break is placed; and as a vocation, it is organizing and directing the activities of others in a public agency.