

## **Assessing the Role of Public Administration in Government Accountability**

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*Public administration is one of the key areas of government that plays the most crucial part in terms of implementation of the government policies. In contemporary world, public administration is often holds the responsibility for determination of the programs and policies of Government. In other words, public administration typically helps in planning, organizing, directing, controlling and coordinating the government operations. Public accountability is extremely important as it provides a democratic means to monitor and control the government conduct., enhance the effectiveness of public administration and capacity of learning and prevent the integration of power concentration. The concept of accountability has different levels of concerns which creates an effective set of practices so that the officials without practicing any type of corruption can become more liable towards their every work and decision-making process. And this becomes the main practice that helps the government to remain accountable. So, mainly the concept of accountability of public administration is also regarded as one of the best practices which help the*

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*government officials to be concerned with their tasks. And this also helps to generate the attributes of good governance within any government institute.*

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## **1. Introduction**

Public administration generally refers to the practice of implementing government policies. In modern practices, public administration also bears some responsibilities for determining the policies and programs of the government. This includes the practices of coordinating, planning, directing, organizing, and government operations (Karpa et al., 2021). In this context, accountability becomes one of the important elements of public administration as accountability simply refers to the justifications of the actions or decisions. Through this study, how governments remain accountable through the practices of public administration will be identified and analyzed.

Public administration is often portrayed as a deliverable of the citizen, society, community values, and preferences. Some of these values and preferences are set and some others are constantly evolving which transforms the role of the government within public administration (Ongaro and Van Thiel, 2018). And in this context, the government must remain accountable for its duties and decisions to maintain the transparency of its actions. This mainly makes it important for the study to understand how the government can remain accountable. This research aims to assess the practices which enable the scope for accountability within the spectrum of public administration and how this aids the government to remain accountable towards its duties.

The scope of public administration is constantly changing. In this context, good governance became one of the key concerns of public administration practitioners. The definition of good governance suggests that the processes and institutional practices of governance must be managed so that it can meet the needs of society (Addink, 2019). The context of good governance generates accountability as an important form of liability which ensures improved public confidence in government performances. And for the sole purpose of maintaining good governance, understanding how the government remains accountable is important, which is the main concern of this study.

## **2. Objectives of the Study**

1. To analyze the significance of accountability in public administration.
2. To evaluate the factors which impact the government's accountability.
3. To understand how public administration helps in maintaining the accountability of the government.

## **3. Methodology**

The methodology part is analyzed within this study to address the significant research methods and approaches through which this research is conducted effectively. In this methodology, the chosen research method, data collection, and data analysis method are analyzed.

For this particular research to maximize the data utility, a qualitative secondary research method has been chosen. Through this research method, all the non-numerical data is used to find relevant and authentic information about the research questions (Ruggiano and Perry, 2019). Also, the qualitative secondary approach aided this research by presenting an opportunity to utilize the already cleaned and genuine data generated by the other researchers.

To effectively collect the most authentic data within this study only authentic sources are used. The secondary data within this research has been collected mainly through research journals, websites, and other genuine internet sources. Through this process, already existing data curated the foundation of these research findings (Tate and Happ, 2018).

## **4. Literature Review**

The literature review is conducted within this study to analyze some important works of literature which will provide important information regarding the research questions. For this practice, the most authentic sources of literature are chosen to present genuine information about government accountability.

According to the study of Schmidt and Wood (2019), within the scope of public administration, accountability simply means that the elected representatives by people should be responsible for all their

actions and policies. That study also points out that this particularly also describes the representative form of government which is concerned with the concept of democracy.

The study of Johnsen et al. (2021), in the process of analyzing the importance of accountability suggests that accountability is an important element of administrative responsibility. Through the practice of accountability in public administration, the officials are held responsible for the factors like morality, democracy, and certain legal mandates.

Many studies have also pointed out that within public administration, accountability became important as, through the practice of making elected personnel accountable, various distracting activities and unproductive behaviors which cost time and effort can be eliminated effectively. Also, as accountability is well established within the administrative practices it generates more trust and engagement of the public with the government which eventually improves the internal efficiency of the government (Malbon et al., 2021).

Syahputri et al. (2019) states that good governance can be measured by mainly eight elements and accountability is one of them. So it can be assessed that accountability is a key driver of good governance. The Government accountability considers the relationship of two parties, an encounter which is mainly the answering officials and the other is the account holder or the authority. The study also indicates that three important factors impact the course of accountability which are, transparency, discussions, and consequences.

Another study by Brown et al. (2019), identifies that two main factors affect the accountability of government. These two factors are transparency and participation. The study also portrays that transparency can be maintained by open decision-making practices and the participation of the citizens in favor of accountability is also important. But many studies have pointed out that this does not necessarily depict every spectrum of accountability. The fundamental gaps in accountability, ensuring the relevance of accountability with the modern government are also some important factors affecting the accountability of government.

Moreover, corruption of officials in their practices and not thinking about the interest of the public severely affect the

accountability of the government. For this reason, Dewi et al. (2019), suggests that to face the issues of accountability, understanding where the public power lies and their significant needs are important.

Public administration is the main component that helps in monitoring and controlling the government contract to preserve effective accountability, the study of Jashari and Pepaj (2018), suggests. It also analyses that the government accountability is managed by the public administration approaches by mainly preventing the concentration of power, and also through enhancing the learning capacity and efficiency of administrative officials. The scope of public accountability of the officials is approached as an administrative responsibility so that best values can be provided to the public and officials became accountable for the work they are paid for and elected for.

Levasseur (2018), in the study, analyzed that tremendous change can be addressed within the areas of accountability of public administration. The study refers to the classical theory which depicts that elected officials are accountable for addressing the public will into policy. The main contribution of public administration for ensuring government accountability can be identified as public administration's academic disciplines enforce ministerial responsibility as a system of accountability. For this within all levels of governments, increased demand accountability can be observed. Sabet (2020), analyzed that accountability of public administrators also affects various levels of government decision-making. Political, legal, bureaucratic, legal, citizen, professional accountability is also identified as five key channels which describe the scope of government accountability within the public administrative approaches.

## **5. Discussion**

After organizing and reviewing the collected data the most genuine data were identified based on the relevance of data with the research topic and objectives (Sherif, 2018). After this thematic data analysis approach has been considered to evaluate the collected data. The common patterns and themes of the qualitative data were identified to fulfill the research objectives. Through analyzing the collected data within the literature review conducted within this research some significant insights were generated which became the main findings of this particular study.

The overall assessment of collected data helped to identify that within the spectrum of public administration, accountability has a significant role. The accountability of government is a crucial aspect that presents the opportunity to maintain the ethical relationship with the account holder, public, and the authorities (Trielli et al., 2017). Also, through assessing the level of accountability, the top core values of any government organization or transparency of any elected official or bureaucrat can be recognized.

Through ensuring accountability, public administration encourages the elected and appointed officials to work for the better interest of the public. The analyzed data has also presented the insight that the changing face of public administration also held accountability as one of the key factors affecting good governance. And this perspective generated from the New public management theories helped the government bodies in the modern world to be more accountable towards their duty (Aldemir, 2018).

Various studies have also indicated that accountability as one of the most important concepts of public administration is elusive to an extent. This particular concept of public administration is what motivates public administrators to be obliged towards the authorities regarding their every step in decision-making and policy-making processes. Though assessing the increasing importance of accountability within public administration it can be understood that the sudden demand for accountability is the main factor that enables the government officials to be accountable for their exercise of power, the resources available to them, and the resources they use. For this reason, studies have identified the government's accountability towards the public as a complement to public administration.

In this context, the political accountability, anchored in democratic principles, makes the government officials accountable towards the responsibilities like policymaking which can range from national defense, education, and environmental protection. This mainly indicated that public administrators should be responsible for the designing and implementation of the laws, rules, and regulations (König, 2021). On the other hand, bureaucratic accountability is achieved by the different strategies, performance management systems, and administrative rules which mainly focus on the priorities of the officials' top-level bureaucrats. Likewise, in the spectrum of citizen accountability, the public administrators are held accountable for their participation in law and deliberative forums. In this context, the demand side tools are becoming very important to

maintain the public accountability of government officials. Moreover, legal accountability also requires the officials to be accountable towards the lawmakers outside any government agencies. Most importantly, the professional accountability of the officials also aids to maintain the discipline of the various important government activities. In this aspect, the practice of effective accountability is carried out through establishing codes of ethics, and performance standards. This particular finding generated the idea that in the interconnected world of public administration there are multiple pressure points of accountability for the public administrators and for this reason to ensure that government remains accountable an integrated approach is important.

Through the concept of accountability presented by the evolving public administrative system, public trust and confidence are generated. And this task is fulfilled as under the increasing demand of accountability, the government officials are encouraged to practice ethical behaviors and significant practices which are in favor of the public or authority interests. This also aids in fulfilling the objectives of the public administration systems which deal with the effective delivery of the right and valuable public services to the public at the right time. It can be stated that through the strong practices of accountability, government officials can ensure that the government remains accountable towards its citizens, but within the modern practices there are some weaknesses in the system which need to be addressed by the public administration to ensure a significant implementation of accountability. The fundamental gaps in accountability, ensuring the relevance of accountability in the modern government can be addressed as some of the weakness of the accountability spectrum of government. Henceforth, some suggestions can be deduced.

One of the key suggestion would be practice more effective stronger accountability some approaches can be taken by the government. Some of the identified suggestions for effective government accountability are as follows :

- Focusing on increasing transparency of the significant projects.
- Provide clarity how does te money of the citizens is utilised by the government.
- Ensure that the government policies already have some built in accountability element which will aid in providing value to the citizens.

- Maintain significant oversight on the government officials who must be accountable in their actions.
- Rather than focusing on blaming, the government must focus on improvement to be accountable.

## 6. Conclusion

Through the assessment of the research findings, it can be stated that public administration over the years has generated a significant amount of importance about the concept of accountability. This concept is mainly the key driver of the government officials in the practice of maintaining their responsibilities in the favour of the public who elected them. The concept of accountability has different levels of concerns which creates an effective set of practices so that the officials without practicing any type of corruption can become more liable towards their every work and decision-making process. And this becomes the main practice that helps the government to remain accountable. So, mainly the concept of accountability of public administration is also regarded as one of the best practices which help the government officials to be concerned with their tasks. And this also helps to generate the attributes of good governance within any government institute. And as the elected candidate becomes concerned about what value they are presenting through their work to the citizens and the society, the overall development of the administrative system is addressed effectively.

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