

Quadrant II– Notes

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Module Name: Role of Public Administration in a Welfare State

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Public Administration is an essential part of the society and dominant factor in the life of the modern age. It is engaged in looking after the different needs of the State – health, education, social security etc. Thus Public Administration has accepted the notions of a Welfare State.

Public Administration is an instrument of Change and Progress - The functions of Public Administration have expanded in range and nature over the years. In a developing country like India, Public Administration is of great importance. It is engaged in a massive effort to lift the country from a state of poverty to a level of prosperity. The economical, cultural and even spiritual progress of a society depends on Public Administration. Thus the country's progress is largely determined by the quality of Public Administration.

It is an instrument of National Integration - It is a mechanism for preserving and promoting the culture of the community. It is an important social process entrusted with the responsibility of implementing the objectives of the nation and a permanent force in determining the character and activities of a nation.

Public Administration is engaged in all activities of the Government - The State today is involved in activities in the economic, industrial, commercial as well as social field. Therefore Public Administration is not only a Protector of its citizens but also an educator, manufacturer, helper, etc. in different directions. Thus our welfare depends upon the efficiency of Public Administration. If Public

Administration fails, the whole structure of modern society will collapse. Prof Donham stated that if our civilization fails, it will be mainly because of a breakdown in administration.

Providing for basic amenities - An individual in the modern society depends upon administration at every turn of his life. The state provides for transport, communication, education, health and even recreation. Therefore Public Administration is of great significance in a modern Welfare State.

Public Administration ensure security and protection of the people - The role of Public Administration has become more important in the era of globalisation and urbanisation. Administration ensures the security and protection of life and property of the society by maintaining proper law and order.

Conclusion - The role and functions of public administration has become quite dynamic in a welfare state. It is constantly evolving in response to the changing needs and demands of the society. Globalization and incorporation of new management principles, are some of the new trends in the areas of public administration.