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Cooperative federalism VIS-À-VIS government policies in India

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Abstract--This study is an assessment to understand the current nature of Indian Federalism. The country has various forms of government and works in their respective fields and powers. This article explores the concept and meaning of federalism. Further, it also expresses the policies related to federalism followed by respected governments within the purview of India. The study considers the works of governments, governing powers, and the overall implementation of Central Sponsored Schemes regarding the administration of policy on the part of state governments. It is important to research as there is limited information about the same and it also includes the survey within the country. The object of this research is to determine the actual condition of federalism in the country with special reference to central sponsored schemes. And what else it requires to be better in the same components. The research might help for the betterment of working of the government policies mentioned therein.

Keywords---federalism, constitution India, central government, state government, schemes.

Introduction

'Federalism' is an arrangement of governing bodies for the governance of the state in the form of decentralization of political powers with a consensual agreement made between them. It is a kind of system of administration in which political powers are given to different types of governments. Federalism type of system there can be more than one form of system, such as the centralized government and the decentralized government. The centralized government has wide powers to exercise than that of states and may have more concrete powers, about the decentralized government the state governments have less scope, and on the part of the administration of policies, there must be a pro-active role of local or regional government.

Nature of the Indian Federalism

Federalism in India is a debatable issue, while some people call it "quasi-federal", "competitive federalism", "co-operative federalism" or the bigger debate underlying is whether India is actually a federal state. The term Federalism refers to the constitutionally allocated distribution of powers between two or more levels of governments- one at the central level and other at the state or the third one is at local level. The most salient feature of federalism is that the government at both level functions in their respective jurisdiction with the considerable independence from one another. Some of the notable federal states in the world are U.S, Canada, Switzerland and Australia which are different form the concept of Indian federalism. Federalism is not a static concept; rather, it is a continuous process of creating and reorganizing government states. So the question is how much power should be divided between the states and the Centre? To answer this question, we have to understand the public administration and governance, so according to Article 248 of the Constitution of India, the residuary powers are vested in the Parliament of India.

The residuary powers are those powers which are left to the governmental organization and further the organization can delegate it. So this Article 248 of Constitution of India is a feature of federalism. And therefore, this makes India a federal nation. To understand better the provisions mentioned for federalism in the Constitution, thinking back to the time of making of the Constitution. At the point when our Constitution was incepted, there was a reasonable single party authority in the Indian political framework. Normally the established advancement process was directed by single party strength and job of resistance was irrelevant on the grounds that it was restricted to impact of the legislative choice barely. Generally protected making process was not all that much or less molded by Congress. After the initial seventeen years of freedom the congress Government totally overwhelmed in the Center just as State legislative issues. In this period connection among Center and the States were advanced practically equivalent in nature and it was seen that States assumed agreeable part with the Center. Be that as it may, this helpful job was not unconstrained by any means

and a considerable lot of regard it was forced and taught by the Center. All things considered State Government was limited to acknowledge this and they need to not do anything against the Center as the hierarchical construction of the congress was not decentralized.

The proper decentralization can only be done when the public administration works to the very regional level and very effectively. (Bahuguna & Uniyal, 2018) So to acquire proper decentralization we have to understand what is more regionalism in the political field? The outcome was a decrease in the job of public administration and likely all-out shroud of the previous mainland job in the Congress and furthermore made the ascent of new first-class struggle. By and large the bury elites struggle happens in the political framework which was appeared in different layer of the Indian nation. After the Forth General political race, new discussion emerges in the Center-State connection as the new shaped non-Congress Government in many States were requested more powers and needed to rebuild the circulation arrangement of force among Center and State Government. A few significant parts of this discussion are: job of Center in State organization, job of the Governor, language strategy, circulation of focal awards for State, Central Reserve Force and other power in the State, supply of fundamental natural substances for State, intercession in the sanctioning of State law and the assent of the President on State Bill, foundation of focal command over State industry and so on.

The issue of Center State relations has been caused another aspects and significance in contemporary India as the job of territorial ideological groups to have turned into a significant piece of governmental issues in State just as Center. The facts really confirm that when freedom in India the allure of the administrative type of Government was addressed fundamentally due to the assorted idea of the country as far as rank, language, religion, culture, etc. Federalism is certainly not a static idea rather it is a constant course of creation and composition of government units. So the issue is how much power ought to be apportioned between the units and Center. India as very huge and diverse country it requires a great divisional body for governing the country at the root levels. Since an organization is a multi-Government framework and each unit has its own current circumstance where the requests stream and clashes emerge, so the issues are in heterogeneous nature.

So to meet the problems at the root level and to resolve them, the country India immensely requires the cooperation of all kinds of governments. This is because the laws, bye-laws, rules and regulations which are governed by these governments are so not cooperated and well implemented. And every authority works is not under the control of the single government. This can only be possible to adopt the nature of cooperative federalism in the governmental system. The “cooperative federalism” had the evolution from the America from the template introduced by the American President named “Franklin D. Roosevelt”. He, after the 2nd world war, felt the need of the cooperative federalism for the social welfare and many other aspects come between them. So, to form such type of government the cooperation between the governments was must, and India adopted cooperative federalism in back to 2014.

Cooperative federalism has introduced by the Modi, the Chief Minister of Gujarat, back in 2014 realised that the Indian states need to empower politically as the whole of India was practically centralised federal, and in the 2014 national elections, he made cooperative federalism a major electoral promise. After assuming power, the central ruling “BJP government” took significant steps toward empowering the states. The centralised Planning Commission was replaced by the “Niti Aayog”, which the Union government assured would have the same powers as the Planning Commission “active involvement of the states in the spirit of co-operative federalism.”

Government Policies in India

The government policies which regulate under the light of cooperative federalism are known as “centrally sponsored schemes” are those schemes that are governed by the state governments but funded by the government of India, no matter whether the scheme is working on a state matter or the central government matter. The common aim of these schemes is to raise central government resources for the states. These schemes can be in the interest of the nation wholly or can be in the interest of the regions. Three of those schemes are about to discuss are -Niti Aayog, Ayushman Bharat Prime Minister Jan Aarogya Yojana, and Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana.

Niti Aayog

On 13th August 2014, Planning Commission was scrapped by the Modi Government, which was 65 years old. Then National Institution for Transforming India, also called “NITI Aayog”, was set up as the successor body of the Planning Commission, and it was made by a resolution of the Union government cabinet on 1st January 2015. This was made to complete the goal of cooperative federalism and to deliver good governance. It was also set up through executive commissions like Planning Commission. This is why it is a non-constitutional and non-statutory body. Thus this institution is the premier policy “Think Tank” of the Government of India, that is Parliament of India, giving both directional and policy inputs. While long-term policies and various programs for the Union Government, NITI Aayog also gives its advice to the governments of states and the center.

As much already discussed it has been got to know that, this institution is made by the Union government. So it can be said that this is the federal body. And this body also gives suggestions and advices to the state governments that show that this is working for both the governments. Here it can be concluded this body has decentralizing tendency as well. So NitiAayog completely fulfill the work to portray the federal system of the country. So it can be considered that NitiAayog works with collaborative approach with decentralizing tendency of the government. Planning Commission had approach of command and control while NitiAayog adopted the collaborative approach. It means ‘NitiAayog’ has ‘bottom-up approach not a top-down approach’. But there were some critics as well made against Niti Aayog for its working and where it is lacking behind. The critics were intended to the better working of the governing body.

Proposed Changes Required in Niti Aayog

- The need of great importance is that NITI Aayog needs to develop into a lot more grounded association when contrasted with what it is currently. NITI Aayog ought to be locked in with the portion of “groundbreaking” capital in a conventional way, complete with motivating force viable conditionalities. As now while the Planning Commission has been broken down, there is a vacuum particularly as the NITI Aayog is fundamentally a research organization without any assets to administer, which renders it innocuous to embrace a ‘groundbreaking’ mediation.
- The ramifications that ought to be authorized in a perplexing nation like India which has turned into a modern economy rate is that the arranging should go on as a focal capacity of the state to carry the economy to long-run balance.
- Notwithstanding, it tends to be fought that the Planning Commission couldn’t satisfy its capacity enough. The justification for why NITI Aayog came into force was by supplanting the Planning Commission, there was a need to develop into a lot further association.
- The NITI Aayog ought to concoct new changes, and gain from the adjoining nations, for instance, gain from the experience of the now industrialized Chinese state. It guaranteed after its market-arranged financial changes started at the State mechanical assembly (China made unique monetary zones to push assembling and product situated ventures. The overall guidelines of business were facilitated in these zones, set apart out in regions with better foundation and admittance to modest work for financial backers. Indian unique financial zones that surfaced many years after the fact needed such push and better motivating forces to draw in unfamiliar financial backers in numbers and size to give China a contest. China made a shift by advancing environmentally friendly power energy like sun based power and diminishing its reliance on coal enormously. China has arisen as the second-biggest sun powered energy maker. India might imitate Chinese guide to decrease its reliance on coal and oil, the majority of which it imports).
- The State Planning Commission ought to turn out to be all the more impressive by zeroing in on development and neediness decrease. China with its appropriate execution of systems turned into the ‘production line of the world’ that was upheld by a modern strategy that is driven by the Reforms Commission and the National Development.
- Additionally, in all Southeast Asian and East Asian nations, modern arrangement has generally been arranged and has been executed as a feature of the five-year or longer-term plans.
- While Southeast Asian nations actually have and had five-year designs, what was likewise basic to their arranging was the useful utilization of work, the most bountiful element of these nations, through a commodity situated assembling system. Such techniques have been inadequate in India's preparation.

Now moving to another centrally sponsored scheme, which deals with the health system in India. And how it works federally throughout the nation.

“Prime Minister Jan Arogya Yojana Highlights” (PMJAY)

The Scheme’s Progress:

When fully implemented, PMJAY will be the world's largest totally government-funded health-care programme. It is a bold step forward in the pursuit of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The sector's budgeted allocation is Rs 6,400 crore, which is designated for the center's main health insurance scheme, Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (AB-PMJAY).

According to “Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana” data of several states was collected as per status on 09.07.2019,

States	E-Cards Registered	Hospitals by this Yojana	Amount allotted
Himanchal Pradesh	206	709	2100361
Uttarakhand	180	216838	48039794
Andhra Pradesh	2	149	77500000
Punjab	415		
Jammu and Kashmir	160	23270	131539040
Delhi	-	-	-
Chandigarh	15	949	882504
Manipur	15	119044	5184950
Mizoram	82	296494	11281114
Nagaland	60	85378	1285993
Haryana	431	1256855	43403970
Madhya Pradesh	180	433356	115336577
Karnataka	776	9782639	282113753
Goa	21	8248	4067273
West Bengal	1240	17636	14145239
Pudducherry	6		
Jharkhand	646	3746564	198791593
Daman and Diu	3		37990517
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	4	13161	82096770
LakshwawEEP	1		
Andman and Nicobar Islands	3	4311	69000
UttarPradesh	1813	35320	1401700
Kerala	346	3567259	186421960

Beneficiary families of state of Andhra Pradesh got Number of E-card registered were only two and number of hospitals covered in this state under this yojana were one hundred forty nine. Amount allocated by government for this yojana in this state was seven hundred five lacks. Number of claims empanelled issued submitted were one lakh eighteen thousands six hundred two.

In Himachal Pradesh number of E-card registered were two hundred six, which is quite big in numbers as compared to Arunachal Pradesh. Being a smaller state as compared to former one, it showed the great awareness regarding this yojana. Number of hospitals covered under this yojana this particular state were seven hundred nine, which is also remarkable. Amount provided by central government was twenty one lakh three hundred sixty one and number of claims empanelled submitted we won eight seven zero three.

Now let talk about one more state that is Uttarakhand, here beneficiary families got number of E-card registered were one hundred eighty and hospitals covered under this yojana were two one six eight three eight. We can see that beings smaller states, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand both have great awareness regarding this yojana and number of hospitals covered under, were also quite good in number. At last number of claims empanelled submitted were four lacks fifty six thousands one hundred ninety eight.

In Madhya Pradesh beneficiary families under this yojana got E-cards registered were one hundred eighteen in numbers. And number of hospitals were benefitted under this yojna were four lacs thirty three thousands three hundred fifty six in numbers. Amount given by the government to this state was around sixteen thousands two hundreds eighty two. Numbers of people claimed empanelled were one lakh forty two thousands eight hundreds thirty three in numbers only.

Let have a look about one of the largest state, that is Uttar Pradesh, here number of E-card admissions by the beneficiary families were one thousand eight hundred thirteen. Such number of admissions seems quite are appointing as we see according to the number of population of the state. Here people need to be get aware regarding such beneficial yojana. Administrative department must focus upon promoting this yojna to larger extent, so that people get benefitted up to larger extent. Number of hospitals covered under this yojana were thirty five thousands three hundreds twenty and amount provide by the government and number claims empanelled submitted by the people were one lakh forty thousand one hundred seventy. By seeing the above data we can say that small states are doing quite better job as compare to other states like Arunachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. In Andhra Pradesh, Central Government is not the ruling party so that it may be one of the reasons for the lesser implementation of this yojana and in Uttar Pradesh illiteracy may be one of the reasons for inadequate implementation.

Let us study this data in other aspects as well. Small Indian states such as Goa, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya, and Sikkim are now being now considered. Goa has 8,248 hospitals covered. Manipur has 119,044 hospitals covered. Mizoram has 296,494 hospitals covered. Nagaland has 85,378 hospitals covered. Meghalaya has 1,079,338. Sikkim has 15,891. So it deduces that this yojana has been doing quite well in the smaller states as well. And it is superior to some larger and larger states. This might be because small states are easily to cover. If we only see the north eastern part of the country, then there are only 7 states which all are small in area and population as well. But the report or status of this yojana is actually quite progressive from there.

Another aspect of talking is the Union territories. India has 9 Union Territories namely Delhi, Lakshdweep, Jammu, Kashmir, Daman and Diu, Dadar and Nagar Haveli, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, and Puducherry. Few of these getting good response from this vary yojana but few are not. There can be a reason that the vast and diverse country of India. Actually the country of India is very vast and diverse. The political, sociological, demographical, and geographical conditions vary from states to states. This can be seen by this, by the following data. So country like India needs the Federal system of government to run a more effectively. And the state governments have local leaders from the region of local people. So they can understand needs and problems of a local area. So India that is why needs state governments and local governments.

Another scheme for the Health is Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana. This yojana as well has some informative federal components which are necessary to discuss.

“Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana”

Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) was launched by Ministry of Labour and Employment in particularly to provide health insurance to BPL families. Health insurance significantly brings down the hospitalization expenses thus reducing the economic burden. Insurance is not popular among daily workers as paying premium is not easy for those who live on daily wages with meager savings. This is where RSBY aims to intervene. The scheme aims to provide subsidized insurance premiums which make health insurance affordable for a large section of society.

Unorganized sector constitutes 93% of the total work force in India. Lack of job security, legal protection, provident fund and medical benefits, among others is what distinguishes unorganized from organised sector. Needless to say, that the majority of workers in the unorganized sector belongs to below poverty line (BPL). Social security coverage, particularly health and wellness, for this occupational group remains a challenge, about of pocket expenses during illness contribute significantly in further impoverishment of already impoverished group. This policy also works federally in the entire country. This yojana implements by the system which is divided their works at different levels

At National Level

The system is headed by the Union Health Minister, and examined by EPC. The scheme works on the direction of the Union Health Minister and provides policy direction and which is supported by the joint secretaries. This also provides technical and non-technical support which helps in its implementation.

At the State level

In the state level it is headed by the Chief Minister and in the District, headed by the local authorities Zila Panchayat or Mayor for the working in the roots level. These activities are coordinated by the municipality level by various district commissions. It also includes district and city planning of which skill is only a part of states. So there is one head in the state which collects the report from all

the parts of the state. And same applies in the district as well. So the working of this scheme is discussed at two levels which make it a federal scheme. Here the work at the national level is just to support, gives direction, to provide funds to the state. And the states work in accordance of the centre government. So the work of state government under the scheme is to accomplish the objectives of the scheme by implementing it thoroughly into the state.

Conclusion

From the above discussion it can be considered that India has its unique identity over federalism. This can be because of the democratic system that the country posses, and the huge are the country has, and the huge population that the country has. India follows the motto of “unity in diversity”, as the country is largely diverse. To continue this federal system the country follows certain systems in every possible administrative departments of the country, which altogether makes the country federal. Some of the policies have been discussed over, and have some elements in it which lacking behind the proper and effective working of it.

Suggestions

- (1) in the scheme of Jan Arogyajojana, the system should develop a uniformity in their working throughout the country. The department which is performing it should be an independent body to work that no other issues can effect the implementation
- (2) in scheme of RSBY, there is a huge need of institutions which can be met only by large number of public health institutions, knowledge resources for National Disease Programe and it can be supported by institutions like AIIMS, PGIMER, PHFI, etc.
- (3) and as whole of Indian federal system there must be better independency of the states. The states may work more effectively without the intervention of the Union with more budget.

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