

## A CRITICAL STUDY OF CONTEMPORARY ADMINISTRATIVE CHALLENGES IN THE STATE OF RAJASTHAN

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### ABSTRACT

*Rajasthan is the Northwestern state in India with a unique geopolitical and socio-economic scenario that entails with itself many administrative challenges for the people and administration as well. The state is 342,239 square kilometres in the area which makes 10.4 percent of India's total geographical area. It is the largest Indian state by area and the seventh-largest by population. The state has a rich cultural heritage, reserves of some minerals, home to a variety of flora and fauna the preservation and conservation of the same is also a challenge apart from this COVID-19 has proved to be a big challenge for the administration.<sup>i</sup> The government has done a lot in combatting these challenges and efforts are ongoing to meet the contemporary challenges. The research paper highlights these contemporary challenges and mechanisms that the government has deployed to combat the same have been discussed in the paper. This research paper has been written under the expert guidance of my research supervisor Prof Shiv Prasad.*

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**Keywords:** Administration, Challenges, Government, and Rajasthan.

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### Introduction

Rajasthan has a wide disparity in social, cultural, geographical, economic, and political scenarios across the state. This makes the administration a challenge for the state. The social, economic, and environmental growth of Rajasthan is fraught with difficulties. There are still many people living in extreme poverty, and income inequality within and between states has been growing. Unsustainable production and consumption have also resulted in significant economic and social costs. The researcher has made an effort to identify the contemporary challenges of the state and give her suggestions to combat the same.

### The Philosophy of Administration

Before moving ahead to understand the concept of administrative challenges it is important to understand the philosophy of administration. The English word 'administer' is derived from a combination of two Latin words 'ad' and 'ministrare' which means 'to serve' or 'to manage', literally the term 'administration' means management of affairs in public and private levels. The dictionary defines administration as management of affairs. Hence, we can say that almost every human activity involves administration at various levels. Even in primitive societies simple activities like lighting a fire, searching for shelter, hunting food, gathering stone weapons for self-protection, and many more allied activities could not carry on without some form of organization. Certain norms of behavior had to be laid down to decide the distribution of work among the members of the primitive group.<sup>ii</sup>

Today with the growing complexity of modern life the administration of affairs has become more complex, earlier the administration of affairs was simple because the life was simple but now with the growth in various aspects of life and new developments around the world administration and its scope has broadened and with that, the scope of administration has become wider. From a scholarly point of view, it is important to know what well-renowned authors have said about *administration*:

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**Felix A. Nigro**: “administration is the organization and use of men and material to accomplish a purpose.”

**H. Simon**<sup>iii</sup>: “administration can be defined as the activities of groups cooperating to come, please come and goals.”

**L.D. White**<sup>iv</sup>: “the art of administration is the direction, coordination, and control of many persons to achieve some purpose objective.”

**J.M. Pfiffener**<sup>v</sup>: “administration is an organization in direction of human and material resources to achieve desired ends.”

**Luther Gullick**<sup>vi</sup>: “administration has to do with getting things done with the accomplishment of desired objectives.”

The above definitions make it clear that administration has two essential elements that are a collective effort and a common purpose. Hence administration can be referred to as a group activity that involves cooperation and coordination to achieve desired objectives. However, it must be remembered that while the administration is a collective activity every collective action is not administration it is so because of the specialized vocation of managers who have skills of organizing and directing man and material to get the desired result.

**Research Methodology**

The researcher has adopted, a non-probabilistic random sampling technique to collect information through a close-ended questionnaire. The respondents are employed in the Rajasthan government in various offices.

The researcher has conducted interviews of government officials to know their opinion on contemporary administrative challenges.

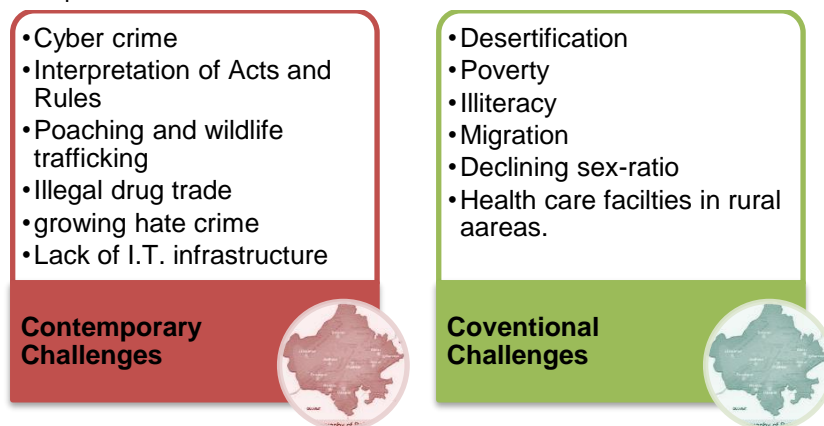
The research is also based on secondary data collected from books, newspapers, websites, articles, and journals.

The author herself is a state service officer in the government of Rajasthan and so the study is based on personal observations and experience also.

**Administrative Challenges**

The administration is not an easy task it brings along a lot many challenges. The state of Rajasthan has its challenges which can be divided into two parts- Conventional challenges and Contemporary challenges.

The administrative challenges retard the pace of development of a state. A study conducted by (Gandhi, 2018)<sup>vii</sup> has highlighted that Rajasthan has unlimited potential for growth and development but the array of the challenges like- water scarcity, poor health infrastructure, caste prejudices, etc. are a hurdle to its development.



**Fig. 1: A comparative List of Contemporary and Conventional Administrative Challenges in Rajasthan**

*Contemporary* challenges are those challenges that the state had been facing in recent times or contemporary times. These are different from conventional challenges in their form, nature, and gravity.

*Conventional challenges* are those challenges that the state had been facing for years. Examples of conventional challenges- Desertification, Poverty, Migration, illiteracy, Child-marriage, declining sex-ratio, healthcare<sup>viii</sup> facilities are not well organized in rural areas, etc. This research study discusses the contemporary administrative challenges that the bureaucracy faces in Rajasthan. The contemporary administrative challenges are listed below:

- **Cybercrime:** An act of cybercrime, can be defined<sup>ix</sup> as the use of a computer system as an instrument to cause financial, social, or emotional damage to a person or persons. Examples of cybercrime are- internet fraud, trafficking in child pornography and stealing intellectual property rights, etc.  
A computer and a network are both used in cybercrime. Either the computer was the intended victim of the crime or it was employed in its commission. Security and financial stability may be compromised by cybercrime.
- Understanding the act and rules effectively and their interpretation: In the present era there are numerous rules, laws, and regulations both at the central government level and state government, and the language of these rules and regulations is sometimes difficult to interpret. Training is provided to provide explanations for these.
- Post-covid administration using digital platforms poses a challenge to the officers: COVID-19 in itself posed a big challenge to the administration and maintaining law and order in such circumstances became a challenge.<sup>x</sup>
- Poaching and wildlife trafficking: Rajasthan is home to tigers at the Ranthambore National Park, Sawai Madhopur, Chinkara, Great Indian bustard, black buck, and four-horned antelope these faunas are endangered and are poached for the flesh, leather, tantric activities, and other illegal purposes, this illegal killing of animals is a threat to the administration of natural resource of the state.
- Illegal drug trade- recently illegal drug trade has spread its web in Rajasthan also. Drug paddlers come from Africa, Dubai, and other countries to Rajasthan to sell or buy these illegal drugs like- marijuana, etc. so this is a big challenge now.
- Growing hate crime: Hate crimes are criminal acts motivated by prejudices against- race, caste, religion, sex or color. The youth is gradually drifting towards hate crimes and Rajasthan has seen a rise in these types of crimes in the last few years.
- Lack of updated Information technology infrastructure: although the government of Rajasthan is working at a very fast rate to digitize as much as possible still there is a lot of scope for the development of I.T. Infrastructure in the state. In the ambit of I.T. infrastructure, one must not fail to discuss E-Governance because E-Governance is the most important aspect of information technology developments. In a recent study conducted by (Khanna and Khanna, 2017)<sup>xi</sup> they have clearly mentioned that the benefits of e-governance could not be reaped because the government lacks the necessary I.T. infrastructure and they have also referred to this as a challenge to the administration.

#### **Efforts made by the Government to Combat these Challenges**

- The government of Rajasthan is dedicated to serving the public and establishing a welfare state. The government has a Cyber Security Cell to keep an eye on cyber criminals and combat cyber-attacks. The government also has a center for cyber security<sup>xiii</sup> at Sardar Patel University to provide specialized education on cybercrime.
- To address the issue of clarity in acts and procedures extensive training programs are organized at the officers' training school Jaipur by subject experts, officers, and employees from all over the state are nominated for these programs.
- Rajasthan has a state biodiversity board to keep an eye on illegal killings and poaching of wildlife, close circuit cameras have been installed in and around the national parks and biodiversity zones to monitor every activity in the forest.
- New vacancies have been announced while some are under process to fill the vacant seats and address the problem of lack of staff at various levels of the government.
- Rajasthan has a discontinuous border with Madhya Pradesh, this discontinuous border zone has become the hub for the illegal trade of poppy and other banned drugs. Poppy cultivation in Rajasthan is concentrated in southwest Rajasthan, particularly in the Pratapgadh district so this area is vulnerable to drug paddlers. The state has set up a wide patrolling network of police to monitor and prevent such illegal activities.

### Recommendations

In order to cope with these challenges and the state a better place to live in following recommendations are made by the author-

- Non-governmental organizations must also be allowed to contribute to the execution of government policies and programs.
- The bureaucrats must be imparted proper training from time to time to keep them updated with the changes around the World and within the state also.
- Inter-state training of the officers of the state government should be conducted to learn good governance practices from other states also.
- The youth must be mobilized to accept all people from different castes and groups and emphasis must be given to establishing the motto of "Sarva dharma sambhav".
- Patrolling along the borders, particularly those where drug trafficking activities have been spotted regularly, should be increased.
- Awareness must be created among the public about their rights and duties.
- Good-Governance model can be created with the help of members of Civil Society.
- Government must also make efforts to adopt and develop the new I.T. platforms for quick delivery of services to the citizens.

### Conclusion

The administration is the life and blood of a system. A strong administrative structure is necessary for the smooth functioning of society. Definitely, every system has challenges in its functioning at the same time it is true that with the coming in of problems and challenges we learn to combat these a system that fails to develop itself against the challenges may collapse soon. Countries like Afghanistan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, etc. are some examples where the system collapsed because it failed to identify the challenges lying ahead. Hence it is important to address, identify and resolve the challenges which threaten the existence of an organization or state.

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