



Research Paper

A Research Study on Indian Public Policy

AMRITANSHU PANDEY^{1*} AND S.P. SHUKLA²

¹PhD Research Scholar

²Professor & Head

Department of Political Science, Govt. T.R.S. College, Rewa, MP, India

*Corresponding Author- E-mail: drgovindpandey@rediffmail.com; dramritanshu25@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

'Public policy' is as the relationship of Government unit to its environment'. This is governmental decision and is the result of activities which the Government undertakes in pursuance of certain goals. 'Planning' has been an integral part of India's developmental and administrative process. 'Panchayati Raj Institutions' (PRIs) were primarily entrusted with task of monitoring, supervision and implementation through line departments. 'NITI Aayog' has done many good works in the areas of land acquisition, whether public sector undertakings (PSUs) should work as Government department or as a commercial organization, digital economy, etc. 'Skill Development' is an important driver to address the poverty reduction by improving employability, productivity and helping sustainable enterprise development and inclusive growth. In India, different 'research organisations / institutions and think tanks' are involved in public policy. With these facts, therefore, this research study has been discussed on the view point of Indian public policy.

KEYWORDS: Government, India, Planning, Processes and Decisions, Public Policies, Think Tanks of India.

Received 10 May, 2022; Revised 24 May, 2022; Accepted 24 May, 2022 © The author(s) 2022.

Published with open access at www.questjournals.org

I. Introduction

"Public policy" is as old as the Government. Kind of public policy may be whatever- monarchy, oligarchy, aristocracy, democracy, tyranny etc., but wherever and whenever Government exists, public policies have been made and executed. The public policy is a contested academic terrain. Chakrabarty and Chand (2016) have highlighted those aspects of public policy which remain critical to comprehend its nature. They believed that the 'concepts' are historically conditioned and, thus articulated in the forms which may not have universal applicability.

Policy consists of many decisions which are taken to fulfil the goals by a onetime action. Every institution or individual is enjoined to take a decision within the policy framework (Dye, 2017).

The Indian leaders were interested to base future economic progress and growth on a comprehensive long-term planning. Therefore, as early as 1946 before transfer of power, a 'Planning Advisory Board' was appointed, which recommended the appointment of a 'Planning Commission' to devote full attention to the task of planned development. So, the 'Planning Commission' was constituted in March, 1950 by a resolution of the Government of India. It was decided that the State has to play important roles in bringing socio-economic transformation as required by the 'Directive Principles of State Policy'. Planning Commission consulted the Union Ministries and State Governments while formulating five-year plans and annual plans, and oversees their implementation.

One of the main instruments to improve human capabilities, apart from education is 'Health'. Any development process which works through health has been observed to result in sustainable overall development (Sen, 1999). Realising the importance of health, the Government of India launched 'Primary Health Care' (PHC) delivery system about three decades ago. Significant features of the PHC approach are inter-sectoral collaboration and community participation (GOI, 1981). When 'Panchayati Raj System' was being ushered in, it was realized that PRIs can play a crucial role in effecting inter-sectoral collaboration. The concept of human development introduced by the 'United Nations Development Programme' (UNDP) in 1991 also emphasized that healthcare delivery should be a participative process (Human Development Report, 1991).

In the present scenario, the NITI Aayog has been putforth and is trying all its best by involving many factors, including 'think tank'. It gives suggestions to the State Governments and Government of India. The

Planning Commission was not doing very well, because the members of this body were generally defeated politicians with no interest in academic knowledge or in finding out why the things were not working well. Its role was to decide inter-ministerial allocation of resources for education, health etc. Only this part has been removed from the NITI Aayog's functions and now this role has been given to the Finance Ministry. NITI Aayog should make evaluations of the flagship programmes being run by the Government and help in delivering those programmes on ground. It has a role in governance and its larger role is to align with the Government policies and give them suggestions. To make it strong, some powers should also be vested in them (www.insightsonindia.com, 2017).

'Skill development' is just one factor necessary for productivity growth and it needs to be an integral part of the development policies. The policies should address the levels of development, and need and requirement of various sectors. Besides, the 'skill policy' should focus on improving access, quality and relevance of training for various segments and sectors. Evidence from developed countries suggests that investment in education and skills helps economy to move to high growth sectors and break the low wage, low skill development syndrome. The developing economies like India, the challenge is to meet skilled manpower requirement of high growing sectors through better synergy between employers and training providers, increased investment in training infrastructure and also to ensure that informal economy also has skilled manpower wherein the informally trained skills are recognised and certified, and entrepreneurship training is provided for moving to formal sector (Sanghi and Srija, 2017).

Various studies on public policies have been performed and many research scholars have conducted the work on different aspects of the public policy. During the last few years, the study of policy and policy-making has become one of the most important branches of the Political Science. It has opened new university courses, an institute for public policy research and many new journals, including Policy Sciences, The Public Interest, Canadian Public Policy, etc. Impetus to focus on policy, on what Governments actually do and why, comes from numerous sources. Partly it may be a reaction against the so-called behavioural revolution that often directed away from a concern with the stuff of politics. Policy research has also been given urgency by increasing hopelessness about the ability of Governments to cope in an era of 'demand overload' and 'the fiscal crisis of the State'. There is a proliferation of isolated studies, and of different methods and approaches, but precious little in the way of explanation (Simeon, 1976).

II. Public Policy and its Goals

According to Thomas R. Dye, 'public policy is whatever Government chooses to do or not to do'. Robert Eyestone defined that 'public policy is as the relationship of Government unit to its environment'. Carl J. Friedrich opined that 'public policy is a proposed course of action of a person, group or Government within a given environment providing opportunities and obstacles which the policy was proposed to utilize and overcome in an effort to reach a goal'. Richard Rose stated that 'public policy is not a decision, but it is a course or pattern of activity'. Hence, it is clear that public policy is governmental decision and is actually the result of activities which the Government undertakes in pursuance of certain goals (Dye, 2017; Gruber, 2015; Wheelan, 2011).

Public policy is both an outcome and a process- as an outcome, it is an authoritative decision that is universally applicable in a specific socio-political context; and as a process, it shows how such decisions are taken by authorized means of governance. The fact is also that the outcome and processes are interlinked, suggesting that the former cannot be conceptualized without the latter and vice-versa (Adolino and Blake, 2011; Birkland, 2011; Chakrabarty and Chand, 2016).

Moreover, public policy is the broad direction or perspective which the Government lays down in order to take decisions. In the policy, a series of decisions are tied jointly into a coherent whole, where there may be some parallel in the processes involved in decision making and policy making. Both are concerned with choice in the middle of alternatives, and for both similar processes may be followed in generating alternatives. However, the policy is a more broad term, as it encompasses a series of decisions and has a comparatively longer time perspective. Further, the public policy making and implementation involve a well planned pattern or course of activity. It needs a thoroughly close linked relation and interaction flanked by significant governmental agencies, namely political executive, legislature, judiciary and bureaucracy. The public policies are of many types, such as substantive, distributive redistributive and regulatory (Dye, 2017; Gruber, 2015; Wheelan, 2011). The 'nature of public policy' is mentioned in Table 1.

Table 1: Nature of public policy (Dye, 2017; Gruber, 2015; Wheelan, 2011)

S. No.	Nature of public policy
1	'Public policy' is the outcome of Government's communal actions, i.e. it is a pattern or course of activity or the governmental officials and actors in a communal sense than being called as their discrete and segregated decisions.
2	Public policies are made and executed to achieve goals that the Government desires to provide benefit to people as a whole. So, public policies are goal oriented.
3	Public policy is positive in nature, i.e. it describes the Government concern and involves its action to a scrupulous problem on which the policy is made. It has sanction of law and authority behind it. But it negatively involves decisions through governmental officials concerning not taking any action on scrupulous matters.
4	Public policy is what the Government actually decides or chooses to do. This is relationship of the Government units to specific area of political environment in a given administrative system. It may take a diversity of shapes like decisions, court decisions, executive orders, law and ordinances etc.

III. Planning and Public Policies

'Planning' has been an integral part of India's developmental and administrative process. Over the years, it has gained legitimacy in the Indian federal system. Goals, priorities and direction set by the national 'Planning Commission' are based on anon-partisan approach, backed by expertise and reliable technical exercises (Dayal, 1996).

Sodhi et al. (2016) reported that Madhya Pradesh Government tilted it in its own favour by pursuing policy of establishing a separate 'Zilla Sarkar' at District level with a 'Minister-in-charge' appointed by State Government as its head and 'Zilla Panchayat President' as its member. This step put Zilla Panchayats under the Zilla Sarkar when opposite should have happened. In Zilla Sarkar (District Government) model of administration, the scope of 'District Planning Committees' (DPCs) was enhanced from their primary task of planning to execute tasks assigned to them by State Government. 'Panchayati Raj Institutions' (PRIs) were primarily entrusted with task of monitoring, supervision and implementation through line departments.

"NITI Aayog" has done many good works in the areas of land acquisition, whether public sector undertakings (PSUs) should work as Government department or as a commercial organization, digital economy, etc. As far as the demonetization is concerned, the NITI Aayog had no role in conceptualizing this move, affirming this policy or implementation. The States used to get funds from three different sources up to 2013-14. The 50% funds were received from the Finance Commission, 45% from the Central Ministries and 5% from the Planning Commission. Hence, the role of Planning Commission vis-a-vis States was diluted in 1991 itself. The Finance Commission's role has been enhanced and the role of the Ministries has been reduced. The Planning Commission even then was not there in the picture. It had a decisive role in deciding the funds allocated to the Ministries of the Government of India. Therefore, NITI Aayog needs to study the trends of jobs in last few years in India as past few years were those of jobless growth. More studies are required along with the accountability. A clear roadmap of plans and ideas has to be there. This institution is expected to serve the purpose of cooperative federalism (www.insightsonindia.com, 2017).

'Skill Development' is an important driver to address the poverty reduction by improving employability, productivity and helping sustainable enterprise development and inclusive growth. It facilitates a cycle of high productivity, increased employment opportunities, income growth and development. However, this is just one factor among many affecting the 'productivity' whose measurement differs for individuals, enterprise and economy. Increase in productivity could be due to availability of skilled and healthy manpower, technological upgradation and innovative practices, and sound macroeconomic strategies. The manifestations of improved productivity can be in the form of improvement in real gross domestic product (economy), increased profit (enterprises) and higher wages (workers). The productivity which explains an input-output relationship is a crucial factor whose benefits can be distributed in different ways like better wages and working conditions to workforce, increased profits and dividend to shareholders, environmental protection, and increase in revenue to Governments. This helps both the enterprise and country to remain competitive in the domestic and global market respectively. Hence, the increase in productivity can be attributed to varied reasons like new technology, new machines, better management practices; investment in plant and equipment and technology, occupation safety improvement in the skill level of workers; macro-economic policies, labour market conditions, business environment and public investment in infrastructure and education (Sanghi and Srija, 2017).

The workplace training plays an important role in productivity enhancement but in developing economies, the huge informal economy poses a challenge which could be addressed by developing clusters or lead firm taking the initiative which would help achieving economies of scale in skills development, development of competencies within and between firms and availability of lead firm facilities. This would make available skilled manpower by the lead firm as per its requirement, and the small enterprise would improve their productivity. Linking of skills and productivity would not only benefit the enterprise and economy but would also facilitate different segments of population, particularly the marginalised sections of society to reap the

benefits of economic growth through skill development. Lack of access to education and training, or low quality or relevance of training keeps vulnerable and marginalized sections into vicious circle of low skills and low productive employment. 'National Skill Development Policy' (NSDP) provides a framework to access various target groups to realise their potential for productive work and contribute in economic and social development. The NSDP provides for integration of skill development into national development policies, e.g. as developing infrastructure, reducing poverty and decent work agenda. It emerges that coordination among various stakeholders, coherence in sectoral, macro and skill policies, knowledge sharing and effective participation of trade unions and employers along with technology development is central to any development strategy. Participation by all stakeholders would strengthen move towards skilled economy. It would also ensure that small enterprises get access to training services and developing their managerial capabilities for growth. It also emerges that while coherence is necessary, it is essential to ensure gender equality, upgrade technology, and diversify production structure, building up individual competencies and collecting / dissemination of information on future needs as also available supply. This would improve availability of skilled manpower and reduce the supply mismatch. As compared to other developed and developing countries, India has a unique window of opportunity for another 20-25 years called 'demographic advantage'. If India is able to skill its people with requisite life skills, job skills or entrepreneurial skills in years to come demographic advantage can be converted into dividend, wherein those entering labour market or are already in labour market contribute productively to economic growth both within and outside the country (Sanghi and Srija, 2017).

Public Policy Institutions and Think Tanks of India

Different 'research organisations / institutions and think tanks' of India concerned with the public policy are explained in Table 2.

Table 2: Public policy organisations / institutions and think tanks of India

S. No.	Name of organizations / institutions and think tanks	Short Name / Abbreviation
1	Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment	ATREE
2	Centre for Civil Society	CCS
3	Centre for Development Studies	CDS
4	Centre for Land Warfare Studies	CLAWS
5	Centre for Policy Research	CPR
6	Centre for Public Policy Research	CPPR
7	Centre for the Study of Developing Societies	CSDS
8	Common Cause India	CCI
9	Delhi School of Economics	DSE
10	Development Alternatives, India	DAI
11	Giri Institute of Development Studies	GIDS
12	Global Development Network	GDN
13	India Development Foundation	IDF
14	Indian Council for Agriculture Research	ICAR
15	Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations	ICRIER
16	Indian Council for Social Science Research	ICSSR
17	Indian Institute of Foreign Trade	IIFT
18	Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad	IIMA
19	Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore	IIMB
20	Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta	IIMC
21	Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow	IIML
22	Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode (formerly Calicut in Kerala)	IIMK
23	Indian Institute of Management, Indore	IIMI
24	Indian School of Business	ISB
25	Indian School of Public Policy	ISPP
26	Indian Statistical Institute	ISI
27	Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research	IGIDR
28	Institute for Financial Management and Research	IFMR
29	Institute for Social and Economic Change	ISEC
30	Institute of Applied Manpower Research	IAMR
31	Institute of Economic Growth	IEG
32	Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies	IPCS
33	International Management Institute	IMI
34	Madras Institute of Development Studies	MIDS
35	Madras School of Economics	MSE
36	Management Development Institute	MDI
37	National Council of Applied Economic Research	NCAER
38	National Institute of Public Finance and Policy	NIPFP
39	National Maritime Foundation	NMF
40	Observer Research Foundation	ORF

41	Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies	RGICS
42	Research and Information System for Developing Countries	RISDC
43	Tata Institute of Social Science	TISS
44	Telecom Centres of Excellence	TCE
45	The Energy and Resources Institute	TERI
46	The Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses	IDSIA
47	The United Service Institution of India	USII
48	Vivekananda International Foundation	VIF

IV. Research Studies on Public Policy

In academic area, public policy is relatively new in India. Presently, public policy discussions and decisions about public health and development in India are limited, and recent research has shown significant variation in key indicators of public health and development within the macro levels, underscoring the importance of disaggregated zones of villages and micro public policy units like '*Gram Panchayat*'. Additionally, the District administrative areas do not typically align with the geopolitical units represented by elected politicians, such as Parliamentary Constituency (PC) and Assembly Constituency (AC)), leaving political representatives in dark about specific requirements of their constituencies. Having accurate and up-to-date data on public health and development available for all ACs and PCs may improve the political leadership and accountability in India.

'*Centre for Policy Research*' (CPR) has been one of India's leading '*public policy think tank*' since 1973. This is a non-profit, non-partisan independent institution as recognised by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. This is dedicated for conducting the research which contributes to the production of high quality scholarship, better policies and a more robust public discourse about the structures and processes that shape life in India. The CPR's community of distinguished academics and practitioners are drawn from different disciplines and professional backgrounds. This centre nurtures and supports scholarly excellence. However, this as such does not take a collective position on the issues. The CPR's scholars have complete autonomy to express their individual views. The Centre is committed to academic excellence and integrity of research. It is said that this institution has global standards of ethical research conduct, zero tolerance policy toward misconduct, including plagiarism and misrepresentation of research findings. It receives grants from the '*Indian Council for Social Science Research*' (ICSSR). The CPR is a member institution of the '*Think Tank Initiative*' (TTI), a programme of the '*International Development Research Centre*' (IDRC) (Wikipedia, 2021a).

'*Centre for Public Policy Research*' (CPPR) is an independent non-profit research organization located at Kochi (formerly Cochin) in Kerala State of India. Established in 2004, it conducts professional research, integrating developments in the fields of education, governance, livelihood, urban reforms and environment. CPPR was seemed to be a '*public policy think tank*' by a group of younger individuals, who believed in rule of law, right to livelihood and freedom of expression. The aim of this centre is to support the creation of an equitable, socially just and environmentally sound society enriched by the principles of democracy and secularism. In 2009, the '*Ministry of Science and Technology*', India authorised CPPR team and Civitas legal solutions to assist the Government of India in preparing '*National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy*'. CPPR also initiated Digital RTI Mission in 2009, making Kerala the first RTI digital State of India. CPPR initiates research in the areas of energy security, maritime security, terrorism, inter-state and inter-country cooperation and extremism. It seeks to develop database and expertise on security in India at regional level. It also aims to develop a vision plan for Centre-State relationship in national security. So, this aids the Indian Government and its security agencies in developing a framework to strengthen security and coordination at State level. This centre has significantly manifested its presence in society within its short span of time. Through academic and non-academic activities, the CPPR initiated a change in the existing system of society (Wikipedia, 2021b).

'*Indian School of Public Policy*' (ISPP) has been established to develop a new class of policy leaders for India. The one-year programme at ISPP has been designed to have extensive knowledge of Indian context and achieve globally relevant skills. The programme prepares policy leaders and policy professionals with skills, wisdom and ethics to imagine design and implement relevant solutions to India's policy and governance challenges. It focuses on the design and management of public policy by delivering new debates, discoveries and developments (Wikipedia, 2021c).

Crable and Vibbert (1985) reported that three major topics which play an important role in the development of strategic management are:

- a) basic misunderstandings about issue management and policy influence;
- b) process which can be called the management of an issue's '*status*'; and
- c) presentation of a '*catalytic*' model of issue management and policy influence.

Dozier (1985) stated that pseudo-planning and pseudo-evaluation are often response of practitioners to management demands for accountability. Such steps are stopgaps which do little to enhance public relations as an emerging profession. Difficulty lies in differing orientations of new-time and old-time practitioners. The latter disclaim planning and issue management for technical realm of producing communication about an organization. Author advised that foundations which support public relations should pursue a strategic plan to stimulate evolution of true planning and evaluation practices.

Until the end of the 1960s, the political mandates were clear and administrators were thought to implement policies as per the intentions of decision makers in USA. The process of *'translating policy into action'* attracted more attention, as the policies seemed to lag behind the policy expectations. Thereby, the first generation of *'policy implementation'* studies, which dominated much of the 1970s, was characterized by a pessimistic undertone. This pessimism was fuelled by several case studies which represented the shining examples of implementation failure. Later on, a decisive impact on the development of implementation research helped to stimulate a growing body of literature. Further studies were also popular when writing about the discovery of a 'missing link' in studying the policy process was described. It was further pointed out that the implementation research had been conducted under different headings before the 1970s. Nevertheless, the most noteworthy achievement of the first generation of implementation researchers was to raise awareness of the policy issue in general public and wider community (Pulzl and Treib, 2007).

Public policies are instruments, and the policy study in the mode emerged from operations research during the Second World War was originally envisaged as handmaidens in that ambition. There was a distinctly *'high modernist'* feel to the enterprise, back then: an overwhelming confidence in our ability to measure, technocratic hubris, married to a sense of mission to make a better world, boundless confidence in our capacity actually to pull off the task of control, and monitor and control the world. High modernism in the largest democracies was rule by *'the best and the brightest'*. The policy problems were technical questions, resolvable by the systematic application of technical expertise. First in the Pentagon, then elsewhere across the wider policy community, the *'art of judgment'* gave way to the dictates of slide-rule efficiency. Traces of that technocratic hubris remain, in consulting houses and IMF missions and certain other important corners of the policy universe. However, across most of that world, there (over the last half-century) has been a gradual chastening of the boldest *'high modernist'* hopes for public policy. Even in the 1970s, when the high modernist canon still ruled, perceptive social scientists had begun to highlight the limits to administration, control and implementation. Subsequently, the limits of authority and accountability have borne down upon us. Many of the tools in the high modernist kit are very powerful within limits, but they are strictly limited (Goodin et al., 2011).

Ghosh (2002) carried out a project "Social Policy in Indian Development", sponsored by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) programme, Geneva. In this project, it has been reported that *'social policy'* is or rather the complex web of related policies, schemes and institutions which are concerned with the social conditions of economic activity and reflects the broad social contract between capital and labour. In developing economies, it refers specifically for management of the developmental issues. For many developing countries including India, the project remains partially or largely unfulfilled and although this state of incompleteness still has not prevented it from being very nearly abandoned in several instances. It is evident that social policy has a significance which goes beyond even the valid concerns about basic equity and minimal living standards that form the part of social and economic rights of citizens. Indeed, it can play a major role in the capitalist development project at several stages. For example, social policies of affirmative action in parts of Southeast Asia (as in Malaysia) have been essential to maintaining ethnic harmony over periods when existing income inequalities and social imbalances across groups within the aggregate population would be otherwise accentuated by economic growth patterns. Similarly, when overenthusiastic and possibly insensitive developmental projects overturn existing local communities or destroy material cultures without satisfactory replacement, social policy can become the basic instrument for rehabilitation and renewed social integration. The massive human shifts (geographic, economic, social) which most development projects entail are potentially sources of much conflict, and often social policy is the most effective means of containing such conflict or at least keeping it within levels that do not destabilise the society or derail the development project itself. Another important and related role of social policy is of course that of legitimisation is not only of the State, but of the development project itself. This need for legitimisation arises both for the long run process and in terms of short run crisis management. It is now accepted that economies with a large public sector presence (in terms of share of GDP or employment) have more muted business cycles or tend to suffer less extreme recessions. Social policy also affects the conditions of labour, that there is an increase in the aggregate social productivity of labour, rather than simply increases in labour productivity in particular sectors which reflect different technological choices. Now, it has been widely recognised that the universal provision of good education and basic health services are important conditions for raising aggregate labour productivity levels. But even other aspects of social policy like working conditions, access to other public services, etc. play important

roles. Both the economic policy and the social policy patterns, even when they appear to be unchanging in a statutory sense, are actually quite dynamic and intertwined with the political economy configurations, which also constantly evolve. It is, therefore, clearly evident from the Indian experience that there is clear need for effective social policy and the relative inadequacy of what has been provided by the State in terms of meeting the basic objectives of the nationalist developmental project.

It has been further discussed by Ghosh (2002) that social policy in the Indian development process has drawn insights from rather haphazard pattern of implementation in India, finding in its very lack of direction and vision some association with the chaotic democratic polity within which it occurred, and the variegated demands which were sought to be fulfilled at different time. However, social policy has not been a basic instrument of development strategy rather it has emerged essentially in the form of adhoc responses to particular demands emanating from groups that have acquired some degrees of political voice. In a longer term, the economic regime and associated social policy failed miserably in raising aggregate social labour productivity and reducing the employment slack in the system, or in underwriting labour costs for employers including exporters. The more significant forms of social policy in the Indian context were found to be: education, employment creation through public works, affirmative action in the form of reservation for public services employment and educational institutions, agrarian reform, food procurement and distribution, changes in forms and structures of governance through decentralization, some devolution of resources, and antipoverty programmes directed towards small asset creation or micro-credit. So, the substantial public provisions of basic housing and of basic health services that were cornerstones of social policy in East Asia, have been absent in Indian case in almost all the States. Likewise, social insurance programmes have been noticed very little.

Weiner (1979) said the roles and natures of different institutions working on policy issues, including '*Indian Institute of Management*' (IIM). He concluded that the research in this area is in a preliminary stage. Studies are still scattered and normally unrelated to one another, lack a theoretical focus and are not cumulative. During last decade, with the support of Indian Government, dedicated programmes in public policy and management were introduced by different institutes like IIMs, Management Development Institute and many Central Universities. But, there are few political scientists, sociologists or anthropologists focusing on the public policies. Most of the policy analyses and debates are dominated by economists, and insights from other social sciences are relatively new. Resultantly, some critical aspects of policy studies are relatively well developed (e.g. measuring policy effects), but others are very less (Kumar and Narain, 2014).

Further, Kumar and Narain (2014) observed that nature of the policy process has changed dramatically in our country. Emerging demographic trends at national level (e.g. urbanization) and environmental trends at global level (e.g. climate change) have further explained the contours of public policy and governance, posing new challenges for policy formulation and engendering debates on appropriate governance. Public policies have succeeded in keeping management capacity at lower levels, but there have been found more difficult to alter the power and control relations. Process of involving users in public service delivery or in the management of public infrastructure through deliberate public policy intervention has come to carry out in several sectors. However, many factors have limited the effectiveness of process, for example, the reproduction of unequal power relations in the internal working of local user groups, limited the attention to questions of rights and entitlements, as well as the resistance within the bureaucracy.

Chang (2006) and Kumar and Narain (2014) reported that at global level, many trends have formed the policy, often making claims of the erosion of the State autonomy. Kumar and Narain (2014) further pointed out that now the bridge between practice and policy has taken the shape to fill the gap as Government is doing so; and finally, it has been seen from recent internship programme in higher education as announced by '*Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India*' that stresses on engaging Indian students in policy analysis. This shows a shift from policy-analysis processes towards participatory decision-making. Thus, a policy space has also been opened for policy analysts other than positivists. The need for social perspectives on public policy is an emergence of a new paradigm of governance, and is a result of various engagements with civil society, judicial activism, media and private sector. Framing, designing and implementing the long-term sustainable changes need the '*truth*' that sometimes can cause a political risk for policy makers. So, impurity and its effects bring with them the need to investigate the past. Truth in policy-making is still caught up in the form of a struggle. Judgment does not only depend on the fulfilment of a procedure for a long time, but it is based on the reality. Lack of academic resources and consolidated insights on the policy issues has frequently treated symptoms rather than the causes. This signifies that the reality of the fact must be established for one to escape the effects of the impurity.

Although our country is divided by caste, religion and region, these divisions have persisted largely because of the lack of structural and organized linkages between policy makers and academia. In consequence, the premise of policy-making has remained embedded in bureaucratic power structures. So, despite the right intention, policy decisions have remained insufficient due to incomplete knowledge of reality. '*Radio*' as a developmental intervention has the value of reinstating locally suited policy instrument for appropriate

sustainable development. This has analyzed the social and spatial characteristics of the communities which are dispersed, and as their issues and needs are both unique and varied, the 'community radios' hold an enormous potential for promoting sustainable development by strengthening the grass-roots communities. In turn, it exhibits the role of 'Community Radio Stations' in promoting development by democratizing access to information. In nutshell, the policy environment in India has been framed by a curious intersection of globalization and localization, growing demands and movements for transparency and accountability and a growing intellectual interest in policy implementation process, the professionalization of bureaucracy and an institutionalization of public policy research (Kumar and Narain, 2014).

Malhotra (2014) reported that 'India Public Policy Report' (IPPR) is a first of its kind report which besides reflecting on policy advocacy needs, has improved public policy making and implementation process in India. This has developed an independent platform for bringing together state-of-art policy research on different issues of policy, thereby contributing to public policy effectiveness. Key points of this report are:

- (a) it gives a framework for objective assessment of policy effectiveness for use, especially in developing countries;
- (b) it focuses on strengthening a culture of evidence-based policy making anchored in rigorous research;
- (c) it provides a multidisciplinary analysis based on evidence on the report's thematic focus- 'Poverty, Hunger and Malnutrition'; and
- (d) it gives a methodology for periodic assessment and analysis of public policy options, choices exercised and performance at State level in India with a view to improve policy outcomes and their developmental impact.

V. Conclusion

Public policy is a contested academic terrain, and is as old as the Government. Policy consists of many decisions which are taken to fulfil the goals by a onetime action. 'NITI Aayog' is working in place of 'Planning Commission' which is trying all its best by involving many factors, including 'think tank'. It gives suggestions to State Governments and Government of India. NITI Aayog should make evaluations of flagship programmes being run by the Government and help in delivering those programmes on ground. It has a role in governance and its larger role is to align with the Government policies and give them suggestions. One of the main instruments to improve human capabilities, apart from education is 'Health'. Any development process which works through health is observed to result in sustainable overall development. 'Skill development' is necessary for productivity growth and it needs to be an integral part of development policies. Policies should address the levels of development and need of various sectors. Besides, 'skill policy' should focus on improving access, quality and relevance of training for various segments and sectors. During last few years, study of policy and policy-making has become one of the most important branches of Political Science. It has opened new university courses, an institute for public policy research and many new journals, including Policy Sciences, The Public Interest, Canadian Public Policy, etc.

Public policy is both an outcome and a process- as an outcome, it is an authoritative decision that is universally applicable in a specific socio-political context; and as a process, it shows how such decisions are taken by authorized means of governance. The public policies are of many types, such as substantive, distributive redistributive and regulatory. 'Planning' has been an integral part of India's developmental and administrative process. 'Panchayati Raj Institutions' were primarily entrusted with task of monitoring, supervision and implementation through line departments. NITI Aayog has done many good works in the areas of land acquisition, whether public sector undertakings should work as Government department or as a commercial organization, digital economy, etc. 'National Skill Development Policy' (NSDP) provides a framework to access various target groups to realise their potential for productive work and contribute in economic and social development. NSDP provides for integration of skill development into national development polices, e.g. as developing infrastructure, reducing poverty and decent work agenda. In India, various 'research organisations / institutions and think tanks' are working for public policy. 'India Public Policy Report' is a first of its kind report which besides reflecting on policy advocacy needs, has improved public policy making and implementation process in India.

Acknowledgement

This research study has been performed by the Corresponding (first) author in partial fulfilment for the requirements of his Doctor's Degree Programme of Political Science at Awdesh Pratap Singh University (APSU), Rewa, MP, India. Thus, the authors are grateful to the authorities of APSU, Rewa for registering and admitting the first author as PhD Scholar, and also to Principal, Govt. TRS College (Autonomous), Rewa for permitting first author to conduct his research study. The first author also thankfully acknowledges to all the participants who helped him during course of research study, especially to Prof. (Dr.) Govind Pandey for helping in the writing of research work.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Adolino, J.R. and Blake, C.H. (2011). *Comparing Public Policies : Issues and Choices in Industrialized Countries*. CQ Press, Washington DC.
- [2]. Birkland, T.A. (2011). *An Introduction to the Policy Process : Theories, Concepts and Models of Public Policy Making (3rd Edn.)*. PHI Learning, New Delhi.
- [3]. Chakrabarty, B. and Chand, P. (2016). *Public Policy : Concept, Theory and Practice*. Sage Publications India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
- [4]. Chang, H. (2006). Policy space in historical perspective with special reference to trade and industrial policies. *Economic & Political Weekly*, XLI(7), 627-634.
- [5]. Crable, R.E. and Vibbert, S.L. (1985). Managing issues and influencing public policy. *Public Relations Review*, 11(2): 3-16.
- [6]. Dayal, I. (1996). Organization for Policy Formulation. In: *Development Policy and Administration*, Mathur, K. (ed.). Sage Publications, New Delhi.
- [7]. Dozier, D.M. (1985). Planning and evaluation in PR practice. *Public Relations Review*, 11(2): 17-25.
- [8]. Dye, T.R. (2017). *Understanding Public Policy*, 15th Edn. Prentice Hall, Pearson.
- [9]. Ghosh, J. (2002). *Social Policy in Indian Development*. Project on Social Policy in a Development Context. United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) programme, Geneva.
- [10]. GOI (Government of India) (1981). *Health for all by the Year 2000*. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi.
- [11]. Goodin, R.E., Rein, M. and Moran, M. (2011). Overview of public policy: The public and its policies. In: *The Oxford Handbook of Political Science*. Oxford University Press.
- [12]. Gruber, J. (2015). *Public Finance and Public Policy*, 5th Edn. Worth Publishers.
- [13]. *Human Development Report (1991)*. UNDP, Oxford University Press, New York. p. 1.
- [14]. Kumar, A. and Narain, V. (2014). Public policy and governance in India. *Vision*, 18(4): 257-260.
- [15]. Malhotra, R. (2014). *India Public Policy Report 2014: Tackling Poverty, Hunger and Malnutrition*. OUP Catalogue, Oxford University Press, No. 9780199452040.
- [16]. Pulzl, H. and Treib, O. (2007). Implementing Public Policy. In: *Hand Book of Public Policy Analysis*, 1st Edn. Tylor & Francis Group, New York.
- [17]. Sanghi, S. and Srija, A. (2017). Skill development and productivity of the workforce. *Focus of the Month*, Confederation of Indian Industry. www.niti.gov.in/articles.
- [18]. Sen, Amartya (1999). Health in development. *Bulletin of World Health Organization (WHO)*: 77(8).
- [19]. Simeon, R. (1976). Studying public policy. *Canadian J. Political Science*, 9(4): 548-580.
- [20]. Sodhi, J.S., Ramanujam, M.S., Rawal, K.L. and Pandey, N.N. (2016). Effectiveness of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in health care system in the state of Madhya Pradesh: Impact of duality and role of bureaucracy in new approaches. Shri Ram Centre for Industrial Relations & Human Resources, Research Division, NITI Aayog, Government of India, New Delhi.
- [21]. Weiner, M. (1979). Social science research and public policy in India. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 14(37), 1581-1587.
- [22]. Wheelan, C.J. (2011). *Introduction to Public Policy*. W.W. Norton & Co., New York, USA.
- [23]. Wikipedia (2022a). Centre for Policy Research.
- [24]. Wikipedia (2022b). Centre for Public Policy Research.
- [25]. Wikipedia (2022c). Indian School of Public Policy.
- [26]. www.insightsonindia.com/big-picture-two-years-niti-aayog (2017). The Big Picture: Two years of NITI Aayog.