

Introduction of the substantive dimension in the discipline of public administration is today well recognized and what is more, its emphasis in the subject is progressively growing. Ample evidence exists to support this trend. The forums of public administration in India these days devote themselves almost exclusively to the study of substantive concerns of the contemporary world. This is an undoubtedly desirable dimension of public administration.

Public administration has necessarily to study the process but in addition also substantive concerns. But it is not possible for any subject to impart mastery of all other subjects to its votaries, however interdisciplinary it is. There is thus no escape.

In short, public administration deals with the study of:

1. The 'executive in action', i.e. public bureaucracy
2. Policy-making.
3. Non-government agencies like political parties, interest groups, mass movement, terrorism, etc. seeking to mould government's action and behaviour.
4. The corporate sector, at any rate that part of it which is dependent on governmental funding.
5. Both the process of administration and the substantive concerns.

Different scholars have defined public administration differently, depending on their individual orientations. A few of these definitions are given here:

"Perhaps it is best that it (public administration) not be defined" tells Frederick C. Mosher.

Public Administration is 'executive branch of government' (Felix a. Nigro)

F.W. Willoughby: two meanings:

Public Administration is involved in the actual conduct of governmental affairs regardless of the particular branch of government concerned -

It denotes the operations of the administrative branch only. Willoughby defines Public Administration in the latter sense.

"In its broadest sense, it denotes the work involved in the actual conduct of governmental affairs, regardless of the particular branch of government concerned In its narrowest sense, it denotes the operations of the administrative branch only.
W.F. Willoughby

"Public Administration consists of all those operations having for those purpose the fulfilment or enforcement of public policy." Leonard D. white (1926)

John A. Vieg say, Public Administration embraces every area and activity governed by Public Policy