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(PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION)

Q. Write short note on devolution and good governance. (10 marks)

Ans

1) INTRODUCTION

Devolution is a form of decentralization. It is a tool to achieve the principles of good governance. There are certain obstacles in the way of devolution and good governance which must be addressed through comprehensive measures for to achieve real good governance.

2) DEFINING DEVOLUTION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

⇒ "Devolution is a form of decentralization where transfer of power from central government to sub national levels takes place."

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The contemporary examples of devolution include;

Scottish Parliament
Local authorities in United Kingdom.

While good governance can be achieved by the principles of participation, responsiveness, effectiveness and efficiency, transparency, accountability, rule of law and equity (Ref: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific)

3) DEVOLUTION LEADS TO ACHIEVE THE PRINCIPLES OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

3.1) Enhanced Participation

Devolution enhance the public participation in decision-making processes by involving maximum citizens at different levels.

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3.2) Increased Responsiveness;

Devolution of power and responsibility among the local representative and administrators ensures rampant responsiveness to the masses.

3.3) Increased efficiency and effectiveness

The local representative are well aware of the local conditions of the people and cities. Thus, devolving power to them leads to effective and efficient resource distribution.

3.4) Equitable Resource Distribution

The local authorities distribute the equitable resources as per the needs of people rather than top-down uniform approach.

3.5) Accountability and Transparency are ensured

As local bodies are more accountable to the local people as they can approach them easily. Thus devolving power to them ensures accountability and transparency.

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4) CHALLENGES IN THE WAY OF DEVOLUTION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

There are certain challenges which hinder devolution to ensure good governance. These may include the resistance of central government to devolve power to local bodies, the resource constraints of the sub-national levels, the inefficient transparency and accountability mechanism, etc.

5) KEY MEASURES FOR SUCCESSFUL DEVOLUTION AND CONSEQUENTLY GOOD GOVERNANCE

Therefore, it is necessary to address these obstacles for the success of devolution and good governance. This can be achieved through ways such as establishing legal framework for the distribution of power, increasing inter-governmental co-operation, establishing effective accountability and transparency mechanism, and providing adequate

