

What are the salient features of a professional and apolitical bureaucracy?

Exordium

For effective and good governance, a professional and apolitical bureaucracy is prerequisite. These apolitical bureaucrats are skilled, professional, experienced and expert individuals. The professional and apolitical bureaucrats are skilled as they get special training for it. Their job is to ensure the law and order and welfare of human society. These professional and apolitical bureaucrats have long history, traced back to colonial time period. This department was abolished and weakened many times through out the history. Regardless of that, professional and apolitical bureaucracy ensures the good governance.

Here is detailed explanation of

the salient features of professional and apolitical bureaucracy.

A- Neutrality of bureaucracy

The professional and apolitical bureaucrats are selected and appointed through merit and competitive exams. These are not elected persons which are associated to specific political party. This neutrality is a reason of fair treatment without any influenced decision. The apolitical bureaucrate only concerns with welfare regardless of political support. The neutrality is the purity of professional bureaucracy.

B- Merit based recruitment

There is a tough competition among high qualified individuals and they are selected on merit. Later they also get special trainings. The whole procedure of appointment of apolitical bureaucracy is merit based. This

gave them sense to take decisions on merit. They fulfill their duties on merit without any biasness and nepotism. For instance, an apolitical bureaucrat will listen and govern his area with merit. He/she will not be tilted towards anyone for any materialistic gain.

c. Transparency throughout service

The selection of apolitical bureaucracy is also a transparent procedure. The merit and accuracy make it confident to be transparent. The bureaucracy govern public in transparent manner, as all the development programs and revenue usage is transparent they gain trust of public. Their activities are not hidden, they make file regarding details of projects. The reason is also they are not elected and can be sacked out. Transparency is also necessary for good governance.

D. Accountability of bureaucracy:

The professional and apolitical bureaucrats are obliged to cooperate with the system and they must be accountable. The seniors get check on juniors. Also, they are accountable at different level in provincial service. They can hide any activity. It can lead to dismissal from service.

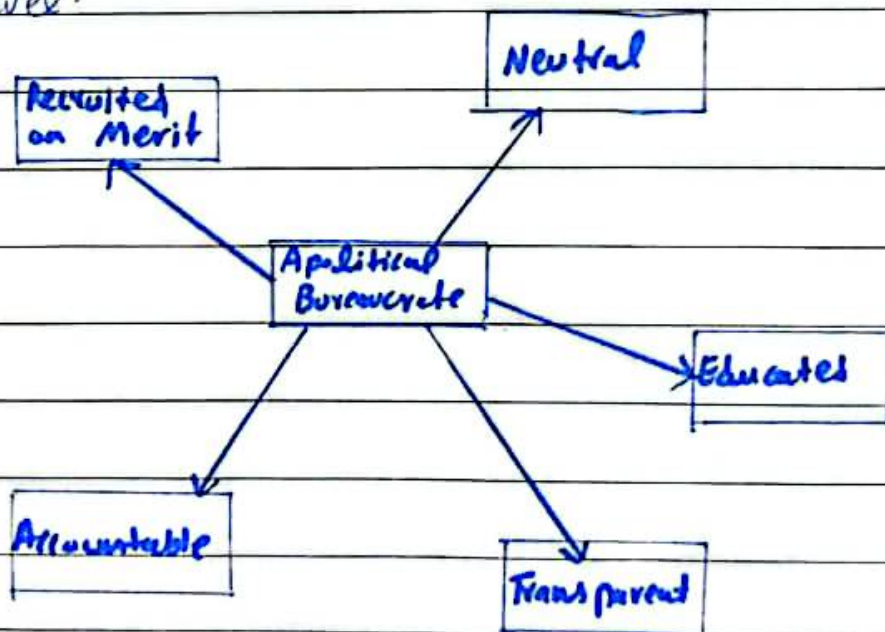
The feature of accountability makes sure the welfare of society by using powers of professional and apolitical bureaucracy. For instance, an apolitical bureaucrat (Assistant Commissioner) is accountable before other apolitical bureaucrats (Deputy Commissioner, Commissioner).

E. Educated individuals

The feature of higher education also make them different from local self government. They are mostly experts in their field and necessarily trained for their

respective field. They use their expertise in practical field, they can better understand society.

They make different, new and effective policies for welfare of public. For instance, a bureaucrat which is graduated and qualified a merit. Also, trained by the state for effective duties. There will be evident difference among his policies and an elected individual at local level.



Criticism on apolitical bureaucracy

It is the backbone of good governance and efficient management but apolitical and professional.

bureaucrats are often criticised for various reasons. The devolution of power during military dictators and abolition of apolitical bureaucracy during Musharraf era disturbed the governance of Pakistan. Ishrat Hussain, in his 'Governing the ungovernable' greatly explained the benefits of devolution of power. The failure of local government in Pakistan is because of various reasons. Role of bureaucracy is one of conspicuous reasons. It is criticized that bureaucracy hinders establishment of local government as they don't want to share power.

Devouement

In a nutshell, professional and apolitical bureaucracy is very significant for welfare of society and good governance. They ensure transparency, accountability, decisions based on merit, better developmental strategies and most important neutrality.