Need for Research on Good Governance and Leadership: Indian Perspective

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ABSTRACT

In contemporary times, there is a huge emphasis on bringing in good governance at all levels - be it government, corporate or non-profit sector. One of the major aspects that drives the society towards good governance is leadership. This article explores the concepts of governance and leadership in the Indian context. It acknowledges that Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity (VUCA) has significant impact. Thus, there is a need to drive the change and improve the scenario. The paper reviews the literature and applies a conceptual lens to provide insights into the governance and leadership in India. It captures the dimensions related to the challenges faced, and ways to improve scenarios.

KEYWORDS – Development, Good Governance, Leadership, Society, Sustainability.

1. INTRODUCTION

The concept of good governance and leadership is a concern at all levels. Be it government, corporate or non-profit, efforts are being made to address these issues. The Indian situation is unique and complex and thus requires special attention.

Good governance is the need of the hour as responsible behavior towards all stakeholders is essential. Leadership, on the other hand, has the potential to bring the desired change in society. This paper suggests that the interplay between governance and leadership in India is critical for addressing the challenges faced not only by India, but the whole world. The objective of this article is to present a comprehensive analysis of the current state of governance and leadership in India.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature has been reviewed and categorized under sections that bring in historical aspects, political landscape, bureaucracy, economics, and other societal aspects.

2.1. Historical Context of Governance in India and Political Leadership

Several studies delve into the historical evolution of governance in India. This historical perspective provides a backdrop against which contemporary governance issues can be understood. A significant body of literature focuses on democratic governance in India. Scholars have examined the functioning of democratic institutions, electoral politics, federalism, and the role of political parties. For example, a study on by Narayana explores the principles of responsible leadership as described in the ancient Indian text, the Bhagavad Gita [1]. Leadership within this democratic framework has been a point of focus, particularly the influence of charismatic leaders and the dynamics of leadership within major political parties.

2.2 Economic Policies, Social Equity and Governance:

The liberalization of the Indian economy and subsequent economic policies have been a major area of study. Researchers have explored the impact of these policies on governance, including how economic reforms have reshaped the relationship between the state, the market, and civil society. There is developmental lacuna in society, which Sharma terms as 'distorted development' [2].

2.3. Challenges in Governance and Leadership:
Many scholars have focused on the challenges facing governance and leadership in India Zsolnai discussed some problems with modern leadership which are being faced today [3]. According to him the self-centered perspective of leaders hampers the achievement of organizational goals. These studies often propose reformative measures to enhance governance and leadership quality.

Research Gap and Objectives:
In this backdrop of the extant literature reviewed, there is a need to study the good governance and leadership in the Indian context.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This paper adopts a conceptual research methodology, focusing on an analysis and synthesis of existing literature to explore the themes of good governance and leadership in the Indian context.
Key steps followed:
1. Literature Review: A broad range of literature sources, including academic journals, books, government reports, and credible online resources, have been reviewed.
2. Thematic Analysis: The literature reviewed was analyzed using thematic analysis approach to identify key themes related to governance and leadership in India.
3. Synthesis and Interpretation: The insights gathered from the thematic analysis were synthesized to draw meaningful interpretations and conclusions.
4. Critical Evaluation and Discussion: The paper critically evaluates the current state of governance and leadership in India. Further, it also explores the implications of these findings for policymakers, leaders, and citizens.

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1. Ancient Wisdom and its impact on Contemporary Governance:
The historical legacy of India, from its ancient times suggests that focus on good governance has been a central aspect. It has features of Ram Rajya and Kautiliya's approach along with recent developments across the globe. For instance, research of Chendroyaperumal & Chandramouli analyses the Ramayan to identify leadership and managerial lessons [4]. Contemporary governance in India is a complex interplay of these historical influences and the demands of a modern democratic state.

4.2. Democratic Governance and Political Leadership:
Gisselquist characterizes good governance as the utilization of political, economic, and administrative power to steer a country's affairs across all sectors [5]. India's democratic framework has both enabled and constrained its governance and leadership. While democracy provides a platform for representation and accountability to overcome challenges.
4.3. Economic Governance and Development:
Post-economic liberalization, India has seen significant growth. However, this growth has seen improvements in the last decade due to reforms initiated by the current government since 2014.
4.4. Social Equity and Inclusion:
Ali posits that good governance is a critical element for sustainable socio-economic advancement [6]. The effective leadership in India since 2014 has played a crucial role in promoting inclusive policies that cater to the diverse needs of India's population.
4.5. Leadership:
Good leaders ensure that followers bank upon their social resources to deliver goals effectively and efficiently [7]. Leadership in India is characterized by a mix of different styles and a multiparty system.
4.6. Global and Local Interactions:
At global level India's governance and leadership are increasingly being acknowledged and the events like G20 summit organized in 2023 are illustrations of the same.
These findings highlight the salient features of governance and leadership in India. The discussion suggests that while there are significant challenges, there are also many positive aspects which can help not only India to grow but the whole world.

5. CONCLUSION

The main conclusion that can be drawn from this article is that Integrating Historical Legacies and Modern Demands: India's governance structures, influenced by historical legacies, must continue to evolve to meet the demands of a rapidly changing global and domestic environment. Balancing the ancient wisdom with recent developments is the path for effective governance through saatvik leadership. Through this India can ensure more

comprehensive and sustainable solutions to not only the country's needs but also to guide the world towards betterment.

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