

# Contemporary problems in public administration



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Public administration plays a major role in the functioning of our community. It helps with the implementation of government policy to employ and prepare civil servants for working in the public service. Although public administration is a major source for the betterment of the community, trying to grasp the idea of how public administration works can be difficult because there are many fields that make up public administration. When people ask what public administration is? "It is a complex interdisciplinary field that includes a variety of agencies and is linked to overall distinct professions. The simplest way to define public administration is as "management of public programs" (Tendered & Tendered, 2009, p. 1) or as "government in action - the management of public affairs or the implementation of public policies" (Asphalts, Russell, & Brock, 2011, p. 6). However, public administration (PA) is a complex interdisciplinary field that includes a variety of agencies and is linked to several distinct professions. Asphalts, Russell, and Brock (2011) propose 18 different functions that help to grasp the richness and subtlety of the term "public administration. The definitions of public administration are combined in four broad models: (1) political, (2) legal, (3) managerial, and (4) occupational. 0 Political: Public administration comprises all the activities of government employees. This is what government does. Public administration is implementation of public interest. PA exists within a political environment and this political context is what makes it "public" or different from private/business administration. Legal: Public administration is bound by law.

Public administration is application of laws and regulations. PA is law in action in the form of statutes, regulations, ordinances, codes, etc. CLC

Managerial: Public administration is execution of decisions, and reassurance of managing organizations. The executive dimension of PA enables the public will to be translated into action through the structures and process of public bureaucracy. 0 Occupational: Public administration is an occupational category, an academic field, and a profession.

A wide range of public employees (physicians, engineers, teachers, police officers, social workers etc. ) transform the political, legal, and managerial aspects of public administration into the work of government. It is also important to make a distinction between career public service practitioners and elected officials and political appointees. We will use terms such as " public employee," " practitioner," " public professional," and " public administrator" to refer to individuals who occupy career positions on the basis of their expertise and experience.

These public service professionals usually serve across changes in political leadership. We will use the terms " elected official" and " politician" to refer to officials to fill public service positions based on loyalty to politicians or parties. They may or may not have technical qualifications for their positions and they often serve only during the terms of the elected officials who appointed them. Another way to conceptualize public administration is to contrast it to private or business administration.

There are at least four differences when it comes to public and private management: 1) Public versus private interest: Public managers are pursuing public purposes under circumstances that feature an ambiguity of objectives,

a multiplicity of decision centers, and high public visibility. Private enterprise is one in which private interest privately arrived at is paramount.