The Changing Nature of Public Administration: From Easy Answers to Hard Questions

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Abstract

The changes in public administration over the past several decades have been expressed primarily in terms of a contrast between New Public Management and traditional administration. This paper points to a third strand of development, usually referred to as "governance". The changes imposed by New Public Management and by governance are to some extent occurring simultaneously, but have very different implications for the public sector.

Keywords

public management; reform; governance

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"Increasingly, public administration practitioners and academicians are faced with demands from politicians and citizens that government should be operated like a business. By this they mean it should be cost efficient". An important aspect of public administration of any modern state is it is not properly and efficiently managed. The concepts public administration and public have raised questions and several problems. Let us define public administration for the clarity of the present discussion. It assumes new and changing shapes and designs to suit the purposes of the people or group of people concerned. In a developing state a society is divided into many ethnic, religious, communal or tribal groups and they have their own claims and purposes. The changes in public administration over the past several decades have been expressed primarily in terms of a contrast between New Public Management and traditional administration. This paper points to a third strand of development, usually referred to as "governance". The changes imposed by New Public Management and by governance are to some extent occurring simultaneously, but have very different implications for the public sector.
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