

THE ROLE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

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Human rights are fundamental principles in modern democratic societies, essential for the existence of any civilized nation. These rights include the right to life, liberty, personal security, protection from arbitrariness and discrimination, access to information, and participation in governance. Ensuring these rights is a core responsibility of both state institutions and public authorities. In this context, public administration plays a central role in safeguarding human rights, not only by establishing legislation but also through institutional mechanisms and efficient administration.

The purpose of this report is to explore how public administration contributes to the protection of human rights in the modern world, while also addressing the challenges public institutions face in fulfilling these tasks. Public administration and human rights are two important areas that intersect in contemporary society. To understand how public administration interacts with human rights is crucial for effectively protecting these rights and achieving social justice.

Public administration is a process in which public institutions and authorities ensure public welfare by creating and implementing policies and decisions that affect society as a whole. It encompasses a wide range of activities related to regulating, coordinating, and providing various public services. This includes the administrative functions of the state, as well as legislative and judicial bodies. Public administration operates under several key characteristics: it must act within the framework of the law, ensuring all actions of state authorities are based on clear legal norms, including national laws and international treaties. Public authorities must be transparent and accountable to citizens, providing information about policies and decisions, and enabling citizens to express their opinions and control the actions of the government. Moreover, public administration must be efficient, ensuring maximum benefits for society at minimal costs while meeting the needs of citizens and protecting their rights and freedoms. It is essential that public administration remains neutral and independent from political interests and influences to guarantee equal treatment for all citizens.

Human rights represent a set of basic rights and freedoms possessed by every human being, regardless of their origin, race, gender, religion, nationality, or social status. They are universal and inalienable, based on the

principles of human dignity, equality, and liberty. Human rights are characterized by several key principles. They are universal, meaning they apply to everyone regardless of background or beliefs. They are inalienable, meaning they cannot be removed or arbitrarily restricted, and they form the foundation of social and political justice. Furthermore, equality is a central principle of human rights, ensuring that everyone has the right to equal treatment and enjoyment of rights and freedoms, irrespective of personal characteristics, with protection against discrimination. Lastly, the right to protection is crucial, ensuring that every individual has access to justice and the ability to seek redress through independent judicial bodies or competent institutions.

Public administration plays a vital role in both implementing and protecting human rights. It ensures that human rights are not only recognized in law but are effectively protected in practice. This role of public administration can be examined from several perspectives. Public administration is responsible for creating laws that guarantee human rights. This involves both national legislation and the implementation of international treaties, such as the European Convention on Human Rights or the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Public institutions must adopt legal norms that ensure the protection of human rights in various areas of public life, including healthcare, education, labor rights, and minority rights. Every democratic state must establish structures to ensure the effective protection of human rights. These could be institutions like ombudsmen, human rights commissions, specialized courts, or independent agencies that monitor citizens' rights and respond to violations. Public administration must create and implement policies that protect vulnerable groups, such as women, children, migrants, minorities, and people with disabilities. These policies include not only laws but also social programs aimed at reducing social inequality and protecting basic rights. Public institutions must also inform citizens of their rights and provide tools for protection. This can be achieved through educational programs, public campaigns, and by providing access to legal advice and information, especially for those who have been victims of human rights violations. In the framework of public administration, citizens must have the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes, particularly on issues that directly affect their rights and freedoms. This right to participation is essential for democratic governance and ensures that the decisions of the authorities are legitimate and acceptable to society.

Another critical aspect of public administration is ensuring the right to a fair process. Every citizen must have access to justice, including the right to a defense, the right to a prompt trial, and the right to equality before the court. Several international documents serve as the foundation for legislation and public administration in the context of human rights. These include the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international covenants, and regional conventions that form the normative basis for contemporary human rights protection systems globally.

Public administration plays a crucial role in ensuring and protecting human rights through legislation and institutional mechanisms. Governments and parliamentary bodies are central in creating and enforcing laws that guarantee human rights, both through national legislation and by adhering to international treaties and conventions, such as the European Convention on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Public administration also creates institutions that safeguard human rights, such as ombudsmen, independent commissions, and judicial bodies. Moreover, public institutions must have effective administrative mechanisms in place to ensure the protection of citizens' rights. This involves training public sector employees on human rights, developing policies that promote social justice and equality, and creating channels for complaints and compensation for those whose rights have been violated.

Transparency and accountability are vital components of public administration in protecting human rights. Public administration must monitor the actions of public authorities and regulate the behavior of various institutions through control mechanisms. Regular reports and external audits help improve the effectiveness of public policies and ensure compliance with human rights. Additionally, public administration is responsible for providing educational programs that raise citizens' awareness of their rights. Such awareness is essential for strengthening democracy and protecting human rights, empowering citizens to challenge injustices and violations.

Despite the significant role that public administration plays in protecting human rights, it faces numerous challenges in putting these rights into practice. One of the main issues is corruption and inefficiency, particularly in countries where corruption in the public sector leads to human rights violations. The lack of proper control and accountability mechanisms results in injustices and discrimination, affecting vulnerable groups. Another challenge is the inability of public administration to effectively protect the rights of minority and marginalized groups, such as ethnic, religious, and sexual minorities. This can result in systemic violations of human rights, including discrimination and violence. The issues of globalization and migration further complicate the protection of human rights, as migrants often face discrimination and deprivation of basic rights, such as access to education, healthcare, and legal protection. Additionally, political instability and armed conflicts create conditions where human rights can be severely violated, making it difficult to protect citizens' rights during times of war and emergency situations.

In conclusion, public administration plays a vital role in safeguarding human rights through legislative and administrative actions, creating protection mechanisms, and ensuring public awareness. However, it faces significant challenges such as corruption, violence, and migration-related issues. To be effective, public administration must adapt to changing social and political conditions and provide sustainable and innovative solutions for the protection of human rights at all levels.

Summary. The report examines the critical role of public administration in the protection and promotion of human rights in modern societies. Human rights are fundamental principles in democratic governance, encompassing rights such as life, liberty, security, and freedom from discrimination. Public administration is responsible for creating and implementing policies and legislation that safeguard these rights, ensuring they are effectively upheld in practice.

The report outlines the essential characteristics of public administration, including the principles of legality, transparency, accountability, efficiency, and neutrality. It emphasizes the responsibility of public institutions to protect vulnerable groups through laws, social programs, and public awareness campaigns. Furthermore, it highlights the importance of citizen participation in decision-making processes related to human rights issues.

Despite its crucial role, public administration faces significant challenges, such as corruption, inefficiency, and the inability to protect marginalized groups. Globalization, migration, and political instability also present new obstacles to human rights protection. The report concludes by emphasizing the need for adaptive, sustainable, and innovative solutions to ensure the effective protection of human rights across all levels of public administration.

Keywords: Public Administration, Human Rights, Protection, Legislation, Social Justice, Vulnerable Groups.

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