**PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND PRIVATE ADMINISTRATION**

Public and private administration is often compared and contrasted. There is much in common between public and private administration and the difference between the two is only of degree, not of kind. It may be asserted that there is greater difference between small and large organizations than there is between public and private administrations.

First of all let us see the similarity between public and private administration. Both public and private administrations manifest common features at several points. Many of the managerial and administrative tactics are common to both. The activities like account keeping, filing etc. are in same uniformity. Both mutually taking some practices in administration. The emergence of public corporation – a halfway house between its commercial prototype and the traditional governmental department- is a pointer to this trend. Thus, there is a good deal of similarity between public and private administration.

Despite these similarities, both function in different environment and performing different functions. The environment in which public administration functions fosters protective attitude of mind in the officials, and produces certain structural and procedural characteristics with a view to securing public accountability, impartiality and standardisation. In the words of Paul H.Appleby, “Government administration differ from all other administrative works to a degree not even faintly realised outside, by virtue of its public nature , the way in which it is subject to public scrutiny and outcry. An administrator coming into government is struck at once, and continually thereafter, by the press and public interests in every detail of his life, personality and conduct. The detail often runs to details of administrative action that in private business would never be of concern other than inside the organization”. According to him three aspects differentiate government from private administration; they are 1.breadth of scope, impact and consideration, 2. Public accountability,

* 1. Political character.

Followings are the main differences between public and private administration

* + 1. Public administration serves the public and its aim is the general welfare and the public satisfaction. In contrast to this private or business administration, always orient to make more profit out of it.
    2. Public Administration has to operate strictly according to law, rules and regulations. On the contrary private administration is free from such constrains of law and regulations. There are of course general laws regulating business but individual business firms have considerable flexibility to adapt their operations to changing situations.
    3. The actions of the public administration are much more enclosed to the public gaze. An achievement rarely gets publicity, but a little fault hits the newspaper headline. This wide publicity is not to be found in private administration, nor it is so very closely watched by the public and media.
    4. Public administration keeping impartiality in its dealings with the public. It observes the principle of consistency of treatment. Whereas in private administration discrimination are freely practiced due to competitive demands.
    5. Public administration is much complex. There are many pulls and political pressures. Many minds have to meet and discuss before decisions are taken. By contrast private administration is more well-knit and single minded in operation
    6. In the organizational level also public administration is more complex compared to private organization.
    7. Public Administration has many responsibilities in terms of nation building and shaping the future of the society. It is therefore much more value oriented.
    8. There is inevitably more of red tape (thus delay) in public administration than private administration
    9. Activities of public administration are mandated by constitutional, statutory or executive authority. Private administration enjoys a much larger measure of freedom of action and behaviour
    10. Public administration is slow to adapt itself to quick changes in the environment because of the operation of checks and balances within itself as well as the complexity of environmental factors. Private administration is quicker to change.
    11. Public administration is subject to external financial control.