

Meaning and Definition

The title and context of Woodrow Wilson's essay are not solely related to Public

Administration but generally encompass the concept of administration as a whole. In this essay, the discussion revolves around both government administration (i.e., Public Administration) and private administration. Wilson's essay clarifies that before understanding governmental

administration (i.e., Public Administration) and private administration, it is essential to grasp the

meaning and concept of the term "administration." The essay delves into the discussion of both government and private administration in the context of the United States. In the backdrop of Wilson's essay, it becomes evident that

comprehending the meaning and significance of the term "administration" is a prerequisite

before delving into the understanding of government administration (i.e., Public Administration)

and private administration. The term Public Administration in English is equivalent to "administration." This word is

derived from the Latin word *administere*, which has various meanings, including caring for, managing, serving, or organizing affairs, among others.

When two or more individuals collaborate for a specific

purpose, they engage in the activity of administration. Therefore, administration generally comprises

three key characteristics:

1. Administration is a group activity: It involves the participation of two or more

individuals working together. 2. Administration aims to achieve a target: It functions with the goal of accomplishing a

specific objective or target. 3. Achieving the objective depends on the cooperation of people: The attainment of the

objective relies on the cooperation and collaboration of the individuals involved. Administration is the organized effort of a group of people working together to achieve a

common goal or objective. 1.2.1 Meaning and Definition of Administration: According to Herbert Simon, D.W. Smithburg, and V.A. Thompson, administration, in its

broadest sense, is the coordinated effort to achieve common objectives.

Various renowned

thinkers or philosophers have defined administration as follows:

1. E.N. Gladden: "Administration is a long and slightly pompous word, but it has a humble

meaning, for it means, to care for or look after people, to manage affairs... is determined

action taken in pursuit of a conscious purpose." 2. Brooks Adams:

"Administration is the capacity of coordinating man and often conflicting social energies in a single organism, so adroitly that they shall operate as a

unity." 3. Felix A. Nigro: "Administration is the organization and use of men and materials to

accomplish a purpose." 4. J.M. Pfiffner and R. Prestheus: "Administration is the organization and direction of

human and material resources to achieve desired ends." 5. L.D. White:

"The art of administration is the direction, coordination and control of many persons to achieve some purpose or objective." 6. Luther Gullick:

"Administration has to do with getting things done; with the

accomplishment of defined objectives." 7. F.M. Marx: "Administration is a determined action taken in pursuit of a conscious

purpose. It is the systematic ordering of affairs and the calculated use of resources aimed at

making those things happen which one wants to happen and foretelling to the contrary."

In this manner, "administration" can be defined in four dimensions, as interpreted by various

scholars. 1. As a Discipline: The subject of administration is taught in different universities and

colleges worldwide. In India, the inception of this subject at Lucknow University marked

the beginning of its academic study. The start of studying administration as a discipline

began after the publication of Woodrow Wilson's essay, "The Study of Administration." Subsequently, the field of administration continued to grow, reaching developing nations

with the end of colonialism. 2. As a Vocation: Organizing and streamlining the affairs of an organization or institution

often requires the expertise of professionals. These experts engage in the activities of

administration as a vocation. They play a pivotal role in various organizations, from

governmental bodies to private enterprises, where the mastery of administration is

achieved through specialized knowledge and training.

3. As a Process: Administration encompasses all the activities carried out to implement a

project or plan within an organization. It encompasses the entire process of executing the

objectives of an organization, from planning and organizing to controlling and directing. 4. As a Synonym for 'Executive' or Government: The responsibility for implementing

public policies often falls under the purview of government executive branches. Consequently, every action taken by the government is considered as part of

administration. In some cases, administration is synonymous with executive or

government functions. This is evident in terms like "Nehru Administration" or "Bush

Administration," which refer to specific periods of government leadership.