



Indian Bureaucracy: An Elite Cocoon

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ABSTRACT

Representative bureaucracy is a term that has been widely used in academia with multiple meanings in different contexts in history. This paper analyses the socio economic background of IAS officers in Kerala and how representative is the higher bureaucracy and inquire to what extent it is reflected in their administrative actions. It argues that the Bureaucracy continues to be a place for elite in India and this is main root cause of failure of Indian bureaucracy in multiple aspects. It remains inaccessible to women, religious minorities and to people from lower caste and rural background. The data for this study was collected by means of questionnaire served to the civil servants in Kerala.

Key words: Representation, Bureaucracy, Kerala, Civil service

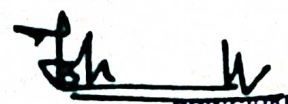
Introduction

Representation is a hot topic in every democratic society across the world because not only who should represent whom is a question but how and to what extent the representation is allowed has also becomes a serious concern. In this context this paper analyses socio economic background of IAS officers in Kerala.

Theoretical Approaches to Representative Bureaucracy

Representative Bureaucracy is a term that has been widely discussed in streams of Public administration and management but still misunderstood by many due to its theoretical overtones. The meaning of the term has also been changed many times according to the interest and context of the scholar. Before going into the case study, it is important to understand some important approaches to representative bureaucracy. First among them is active and passive representation put forth by Frederic Mosher. He seemingly favours passive representation which is also known as sociological approach. It means that “concerns the sources of origin of




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