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ABSTRACT

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With the rise of democratic movement, citizen in most countries are asking for a greater say in the policy making processes of the state. Many governments of developing countries faced with new challenges of governance such as poverty, unemployment, sustainable development, chronic diseases etc. apart from the issues of democratic governance, welfare and development. The governments increasingly realized that they are not enough compatible to formulate as well as executive the policies due to lack of understanding and support from the citizen. But, in practice, citizen participation in policy making is either minimal or negligible. On the other hand, other source of participation such as media, pressure groups, civil society etc are unable to perform their functions due to the boundaries of discretion set by the state and bureaucracy. Therefore, attempts to achieve effective participation do not always work. There is a need to determine the conditions that enable greater bottom-up participation to be effective, which is the primary goal of participatory governance.

In this thesis, the researcher has tried to explore about the characteristics of citizen participation and its relevance to policy making process in India and Turkey, the two developing democracies. It is emphasized in the study that both the countries have appealing features for comparisons on account of their similarities and dissimilarities. In context of governance, stabilization, growth and development, India and Turkey have achieved enough successes along with the fulfilling the citizen's expectation and desires. The citizen participation in democratic governance in India has increased in the past two decades and various legislations and policies have facilitated this change. Although, it is often argued and evidences are also available that there are still issues and challenges attached to citizen's participation through the available legislative and institutional spaces. The community

participation law is not enacted by many states in the country. Besides, there is also limited space for citizen participation in municipalities as well. On the other hand, in Turkey, overall the system of governance reflects a devoid of merit, participation, transparency, accountability, and strategic planning as it could not pursue the fast changes occurring in the 1990s around the world due to static bureaucratic structure and lack of civil participation in decision making as required as per the need of the time.

After going through the issues of participation in India and Turkey, following two main hypotheses have been formulated so as to take broader view about the public policy and participation in both countries: The proposed research is essentially an analytical, comparative and qualitative in nature. Hence, we heavily rely on a great number of secondary sources, such as books, research articles, reports and policy documents, report/analysis of newspapers and journals/magazines, established information available on Internet etc. Besides, various primary sources, mainly official records of respective countries, have been utilized in this research. By considering all the aspects, analyzed in the main four chapters and their gist presented in thesis, we can draw some conclusions in the following sections.

The detail analysis of the major approaches to public policy formulation in developing countries has been done. On the basis of the study, following observations and comparisons of India and Turkey have been discussed in the thesis.

To sum up all the points of similarities and differences of both the countries in terms of their policy making process and citizen participation, we observed that In India, policy making process is an exercise of democratic norms in which state itself has no any authoritative imposed guidelines for policy formulation. All the policies are formulated in accordance with the principle of decentralization, federalism and consensus is also developed at each level where as in Turkey, the policy making process is determined by its centralized political system and citizen participation is minimal.