

Citizen authority vs Citizen Powerless

This chapter helps us to understand that:

- 1. Government is a 'unit' providing and extending 'service' to the people and not for ruling over them**
- 2. The 'insecurity and urge of survival' would switch over the government people to be in 'authority' mode rather than 'service' mode.**
- 3. The Government people may, in normal course, tend to behave in 'authority' mode rather than 'service mode'**
- 4. Government in 'service mode' would behave to be in 'subordination of the citizen'**
- 5. This provides us an important clue that the extent of 'citizen authority' delegated by the government and/or available to citizen shall signify the 'Government's sincerity and usefulness to citizen'**
- 6. Government higher level in 'service mode' would directly result more 'citizen authority'.**
- 7. Government's low level in 'service mode' would directly depreciate the 'citizen authority'. So low 'citizen authority' shall signify 'excess government authority'**
- 8. Under such situation, government would be responsible for not providing enough authority to the citizen in the form of 'opportunities' and 'openings' to upgrade.**
- 9. 21 Factors signifying 'citizen authority' mentioned**
- 10. The social and mass behaviour of citizen, would be a reflection of the behaviour of the government towards them**

It has been elaborated in other chapter 'Why- Government' that a government must carry pre-defined responsibilities towards 'citizen' and 'nation' with objectives of welfare of the nation and the citizen. **The government therefore, is a 'unit' providing and extending 'service' to the people and not for ruling over them.** That is what this is for.

However, government is controlled by 'human' and every human has tendency to be 'selfish' in nature and to fulfill its personal aspirations. It is explained in different chapter that every human is born with the 'basic inbuilt programme' in the brain for its survival, which develops the feeling of insecurity and causes selfish attribute. In government, **this 'insecurity and urge of survival' would switch over the government people to be in 'authority' mode rather than 'service' mode. So there are good chances that the government people loses its 'reasons for coming to existence' and act just the other way.** When government is in 'service mode' it would behave to be in 'subordination of the citizen' and 'citizen' having delegated the 'authority' to demand for its 'needs'.

This provides us an important clue that the extent of 'citizen authority' delegated by the government and/or available to citizen shall signify the 'government's sincerity and usefulness to citizen'.

This hypothesis, needs a thorough study and analysis therefore, to analyze the 'citizen authority'.

As mentioned above it is important to understand that **'higher citizen authority' would 'lower the government authority' and 'higher 'government authority' would 'curtail the citizen authority'**

Thus Government higher level in 'service mode' would directly result more 'citizen authority'.

Government's low level in 'service mode' would directly depreciate the 'citizen authority'

There can be three scenarios of governance in respect of citizen authority vs. government authority. The first would be that **both government authority and citizen authority are high and this would be an ideal situation**, however difficult to achieve as citizen are in much large number in terms of 'human beings' compared to the 'government people' and thus providing power more than a limit to the citizen would be avoided by the **government as a natural course, for its ability to control them when citizen may behave too authoritative to cause turbulence**. The citizen is a group with different origins, life philosophies, psychologies, behavior, reactions etc thus **citizen may collide with one another or cause turbulence in society and to the government with 'authority assigned' indiscriminately**.

The **second possible combination** would be that citizen authority is much higher than the government authority. This would be desirable in a democratic arrangement however, since normally citizen are not a 'united lot' and split into different fragments and thus driven by different sentiments and perceptions about anything being good or bad, the government would have to contain extending this free authority to the citizen where the **citizen setup is less cohesive, divided into religion, caste, communities etc and 'mass thinking' is likely to be more sentimental and less based upon reasoning and rational**. On the other side, if the society is cohesive in terms of thinking being rational, the government would have higher incentive to extend more authority to the citizen.

The factors linked with the **citizen which would cause citizen to be more sentimental based thinking would be low education and intelligence (low rational/reasoning level), low occupancy of mind (may think which may not be directly relevant), low physical occupancy (have sufficient time for participating in mob)** etc. If this persists, the government would have less incentive to extend authority to citizen, however, it is also worth noting that only government is responsible for the situations leading to above factors, as this may happen if the citizen continue in a helplessness state for few decades and do not have enough opportunities to engage 'themselves'. **Thus under such situation, government would be responsible for not providing enough authority to the citizen in the form of 'opportunities' and 'openings' to upgrade.**

It is also to note that citizen would always desire to have higher authority level and low level of the same would always be because the government has not accepted it.

The **third scenario** is **that government authority is much higher than the citizen authority**. This may happen in governance arrangements where government would keep the powers with them. Even if it happens in a democratic government system, it would be classified as 'undemocratic'. It would apply to a democratic system in which the government orientation is for making citizen weak comparatively as discussed above.

Nevertheless, the government is instituted and installed to provide 'service' and its being in 'service mode' shall determine the extent of 'citizen authority'.

The **factors deciding citizen authority** would be

- (i) Ability to reject the government people
- (ii) Selecting the government people
- (iii) Reviewing the government people
- (iv) Direct communication with the government
- (v) Direct upward communication with government agencies
- (vi) Citizen's Authority to have response from government and its agencies.
- (vii) Citizen Education level
- (viii) Citizen Knowledge of rules level
- (ix) Simplicity level and understandability of rules
- (x) Government desire to deliver expeditious justice
- (xi) Duration of justice delivery
- (xii) True presentation of facts and statistics pertaining to financial matters and citizen conditions by the government
- (xiii) Role model behavior of government people for character, honesty, duty, accountability, social development, eradication of social evils, eradication of criminals
- (xiv) Non-contact financial transaction with government people and its being transparent
- (xv) Enough capacity of education system
- (xvi) Enough capacity of health system
- (xvii) Best quality of education system within reach
- (xviii) Best quality of health system within reach
- (xix) Availability of basic public services needs water, sewage, hygiene, environment
- (xx) Harmonious society.

As discussed above in scenario 2 and 3, the citizen are likely to have low authority level because of the government thus **it would be a direct derivation that the 'low citizen authority' would lead to 'excess high authority level of the government' against the citizen.**

Citizen Behaviour

If a government does not want to be good to the people PON, it would necessarily have to keep them fragmented and entangled in the hardships of living as otherwise, being in large number, PON can revolt and cause a threat to those who are in the government. Although normally in many government systems, the people even though remaining in unsatisfactory state, do not react so severely because it would always be difficult to form unanimity on the form of change and alternative arrangement after the change. **The government in position may therefore, have strong incentive to keep the people confused, lacking unity, and living on hope for better tomorrow.** The analogy directly leads to an important derivative, that , **the social and mass behaviour of citizen, would be a reflection of the behaviour of the government towards them.**

The most important aspect in a country is the behaviour of citizen of that nation. Since it is a very big group of people, diversified in all respect with wide varying interests and perceptions, their approach towards nation's affairs may happen to be different for different sub-groups. The citizen are the only authority who can force the government to work or act in a particular manner, therefore, the government would either have to bring in the desired level of quality in their lives or may otherwise act to split them into sections diversifying their energies so that they do not get unified to force the government to act as they may wish and happens to be against those who are in the government. There may be a scenario that the 'citizen largely' are not 'disintegrated mass' and 'living on a common ground. The government shall either have to depreciate its authority or may have different tools. However, it is not being discussed here.

The **government aptitude therefore, would be either to do good to them or fragment them** in a manner they collide amongst themselves. Whereas the first approach brings empowerment to the people to make the government to act in their favour, the second approach would be against the interest of the development of the society and people of the nation. It is therefore, necessary to evaluate the citizen empowerment index which would reflect the overall strength of citizen collectively to put forth their requirements. The various factors which would decide this parameter may be as under.

- a) If citizen know what they want (or what is good to them). The factors deciding this are.
 - i) Education level
 - ii) Knowledge level
 - iii) Opportunities available
- b) Strength of positive citizen-hood
 - i) Number of sections in society
 - ii) Number of sectional disputes
 - iii) Uniformity of living standards.
- c) Difference of strength between government and citizen
 - i) MS governance level
 - ii) Right to reject with citizen or not
 - iii) Direct rights to citizen to check government working every six monthly.

- iv) Platform to present their point of view.
- v) Direct communication of citizen with government
- d) Authority level of citizen:
 - i) Availability of open platform face to face government & citizen-Citizen forum
 - ii) Acceptance of low standards by people
 - iii) Mode of Communication with government agencies.
 - iv) Irregularity level and action against government people
- e) Fragmentation of society
 - i) Number of divisions in society
 - ii) How long such division being continuing
 - iii) The number of divisions increasing or decreasing
 - iv)

These factors would decide the state in which a citizen has been living and based upon the rating, the 'citizen authority level' would be decided into the following classification: