

Reconceptualising Governance in the Context of Neo-liberalism: Moving from Welfare Politics to Clientele Politics in the Case of Assam

PHULMONI DAS

Government Model College, Assam

ROBIN HAZARIKA

Kamargaon College

This paper aims to provide a theoretical analysis of neo-liberalism and issues in governance within the Indian context, focusing on Assam. It argues that market-friendly reforms implemented after 1991 did not erase the legacy of the robust and progressive Nehruvian state. Rather, a much more conspicuous reworking of the state is achieved through increasing intervention in social sectors. The study further argues that pro-market transitions by populist regimes are typically characterised by a series of short-term calculative measures that differ from the perspective of the welfare state. It also considers the governance practices in Assam within the broader economic and political trends.

Keywords: Neo-liberalism, Governance, Populist Politics, State, Assam

Since the liberalisation of the Indian economy, there has been a noticeable change in the country's governing practices and the nature of the state. This is the outcome of the globalisation process and the implementation of neoliberal economic reform, which has an enormous impact on the state's politics and economy. India's economic liberalisation got off to a dramatic start with abrupt and significant adjustments to the development strategy. Economic liberalisation has also subsequently produced a dramatic shift in the discourse of governance. Over the last few decades, the politics of the nation has been guided by the structure of capitalism, and it has made an apparent shift in the Indian State's approach from a welfarist notion to a clientelist approach. Moreover, the notion of citizenship for the state has also transformed from citizen to client and transformed the state as the patron for the masses. The practice of governance in the context of Assam has changed the whole discourse of citizenship from rights claimants to passive beneficiaries. Therefore, in this background, the present paper is an attempt to discuss the dominant neoliberal ideas and how they have transformed the nature and practice of the state from welfare to a patronage state in the present time. The paper has been divided into four different sections. First, the paper deals with a theoretical understanding of the concept of neo-liberalism and governance in terms of India. Second, it argues the changing discourses of citizenship from welfarism to clientelism in the neoliberal state



[Current](#) [Archives](#) [Announcements](#) [About](#)



[Register](#)

[Login](#)

Reconceptualising Governance in the Context of Neoliberalism: Moving from Welfare Politics to Clientele Politics: A Case of Assam

[Home](#) / [Archives](#) / [Vol. 15 No. 2 \(2023\): Journal of Polity and Society](#) / [Articles](#)



Current Archives Announcements About

[https://journalspoliticalscience.com/index.p](https://journalspoliticalscience.com/index.php/i/article/view/266)

[hp/i/article/view/266](https://journalspoliticalscience.com/index.php/i/article/view/266)



[Register](#)

[Login](#)

More Citation Formats

Issue

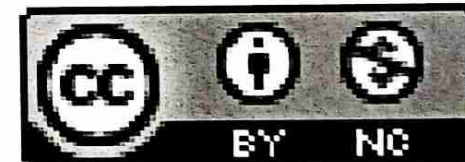
Vol. 15 No. 2 (2023): Journal of Polity and Society

Section

Articles

License

Copyright (c) 2024 Journal of Polity and Society



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License.

EDITOR: GIRISH KUMAR R

Department of Political Science, University of Kerala



[Current](#) [Archives](#) [Announcements](#) [About](#)



[Register](#)

[Login](#)

ps123@gmail.com

Published by: Department of Political Science University of Kerala

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)



ISSN 0976-0210

© Platform & Workflow by: Open Journal Systems
Designed by Material Theme

Analysing Citizen-centric Administration in the Context of Assam with Special Reference to Assam Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar Scheme

Indian Journal of Public
Administration
1-15

© 2023 IIPA

Article reuse guidelines:

jn.sagepub.com/journals-permissions-India

DOI: 10.1177/00195561231177033

journals.sagepub.com/home/ipa



Phulmoni Das¹ and Robin Hazarika²

Abstract

Citizen-centric administration is one of the significant components of good governance. Public administration in India has been trying to provide different measures for the welfare of marginalised and disadvantaged sections of the society. Tea-garden workers of Assam are significantly in a disadvantaged position since the colonial period. Low wages, poverty, illiteracy and poor socio-economic conditions of the tea-garden workers of Assam have further pushed them into a marginalised state. Therefore, the Government of Assam has adopted different welfare mechanisms for the upliftment of the tea-garden workers of the State. It is in this context that the present study tries to analyse the role of the *Assam Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar Scheme* (Tea Garden Financial Incentive Scheme) primarily aimed at financial inclusion of the tea-garden workers of Assam as a step-forward to citizen-centric administration. This article also highlights the perception and challenges of the tea-garden workers while accessing the financial inclusion measure in their respective tea estates.

Keywords

Citizen-centric administration, good governance, tea-garden workers, financial inclusion, Assam

Achievement of citizen's welfare is the prime objective of governance. Participation of citizens in the government of the country is the basis of a democracy. The theme of public administration is increasingly concerned with the welfare and

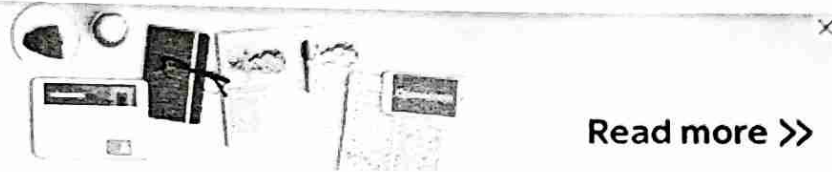
¹ Department of Political Science, Government Model College, Deithor, Karbi Anglong, Assam, India.

² Department of Political Science, Kamargaon College, Golaghat, Assam, India.

Corresponding author:

Phulmoni Das, Department of Political Science, Government Model College, Deithor, Karbi Anglong, Assam 782480, India.

E-mail: phulmoni2508.das@gmail.com



Read more >>

Search this journal ▾

Enter search terms...



[Advanced search](#)



Access/Profile

Browse by discipline ▾

Information for ▾

Indian Journal of Public Administration



[Journal indexing and metrics](#)

[Journal Homepage](#)

[Submit Pa](#)

Restricted access Research article First published online July 26, 2023

Analysing Citizen-centric Administration in the Context of Assam with Special Reference to Assam Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar Scheme

[Phulmoni Das](#) and [Robin Hazarika](#) [View all authors and affiliations](#)

[Volume 69, Issue 3](#) <https://doi.org/10.1177/00195561231177033>

Contents

Get access

Cite article

Share options

Information, rights and permissions

Metrics and citations



Type here to search



25°C Haze



ENG

Sage Journal
Author Gateway



Read more >>

Sage Journals

Search this journal v

Enter search terms



Advanced search

Access/Profile

Cart

Browse by discipline v

Information for v

Indian Journal of Public Administration



Journal indexing and metrics

Journal Homepage

Submit Paper

Restricted access Research article First published online July 26, 2023

Analysing Citizen-centric Administration in the Context of Assam with Special Reference to Assam Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar Scheme

Phulmoni Das and Robin Hazarika [View all authors and affiliations](#)

Volume 69, Issue 3 | <https://doi.org/10.1177/00195561231177033>

Contents

Get access

Cite article

Share options

Information, rights and permissions

Metrics and citations

Privacy

Type here to search



25°C Haze

22:21
25-10-2024

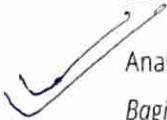
Decentralised Governance in India: An Evaluation in Context of Panchayati Raj Institutions

Rajbir Singh Dalal, Sandeep Dhillon

[Preview Abstract](#)

Get Access

Restricted access · Research article · First published July 26, 2023 · pp. 651–665



Analysing Citizen-centric Administration in the Context of Assam with Special Reference to Assam Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar Scheme

Phulmoni Das, Robin Hazarika

[Preview Abstract](#)

Get Access

Restricted access · Research article · First published August 3, 2023 · pp. 666–677

People Perception Towards e-Services in Hilly Area: A Case Study of e-Districts in Himachal Pradesh

Sapna K. Sharma, Babita Sharma

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/00195561231177033>



Privacy