

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES IN THE DECISION Full Version

sustainable development principles in the decision have become a cornerstone of modern governance, business strategies, and community planning. In an era characterized by rapid environmental changes, social inequalities, and economic uncertainties, integrating sustainability into decision-making processes is no longer optional?it is imperative. This approach ensures that current needs are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs, fostering a balanced and resilient development trajectory.

As global challenges such as climate change, resource depletion, and social disparities intensify, organizations and policymakers are increasingly adopting sustainable development principles to guide their decisions. These principles serve as a compass, aligning actions with long-term ecological integrity, social equity, and economic viability. This article explores the core principles of sustainable development in decision-making, their importance, implementation strategies, and the benefits they bring to organizations, communities, and the planet.

Understanding Sustainable Development Principles in Decision-Making

Sustainable development principles are foundational guidelines that inform how decisions are made across various sectors. They emphasize a holistic approach that considers environmental health, social well-being, and economic stability as interconnected elements. Integrating these principles into decision-making processes ensures that actions are responsible, inclusive, and forward-looking.

Key aspects of sustainable development principles include:

- Holistic Approach: Recognizing the interconnectedness of environmental, social, and economic factors.
- Long-term Perspective: Prioritizing decisions that benefit future generations.
- Inclusivity and Participation: Engaging diverse stakeholders in the decision-making process.
- Precautionary Principle: Avoiding actions that could cause irreversible harm, even if scientific certainty is lacking.
- Efficiency and Resource Conservation: Promoting optimal use of resources to reduce waste and environmental impact.
- Resilience Building: Enhancing the ability of communities and ecosystems to withstand shocks and stresses.

Core Principles of Sustainable Development in Decision-Making

Implementing sustainable development principles in decision-making involves adhering to specific core principles that guide responsible and ethical choices. These include:

1. Intergenerational Equity

Ensuring that current decisions do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs is fundamental. This involves careful resource management, environmental preservation, and safeguarding social systems.

2. Integration of Environmental, Social, and Economic Goals

Decisions should simultaneously address environmental sustainability, social justice, and economic growth. This integrative approach prevents siloed thinking and promotes balanced development.

3. Precautionary Approach

When uncertainties exist about potential environmental or social risks, decision-makers should err on the side of caution to prevent irreversible damage.

4. Stakeholder Engagement

Effective sustainable decisions involve consulting and involving all relevant stakeholders, including marginalized communities, private sector entities, and civil society.

5. Transparency and Accountability

Clear communication of decision processes and outcomes fosters trust, accountability, and informed participation.

6. Adaptive Management

Recognizing that circumstances and knowledge evolve, decision frameworks should be flexible and capable of adjusting based on new information and changing conditions.

Implementing Sustainable Development Principles in Practice

Applying these principles is a multi-step process that requires strategic planning, stakeholder involvement, and continuous evaluation. Here are key strategies for effective implementation:

1. Conducting Comprehensive Assessments

Before making decisions, organizations should perform environmental impact assessments, social analyses, and economic evaluations to understand potential consequences thoroughly.

2. Setting Clear Sustainability Goals

Establishing measurable objectives aligned with sustainability principles helps guide actions and evaluate progress.

3. Incorporating Sustainability into Policy and Planning

Embedding sustainability criteria into policies, planning frameworks, and operational procedures ensures consistent application across projects.

4. Promoting Education and Capacity Building

Training decision-makers and stakeholders on sustainability principles enhances their ability to incorporate them effectively into their work.

5. Utilizing Decision Support Tools

Employing tools such as sustainability dashboards, scenario analysis, and life-cycle assessments aids in making informed and balanced decisions.

6. Monitoring, Reporting, and Feedback

Regular monitoring of outcomes, transparent reporting, and incorporating feedback loops enable continuous improvement and accountability.

Benefits of Incorporating Sustainable Development Principles in Decision-Making

Integrating sustainability into decision processes offers numerous advantages:

- Environmental Preservation: Reduces ecological footprints, conserves biodiversity, and mitigates climate change impacts.
- Social Equity: Promotes fairness, inclusivity, and improved quality of life for all community members.
- Economic Resilience: Fosters innovation, reduces costs through resource efficiency, and

enhances long-term profitability.

- Reputation and Trust: Builds credibility with stakeholders, customers, and the public.
- Risk Management: Anticipates and mitigates potential social, environmental, and financial risks.
- Regulatory Compliance: Ensures adherence to evolving legal frameworks related to sustainability and environmental protection.

Challenges and Opportunities in Applying Sustainable Principles

While the benefits are clear, applying sustainable development principles in decision-making is not without challenges:

- Complexity and Uncertainty: Navigating complex systems and uncertain outcomes can complicate decision processes.
- Trade-offs: Balancing environmental, social, and economic interests often entails difficult compromises.
- Resource Constraints: Limited financial, human, or technical resources can hinder implementation.
- Resistance to Change: Organizational inertia and stakeholder resistance may impede adoption.
- Data Limitations: Lack of reliable data can affect assessment accuracy.

Despite these challenges, advances in technology, increasing awareness, and supportive policies create opportunities for more effective integration of sustainability principles.

Case Studies Illustrating Sustainable Development in Decision-Making

- Renewable Energy Projects: Many companies opt for solar and wind energy installations, considering environmental benefits, economic incentives, and community acceptance.
- Urban Planning: Cities adopting green infrastructure, transit-oriented development, and inclusive zoning demonstrate sustainable decision-making at the municipal level.
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): Businesses integrating sustainability into supply chains and product design showcase responsible decision-making aligned with sustainable principles.

Conclusion

sustainable development principles in the decision form the foundation for responsible, ethical, and forward-looking choices that balance environmental integrity, social equity, and economic prosperity. By embedding these principles into policies, strategies, and operational practices, organizations and governments can contribute to a more sustainable future. The path to

sustainability requires commitment, collaboration, and continuous learning but offers immense rewards?resilient ecosystems, equitable societies, and vibrant economies. Embracing these principles in decision-making is not just a moral imperative but a practical necessity in our interconnected world.

Sustainable development principles in the decision-making process are increasingly becoming central to organizations, governments, and communities seeking to balance economic growth, social equity, and environmental stewardship. As global challenges such as climate change, resource depletion, and social inequality intensify, integrating sustainability into decision-making frameworks is not just an ethical imperative but a strategic necessity. This article explores the core principles of sustainable development within the context of decision-making, providing a comprehensive guide to understanding and implementing these principles effectively.

Understanding Sustainable Development in Decision-Making

At its core, sustainable development principles in the decision refer to guidelines that ensure choices made today do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs. These principles serve as a compass for aligning actions with long-term ecological health, social justice, and economic viability.

Incorporating sustainability into decision-making involves evaluating potential impacts, trade-offs, and benefits through a lens that prioritizes resilience, fairness, and environmental integrity. This holistic approach helps prevent short-sighted decisions that may yield immediate gains but cause long-term harm.

Core Principles of Sustainable Development in Decision-Making

- Intergenerational Equity

Intergenerational equity emphasizes that current decisions should not deplete resources or degrade ecosystems in ways that disadvantage future generations. It recognizes that humanity has a moral obligation to preserve the environment and social systems for those who come after us.

Key considerations include:

- Maintaining renewable resource stocks
- Reducing long-term environmental impacts
- Planning for sustainable use of resources

- Precautionary Principle

The precautionary principle advocates for caution when scientific evidence is uncertain or incomplete, especially regarding potential environmental or social risks. It encourages proactive measures to prevent harm rather than reactive remedies after damage has occurred.

Implementation involves:

- Conducting thorough risk assessments
- Avoiding actions with potentially irreversible consequences
- Prioritizing safer alternatives

- Integration of Environmental, Social, and Economic Factors

Sustainable decision-making necessitates the integration of environmental, social, and economic considerations, often referred to as the "triple bottom line." This ensures that decisions promote overall sustainability rather than optimizing for a single dimension at the expense of others.

Approach includes:

- Conducting comprehensive impact assessments
- Balancing short-term and long-term benefits
- Engaging stakeholders from diverse sectors

- Participatory and Inclusive Processes

Decisions aligned with sustainable development are most effective when they involve participation and inclusion of all relevant stakeholders, including marginalized communities, experts, and local populations.

Best practices involve:

- Transparent decision-making processes
- Community engagement and consultation
- Incorporating local knowledge and values

- Adaptive Management

Given the complexity and uncertainty inherent in sustainability issues, adaptive management promotes flexibility and ongoing learning. Decisions should be revisited and adjusted based on new evidence and changing circumstances.

Strategies include:

- Monitoring and evaluation systems
- Feedback loops
- Iterative decision processes

Practical Steps to Embedding Sustainable Development Principles in Decisions

Step 1: Define Clear Sustainability Objectives

Begin with establishing specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) sustainability goals aligned with organizational or community values.

Step 2: Conduct Holistic Impact Assessments

Evaluate potential environmental, social, and economic impacts of decisions through tools such as:

- Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA)
- Social Impact Assessments (SIA)
- Cost-Benefit Analyses (CBA)

Step 3: Engage Stakeholders Early and Often

Involve diverse groups throughout the decision-making process to gather insights, foster ownership, and ensure that different perspectives are considered.

Step 4: Evaluate Alternatives and Trade-offs

Compare options based on how well they meet sustainability objectives, considering potential trade-offs. Use decision-support tools like multicriteria analysis or sustainability matrices.

Step 5: Implement, Monitor, and Adjust

Put the chosen option into action with clear sustainability benchmarks. Continuously monitor outcomes and be prepared to adapt strategies as new data or challenges emerge.

Challenges in Applying Sustainable Development Principles

While the principles provide a robust framework, several challenges can hinder their effective application:

- Short-term pressures: Economic or political incentives often favor immediate gains over sustainability.
- Limited data and expertise: Inadequate information hampers comprehensive impact assessments.
- Stakeholder conflicts: Divergent interests may complicate consensus-building.
- Resource constraints: Financial and human resources may limit thorough implementation.

Overcoming these challenges requires committed leadership, capacity building, and fostering a culture of sustainability.

Case Studies: Principles in Action

Example 1: Sustainable Urban Planning

Cities integrating sustainable development principles adopt green infrastructure, promote public transit, and involve communities in planning. For instance, Copenhagen's emphasis on cycling and renewable energy exemplifies intergenerational equity and integrated planning.

Example 2: Corporate Sustainability Strategies

Leading corporations incorporate triple bottom line accounting, stakeholder engagement, and adaptive management to ensure long-term profitability while minimizing environmental impact and supporting social well-being.

Conclusion: The Path Forward

Embedding sustainable development principles in the decision process is vital for creating resilient, equitable, and environmentally responsible systems. It requires a paradigm shift from short-term, siloed decision-making to a holistic, participatory, and adaptive approach. Leaders and decision-makers must champion these principles, foster collaboration, and commit to continuous learning to navigate the complex challenges of our time.

By doing so, organizations and communities can not only achieve their immediate goals but also contribute to a sustainable future that benefits all?today and for generations to come.

Question What are the core principles of sustainable development in decision-making? The core principles include balancing economic growth, social equity, and environmental protection to ensure that current needs are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. How can decision-makers incorporate sustainability principles into their strategies? Decision-makers can incorporate sustainability by conducting environmental and social impact assessments, engaging stakeholders, adopting long-term planning, and prioritizing resource efficiency and renewable options. Why is stakeholder engagement important in sustainable development decisions? Stakeholder engagement ensures diverse perspectives are considered, promotes transparency, and helps build consensus, leading to more sustainable and accepted outcomes. What role does intergenerational equity play in sustainable decision-making? Intergenerational equity emphasizes that current decisions should not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs, guiding policies toward long-term sustainability. How do economic, social, and environmental considerations interact in sustainable development? These considerations are interconnected; sustainable decisions seek to optimize economic benefits while promoting social well-being and minimizing environmental impacts, ensuring holistic and balanced outcomes. What are some common challenges in applying sustainable development principles in practice? Challenges include conflicting interests among stakeholders, short-term economic pressures, lack of awareness or capacity, and limited resources for implementing sustainable practices.

Related keywords: sustainability, environmental impact, economic growth, social equity, resource management, long-term planning, stakeholder engagement, ecological balance, responsible governance, ethical considerations

development administration meaning scope and significance

Development administration meaning scope and significance is a comprehensive field that plays a crucial role in fostering sustainable growth and progress within nations and communities. As a specialized branch of public administration, development administration focuses on the effective planning, implementation, and management of development projects aimed at improving the economic, social, and environmental conditions of a country or region. Understanding its meaning, scope, and significance is essential for policymakers, administrators, students, and development practitioners committed to fostering inclusive growth and social justice.

What is Development Administration?

Definition of Development Administration

Development administration refers to the specialized domain of public administration concerned with the management and execution of development policies, projects, and programs. It involves the application of administrative principles and techniques to achieve specific development goals such as poverty alleviation, infrastructure development, health improvement, and education enhancement.

Development administration distinguishes itself by focusing on the processes that facilitate development, often in the context of developing countries, where institutional capacity and resources may be limited. It emphasizes innovation, adaptability, and proactive governance to meet the complex needs of societal transformation.

Historical Context and Evolution

Historically, development administration emerged as a distinct discipline in the mid-20th century, coinciding with the wave of decolonization and the need for newly independent nations to build administrative systems capable of promoting development. It evolved from traditional public administration, integrating insights from economics, sociology, and political science to address developmental challenges uniquely.

Over time, the scope of development administration expanded to encompass participatory approaches, sustainable development, and the integration of social, economic, and environmental dimensions. Its evolution reflects changing paradigms in development theory, shifting from top-down models to inclusive, bottom-up strategies.

Scope of Development Administration

Key Areas of Focus

The scope of development administration covers a wide array of activities and functions, including:

- **Policy Formulation and Planning:** Designing development policies aligned with national and regional goals.
- **Implementation of Development Projects:** Executing projects related to infrastructure, health, education, and social welfare.
- **Resource Mobilization and Management:** Ensuring efficient use of financial, human, and material resources for development initiatives.
- **Institution Building:** Strengthening administrative and institutional capacities to support sustainable development.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Tracking progress, assessing outcomes, and making necessary adjustments for effectiveness.
- **Community Participation and Engagement:** Involving local populations in planning and decision-making processes.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Integrating eco-friendly practices into development activities.

Levels of Development Administration

Development administration operates at multiple levels, including:

- **National Level:** Formulating broad policies and strategies for overall development.
- **Regional and State Level:** Implementing national policies with context-specific adaptations.
- **Local Level:** Executing projects on the ground, addressing local needs and priorities.

Domains of Development Administration

It spans several domains such as:

- **Economic Development:** Promoting industrialization, agriculture, and employment generation.
- **Social Development:** Improving health, education, gender equality, and social justice.
- **Environmental Development:** Ensuring sustainable use of natural resources and conservation.
- **Cultural Development:** Preserving cultural heritage and promoting social cohesion.

Significance of Development Administration

Driving Sustainable Growth

Development administration is vital for orchestrating efforts that lead to sustainable economic growth. It ensures that development policies are effectively implemented, resources are managed efficiently, and projects are completed on time and within budget. By fostering coordination among various government agencies and stakeholders, it helps translate strategic plans into tangible outcomes.

Reducing Poverty and Inequality

One of the primary objectives of development administration is to alleviate poverty and reduce socio-economic disparities. Through targeted programs in health, education, and social welfare, development administration works to uplift marginalized communities, promote equitable distribution of resources, and create inclusive opportunities for all citizens.

Enhancing Institutional Capacity

Effective development administration strengthens the institutional framework necessary for sustained development. It involves capacity building, training, and technological advancements that enable government agencies to deliver services efficiently, respond swiftly to emerging challenges, and innovate in policy implementation.

Promoting Good Governance

Good governance is at the heart of development administration. Transparency, accountability, participation, and rule of law are essential principles that underpin effective development efforts. Development administration strives to foster these principles, thereby increasing public trust and ensuring that development benefits reach all segments of society.

Facilitating Policy Coherence and Coordination

Development involves multiple sectors and actors. Development administration plays a crucial role in harmonizing efforts across different departments, levels of government, private sector, and civil society. This coordination enhances policy coherence, reduces duplication, and maximizes resource utilization.

Supporting Sustainable Environmental Practices

Incorporating environmental sustainability into development plans is increasingly recognized as essential. Development administration ensures that development projects adhere to eco-friendly standards, promote renewable energy, and conserve biodiversity, thereby safeguarding resources for future generations.

Challenges in Development Administration

Despite its importance, development administration faces numerous challenges, including:

- **Limited Resources:** Scarcity of financial, human, and technological resources hampers effective implementation.
- **Institutional Weaknesses:** Corruption, bureaucratic inefficiency, and lack of capacity can impede progress.
- **Political Interference:** Politicization of development projects may affect neutrality and effectiveness.
- **Socio-Cultural Barriers:** Resistance to change and cultural differences can slow down development initiatives.

- **Rapid Urbanization and Population Growth:** These factors put additional pressure on administrative systems.

Conclusion

Development administration meaning scope and significance highlight its central role in shaping a nation's development trajectory. By integrating administrative expertise with development goals, it ensures that policies are effectively translated into action, resources are properly managed, and sustainable growth is achieved. Its comprehensive scope encompasses policy formulation, project implementation, resource management, and stakeholder engagement across various levels and domains. Despite challenges, strengthening development administration is essential for fostering inclusive, equitable, and sustainable progress. As nations strive to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the importance of effective development administration becomes even more pronounced, serving as the backbone of national and global development efforts.

Development Administration Meaning, Scope, and Significance

Introduction

In the realm of public administration, the term development administration has gained prominence as nations strive to achieve economic growth, social progress, and improved quality of life for their citizens. Understanding its core meaning, scope, and significance is essential for policymakers, practitioners, and scholars dedicated to fostering sustainable development. This article delves into the essence of development administration, exploring its fundamental concepts, the areas it encompasses, and why it holds such vital importance in contemporary governance.

What Is Development Administration?

Defining Development Administration

Development administration refers to the specialized field of public administration that focuses on the planning, implementation, and management of development projects and policies aimed at socio-economic progress. It involves the application of administrative principles, techniques, and skills to facilitate development activities that tackle issues like poverty, illiteracy, health disparities, infrastructure deficits, and environmental challenges.

Unlike traditional administrative functions centered on routine governance, development administration emphasizes transformative change—mobilizing resources, coordinating agencies, and empowering communities to achieve targeted development goals. It is inherently interdisciplinary, blending aspects of economics, sociology, political science, and management to ensure that development initiatives are effective, equitable, and sustainable.

Key Characteristics

- Goal-Oriented: Focused on tangible development outcomes such as improved health, education, and economic stability.
- Change-Focused: Aims to bring about social and economic transformation.
- Resource Management: Efficient utilization of human, financial, and material resources.
- Inclusive: Seeks to involve various stakeholders, including marginalized groups.
- Adaptive: Responsive to changing socio-economic conditions and feedback.

Scope of Development Administration

The scope of development administration is broad and multifaceted, covering various sectors and activities that collectively contribute to national and regional development. It extends beyond mere bureaucratic functions, involving strategic planning, policy formulation, and community engagement.

- Planning and Policy Formulation

Development administration plays a pivotal role in designing development policies aligned with national priorities. This involves:

- Conducting socio-economic research to identify development needs.
- Setting realistic, measurable objectives.
- Preparing detailed development plans and strategies.
- Establishing frameworks for implementation and evaluation.

- Implementation of Development Projects

Once policies are formulated, development administration oversees their execution. This includes:

- Mobilizing resources and funding.
- Coordinating among various government departments and agencies.
- Ensuring adherence to timelines and standards.
- Managing logistics, procurement, and human resources.

- Resource Mobilization and Management

Efficiently harnessing financial, human, and physical resources is crucial. Development administration involves:

- Securing funding from government budgets, international agencies, and private sources.
 - Developing capacity-building programs to enhance human resource skills.
 - Managing infrastructure and technology deployment.
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- Monitoring and Evaluation

Continuous oversight ensures that development initiatives stay on track. This involves:

- Tracking progress through performance indicators.
 - Conducting audits and evaluations.
 - Making necessary adjustments based on feedback and changing circumstances.
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- Community Participation and Stakeholder Engagement

Development is most effective when communities are actively involved. Development administration encourages:

- Participatory planning processes.
 - Empowerment of local communities.
 - Collaboration with NGOs, private sector, and civil society.
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- Addressing Social and Economic Disparities

A significant scope of development administration is to promote inclusive growth by:

- Reducing poverty and inequality.
 - Ensuring access to education, healthcare, and basic services.
 - Integrating marginalized groups into development processes.
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- Environmental Sustainability

Modern development administration incorporates environmental considerations by:

- Promoting sustainable practices.
- Implementing policies to conserve natural resources.
- Addressing climate change impacts.

Significance of Development Administration

Understanding the significance of development administration underscores its vital role in shaping a nation's progress. Its influence extends to various aspects of societal well-being and governance efficiency.

- Catalyst for Socio-Economic Progress

Development administration transforms lofty policy goals into tangible outcomes. It provides the managerial expertise necessary to implement development programs that uplift communities, reduce poverty, and foster economic resilience.

- Enhancing Government Effectiveness

By streamlining processes, improving coordination among agencies, and adopting innovative management techniques, development administration enhances the overall effectiveness and efficiency of government operations related to development.

- Promoting Good Governance

It emphasizes transparency, accountability, and participatory decision-making. This fosters trust between the government and citizens, encouraging active community involvement and reducing corruption.

- Facilitating Sustainable Development

Incorporating environmental and social considerations ensures that development does not compromise future generations. Development administration helps embed sustainability into planning and execution.

- Addressing Complex Development Challenges

Many contemporary issues?climate change, urbanization, health pandemics?are complex and interconnected. Development administration provides the strategic framework to coordinate multi-sectoral responses and innovative solutions.

- Empowering Local Governments and Communities

Decentralization and participatory approaches facilitated by development administration empower local entities, making development more responsive to local needs and contexts.

- Fostering International Cooperation

Development administration often involves managing foreign aid, international partnerships, and cross-border projects, playing a crucial role in global development agendas.

Challenges and Future Directions

While development administration is indispensable, it faces various challenges:

- Resource Constraints: Limited funding and human resources can hinder project implementation.
- Bureaucratic Inefficiencies: Overly complex procedures may slow progress.
- Corruption and Lack of Accountability: Undermine development efforts and public trust.
- Changing Socio-Political Dynamics: Shifts in political will or instability can disrupt initiatives.
- Technological Advancements: Need for integrating new technologies for better management and outreach.

Looking ahead, development administration must evolve by embracing digital transformation, promoting inclusive governance, and fostering innovative partnerships. Building capacity, ensuring transparency, and adopting adaptive strategies will be key to overcoming obstacles and achieving sustainable development goals.

Conclusion

Development administration meaning scope and significance encapsulates a vital domain within public governance dedicated to orchestrating socio-economic progress. Its expansive scope spans policy formulation, project implementation, resource management, and stakeholder engagement, all aimed at fostering inclusive and sustainable development. Its significance is evident in how it

enhances government effectiveness, promotes good governance, and addresses complex societal challenges. As nations navigate an era of rapid change and global interconnectedness, development administration remains a cornerstone for transforming visions of progress into reality, ensuring that development efforts are not only ambitious but also impactful and enduring.

Question What is the meaning of development administration? Development administration refers to the specialized field of public administration that focuses on planning, implementing, and managing development projects and programs aimed at economic and social progress within a country or region. **What is the scope of development administration?** The scope of development administration includes policy formulation, project execution, resource management, capacity building, and coordination among various agencies to promote sustainable development and improve the quality of life. **Why is development administration considered significant in governance?** Development administration is significant because it ensures effective implementation of development policies, enhances public service delivery, fosters economic growth, and addresses social inequalities, thereby contributing to overall national progress. **How does development administration differ from traditional public administration?** While traditional public administration primarily focuses on administrative efficiency and governance, development administration emphasizes proactive planning, innovation, and targeted efforts to achieve specific development goals and social improvements. **What are the key challenges faced in development administration?** Key challenges include resource constraints, political interference, institutional inefficiencies, corruption, lack of capacity, and ensuring inclusive development that benefits marginalized populations. **What is the relevance of development administration in contemporary times?** Development administration remains highly relevant as it provides the framework for implementing sustainable development goals, addressing global challenges like poverty, inequality, and climate change through effective governance and policy execution.

Related keywords: development administration, public administration, development planning, policy implementation, organizational management, social development, economic development, governance, public policy, administrative strategies

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