PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND SOCIAL SCIENCE DISCIPLINES: ANALYZING THE PROPINQUITY AND CONTRIBUTIONS

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ABSTRACT
Public administration as a body of knowledge and subject of study continues to shift from a political science-dominated paradigm to an interdisciplinary mix of theoretical contributions from all social science fields. Therefore, understanding of the theories, concepts, and ideas of social science disciplines is very crucial to understanding the theory and practice of modern public administration. This paper examines the close propinquity between public administration and social science disciplines. In order to carry out this work, data were obtained largely from secondary sources from books, articles journals, Nigerian constitution, published and unpublished materials available as well as internet sources and it was analysed through discourse analyses from different perspectives of disciplinary evolution, development, scope, boundary, research, theory and practice, interrelationship among social sciences, It has been discovered inter-alia that the study and practice of public administration has been significantly influenced and shaped by various social science disciplines like political science, law, sociology, psychology, economics as it incorporates various ideas, concepts and principles in terms of policy formulation, implementation, evaluation as well as general human resource management. The paper recommends that in view of the increasing concern for effectiveness and efficiency in the act of administration, good understanding of the various social science disciplines is very desideratum for administrators especially with expanding demand for public policy reforms related to satisfaction of needs and aspiration of the people. Public administrators should be more proactive pursuit of innovation and breakthroughs in formulation and implementation of policies and programmes for the public interest.

1.0 Introduction

The scope and significance of public administration as a discipline and as an activity of state has grown dramatically over the past decades, a function of population increase, growth and expansion political and bureaucratic institutions, as well as scientific and technological advancements. Increased attention has been paid to the discipline of public administration. Despite the fact that public Administration as discipline of study has undergone transition through various paradigmatic phases when it originally emerged from Political Science, however, the works of theorists such as Gulick (1937), Simon (1946), Rowat (1961), Waldo (1968), and Caiden (1991) contributed significantly to establish public administration as a distinct discipline, (Sarker, Chanthamith, Anusara, Huda Al-Amin, Jiachen, & Nasrin, 2018). As a result of analysis of its various characteristics, the discipline has now been crystallized into many fields and it draws it methods and principles from quite a number of social science disciplines that has close propinquity. This development was largely influenced courtesy of Industrial Revolution which gave rise to issues requiring investigation by specialists. Hence, the broad division of Social Science disciplines into Economics, history, Political Science, Public Administration, Sociology, psychology, law etc has enhance our understanding and solving of several problems posed by social phenomena.

Indeed, the writings in Social Sciences in the 20th century testify to the phenomenal expansion of specialization. This is **so** because, no social event is "uni-dimensinal" nor does it occur in isolation, rather, it is linked with, economic, political, administrative and social systems of a country (Sarker, Chanthamith, Anusara, Huda Al-Amin, Jiachen, & Nasrin, 2018). However, what remains, is the "boundary questions" that public administration as a relative young and emerging study field needs to concern itself. In other words, what kind of contributions could other related disciplines make to the quest for new knowledge that is trans-disciplinary, multi-faceted, interdependent and intertwined in its insights and rationality?

The main research question of this paper therefore, is "what are the contributions of Social Science disciplines to the study and by extension, practice of public administration?" How does the interdisciplinary relationship among social sciences, shape the focus and extend the horizon of public administration?" The major objective of this study therefore is to identify and critically determine the nexus or close propinquity between social disciplines on one hand, and the study and practice of public administration in another hand. In answering these questions, we started by establishing nexus and close propinquity between public administration and social science disciplines consisting Political science, Economics, Sociology, Psychology as well as Law. We then went ahead and explore how theories, ideas, concepts and principles of each of these disciplines shapes and influences the practice of public administration in Nigerian milieu.

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Exploring the Concept of Public Administration and Social Science Disciplines

Public administration is made up of two different terms: public and administration. The term "public" refers to government, which is primarily concerned with government activities and actions. On the other hand, "administration" is derived from the Latin word "Administer," which means to serve, guide, control, care for, or look after others. Literally, "administration" refers to the management of public or private affairs. As a result, public administration might simply be defined as the management of public affairs. It manages the people's affairs and provides services to them (Thapar, 2020). Public administration deals with the basic function of implementing the laws of the nation. In essence, public administration is the single most important aspect of bureaucracies across the world. "It encompasses all those operations having for their purpose the fulfillment or enforcement of public policy or the work which the government does to give effect to a law"(White 1951).

According to Pffiner and Presthus (1960), public administration simply means getting the work of government done by coordinating the efforts of the people. It is a broad ranging and amorphous combination of theory and practice for the purpose of promoting a superior

understanding of government and its relationship with the society. Identified as a "field of inquiry with a diverse scope" whose main objective is to "advance management and policies so that government can function." Public management is "centrally concerned with the organization of government policies and programs as well as the behavior of officials (usually non-elected) formally responsible for their conduct" (Thapar, 2020; Sarker, Chanthamith, Anusara, Huda Al-Amin, Jiachen, & Nasrin, 2018). Public administrators include a wide range of unelected public servants, such as cabinet secretaries, human resources (HR) directors, municipal budget directors, city managers, census managers, state mental health directors, and heads of county, regional, state, and federal departments. Public administrators are employees of the state who work in all governmental branches' departments and agencies.

According to Hodgson (1969), public administration comprises all activities of persons or groups in government or their agencies whether these organizations are international, regional or local in their scope in order to fulfill the purpose of these government or agencies.

From the above definitions, it could be understood that public administration is deals with the operations of government, it is the business side of the government, and as such it is concerned with policy making and execution in order to provide essential services to the people. In addition to being the field of study that focuses on this application of government policy and trains future public officials, public administration is the act of carrying out policies.

When we consider the history of the modern social sciences we must recognize the debt that all disciplines owe to one another (Akyildiz, 2012). Each discipline has developed according to its own genius and each has produced its own fruit. Each has generated some form of institution that has served as an example to others; and each, in turn, has borrowed from the other. At the beginning, Public administration suffered from identity crisis to the extent that it has to borrow many theories and approaches for establishing, explaining, and interpreting its affairs, (Akyildiz, 2012).

2.2 Social Science Disciplines

Rollo and Christine (2023) described social science as the study of human society and the social relationships that occur between people. Studying social science is important because it helps to determine why humans act the way that they do. Social science is any academic field of study or research that studies human behavior in its social and cultural contexts. Cultural (or social) anthropology, sociology, psychology, political science, and economics are common examples of social sciences disciplines. Every aspect or branch of social science deals with one aspect of human behaviour and its interaction with social and physical environment. Generally social science deals with the social structure and its functions, social processes, and its causes and laws, starting from the social phenomena and through social relations and social actions (Rashid, 2014). The question is how “scientific” is social science and what are the social science disciplines?

The major purpose of social science is to characterize, clarify, and forecast the nature of the social phenomena and its future developments. This can be done through description, explanation, and prediction to implement social standards, social critique, and education. The social sciences of humanity, which conclude that social sciences should make some effort to study issues concerning people, groups, society, culture, history, and other fundamental issues in order for the social sciences of discipline construction to lay a more solid foundation of understanding, are also what give the social sciences their value (Dogan, 1975). This decision made by science is not the only one that highlights the worth of social sciences.

2.3 How Scientific is Social Science?

One of the basic challenges confronting practically all social sciences is the lack of certain essential characteristics of science, such as exactness, validity, and predictability. Generally, sciences have verifiable laws; sciences follow a systematic procedure of observation, investigation, experimentation, hypothesis formulation, hypothesis verification by facts, tabulation, classification, and correlation of facts in order to arrive at valid reliable conclusions that can be used for generalizations (Rutgers 2010). Thus, exactness,

universal validity and predictability are ensured. “But just as the way we call Physical Sciences which deal with physical phenomena as exact Science or Sciences, we cannot call Social Sciences which deal with human beings as Sciences”. The reason, as emphasized by Rutgers (2010) is that, the social phenomena in which human beings play a major role, cannot be accurately predicted the way we can study and predict phenomena in physical sciences.

Furthermore, no social science can claim to be capable of making such accurate forecasts. This does not rule out the creation of effective laws guiding human behavior. The point is that the level of precision reached in Physical Sciences cannot be replicated in Social Sciences. This is because, in order to be qualified as science, social sciences must have generally applicable and valid principles. Some subjects in the Social Sciences can claim to have originated such concepts, whilst others cannot. The reason is that human behaviour is, so complex that it is difficult to account for it, using the same principles in every context (Curry, Walle, & Gadellaa, 2014). The social sciences are a dual knowledge system made up of philosophical perspectives and empirical techniques. The omnipresence of individual social phenomena leads to the development of a generalized and abstracted system of concepts, paradigms, and propositions that answer and explain the "how" and "why" of social facts. Sociological knowledge is the theoretical perspective of social sciences, where observation, description, and analysis of actual facts serve as the rules and procedures for obtaining and increasing understanding (Curry, Walle, & Gadellaa, 2014). As Ringeling, (2013) observed, sociological knowledge serves as a sociological technique. Theory is the vehicle for knowledge. The approach is a way of constructing and expanding knowledge. The theoretical procedure demonstrates the method’s properties. The method’s use is inextricably linked to its theoretical basis. As a result, social sciences are always a synthesis of theory and methodology.

In the realm of social sciences, perception may be broadly classified into four types. The first involves using the entire social phenomenon as the subject of study and establishing positivism as the sociological tradition in the field. Concentrating on people and their social conduct is the second. The third approach is on analyzing and developing a sociological critique of tradition, with Karl Marx serving as its major proponent. Fourth, several contemporary terms such as "the remaining theory," "discipline theory," "survey," and so on (Vigoda, 2002). According to Pollitt (2010), the main research methods used by social sciences to collect data and analyze data are case law, investigation law, observation law, experimental law, historical law and comparative law.

3.0 Methodology

This paper adopted documentary research. This is based on the premise that documentary research involves analysing, conceptualizing and assessing available information to support a viewpoint or argument of an academic work as rightly pointed out by Scott (2006) and Balihar (2007). In addition, the use of this method was justified on premise that information needed for the study is sufficiently available to provide a reasonable ground and arrive at valid conclusion. A conceptual framework was therefore developed for explaining the interdisciplinary relationship among social science disciplines, political science and public administration through an extensive review of the literature. The study mainly focuses on disciplinary definition, the main branches, research methods, perspectives and the theory and practice aspects. Data was obtained from purely secondary sources.

4.0 Discussions

The debt that all disciplines owe to one another must be acknowledged when examining the history of the modern social sciences (Akyildiz, 2012). Every discipline has grown in accordance with its own brilliance and yielded unique results. Each has created an institution of some kind that has inspired others, and each has also taken inspiration from the other. Public administration first experienced such an identity crisis that it had to adopt numerous ideas and methods in order to construct, explain, and understand its operations (Akyildiz, 2012). Theories, perspectives, approaches and research methods used in social sciences have had a profound impact on the theory and practice of public administration. In terms of theoretical value, social sciences help public management to establish scientific social knowledge. By analyzing the disciplines of social sciences

focusing on the public nature of public administration, we were able to expand and improve the multi-level public administration research (Niculescu & Usaci, 2013).

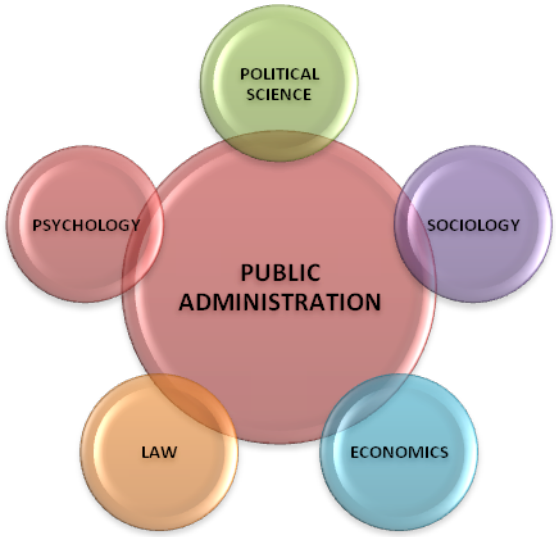


Figure 1: *Public Administration and Social Sciences*

Source: *Designed by Researcher (2024)*

Figure 1 demonstrate the inter-relationships between public administration and social science disciplines which consist of Political science, Economics, Sociology, Psychology, and Law. In practical terms, social sciences help public management pay attention to social facts instead of relying solely on the research norms of data analysis, so as to help people to maintain and improve existing social structures and social systems and to reform social systems that are not conducive to social development. Public administration avoids blindness, enhances self consciousness, and makes our social actions more reasonable and more in line with regularity (Vigoda, 2003).

Now let us diagnose and see how each of these social science disciplines relates and contributes to the theory and practice of public administration.

4.1 Public Administration and Political Science

From initiation, public administration is one of the pillars of political science and political science remains the natural home of public administration. That is why scholars like Wright, (2011), maintained the view that of all the social science disciplines, political science offers the most enormous contribution to the emergence and development of public administration as a discipline of study and as an activity of government. Indeed, public administration itself is a sub-set of political science. Although, the writings of Woodrow Wilson which appeared in the "political Science Quarterly" tries to drew a sharp dichotomy between administration and politics, but, it must be recognized that politics gave rise to public administration, which was previously seen to be a significant area of the field. Major topics in national politics, including state, class, governance, political parties, democracy, and so on, are the subject of political science (Connaughton & Randma, 2002). Political

science and public management share many of the same academic topics.

For example, in Nigeria, a good number of Universities and institutions of higher learning offers Political Science as part of the subjects to be taken while studying public administration, so also public administration is one of the subjects taken while studying political science. Premier institutes like Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, University of Nigeria Nsukka, University of Lagos and many others offered political science as one of the essential requirement for those studying public administration.

From a theoretical perspective, political science one provides the ideological foundation for the development of public administration. Again, the development and improvement of later public management theories have largely inherited and developed the research perspectives, approaches and methods of political science, such as systematic theory of political science, group theory, process theory, elite theory, institutional theory, and game theory (Waldt, 2014). Many theoretical ideas of political science also provide important guidance for solving the practical problems of public administration in reality.

From a practical perspective, political science is increasingly concerned with the research of pressing social and political issues (Olsen 2016). Its reality is being constantly strengthened and reflects the way of knowledge generation in contemporary social sciences from discipline-centered to problem-centered. While analyzing administrative organization, policy development and execution, and public sector management, the political process and its features are critical aspects that public officials must consider (Wright, 2011).

In terms of the relationship between the two, political science provides an important foundation for public administration to investigate government behaviour and can be considered one of the first disciplines of public administration (Dunleavy & Hood, 2016). As an important branch of political science, public administration can be synchronized with the formation and development of modern political science (Wu, Hou, & Ma, 2016).

In addition, Waldt, (2014) opined that political science provides the meta-theory and method for the theory and practice of public administration, which can guarantee the core value orientation of the development of the theory and practice of public administration. It always positions the theory and practice of the public management discipline in the direction of the public interest, to prevent the corresponding deviation of the value of public management theory and practice (Cunliffe & Jun, 2005). The six major fields make up public administration, according to the American Political Science Review (APSR), which published its first issue in 1906 are political theory; comparative legislation; constitutional law, which includes lawmaking and political parties; administrative law, which includes colonial, national, state, and local administration; historical jurisprudence; and international law, which includes diplomacy (Khodr, 2005).

Drawing analogy from the above, we can understand that political science offers a tremendous contribution to the study and application of public administration, both in theory and in practice. Leading public administration professors not only contributed to the formation of APSA, but also trained government managers. A brief but thorough analysis of the previous presidents of both areas' professional bodies demonstrates that political scientists made the majority of contributions to the burgeoning activity of public administration. Six of the first eleven presidents of APSA were from public administration and played key roles in shaping the new field. Similarly, five of the first presidents of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) were political scientists (Sarker, Chanthamith, Anusara, Huda Al-Amin, Jiachen, and Nasrin, 2018).

The domain of public administration concerned with policy formulation, implementation, bureaucracy, public sector accounting, public services, public interest and host of others. Political science centres on establishment and maintenance of political institutions through election and electioneering, power sharing between key organs, arms and structures of government, as well as establishment and maintenance of political relations.

4.2 Public Administration and Sociology

Beyond the iota of any doubt, sociological theories, ideas and experiments offers tremendous contribution to the study and practice of public administration.

Administration as we are aware, operates in the context of the society of which it is a part. Hence, it influences and being influenced by realities and peculiarities of its society in which it exists. Just as the society is concerned with goals, values, belief systems, so also should be the administration.

Sociology is the scientific study of society, social relationships, social interactions, and everyday culture. Sociology is a social science that combines diverse methods of empirical study and critical analysis to produce a body of knowledge on social order, acceptance, and change, also known as social evolution; thus, it can be considered the general science of society. It is a discipline that integrates political, economic, familial, religious, and other ties in order to gain a comprehensive understanding of human social existence (Ashley 2005). On the other hand, Public administration deals with management of man's administrative affairs in society and is concerned with the fulfillment of the communal needs such as security of life, health, education, etc. In order to be responsive and responsible to the needs of the people, the administrators should learn to be conscious of the social goals of the society. To this end, public administration has been shaped and guided by knowledge of sociology.

This explains why Dimock (1937) rightly describes the intimate relationship between public administration and sociology in the following words: "administration exists in a social setting and the pattern of administration is determined by society; but through sensitive administrative leadership, society itself may be changed. That the administrator is not merely an executive; he is also a social engineer, helping society to fulfil itself".

Supporting this view, Sharma, Sadana and Kaur (2013) opined that sociology is concerned with the behavior of man as the member of a group. It studies the various kinds of groups which arises in society and the way in which they influence human instincts and activity. Administration on the other hand is a cooperative enterprise in which usually a large number of people have to meet and act together. Thus, the personnel employed by any organization may be taken to be a social group. Within the larger group of entire personnel, there arise smaller ones based on the common branch or unit of work, common status, personal sympathies and antipathies. These groups and sub-groups have their own loyalties and their own ethos and outlook which gave so many twists and turns to the formal arrangements of the organization and thus deeply influence its work. Knowledge of the way in which groups arise, function and influence their members can illumine many of the phenomenon of administration which remain otherwise incomprehensible. Since such knowledge comes to us from sociology, the importance of this science to public administration need not be overemphasized.

Through the contributions of numerous sociologists, it is clear that sociology has a significant impact on public administration. Max Weber (1864–1920), a famous German sociologist, made the most significant contribution to bureaucratic theory. In addition to bureaucracy, both fields frequently study concepts and terminology including authority, organization, affiliation, alienation, and social change. Sociologists have proposed how to efficiently manage an organization by addressing topics such as motivation, decision making, rewards, punishment, dispute resolution, and many more.

According to scholars such as F. W. Riggs, public administration in developing nations can be comprehended solely by analyzing their social context. In the current administrative state of affairs, public administration has an impact on welfare, social security, and taxation, even on issues like marriage and family. Administrative restrictions have largely taken the role of the more conventional forms of social control used by castes, families, and religious institutions.

Similarly, George Elton Mayo's Hawthorne Studies (1927–1936) unequivocally established that an employee is a "social animal" who derives satisfaction from belonging to a stable group rather than the group as a whole. This was accomplished by encouraging each employee to form positive opinions about their circumstances and by avoiding situations that could cause them to feel threatened or frustrated. This further highlights the role that sociological factors play in raising employee productivity, a point that all administrators should be aware of. The behaviouralists applied the methods and findings of sociology in order to understand organizational behavior. Recent behavioural studies in administration have emphasized socio-psychological dimensions, particularly in the areas of leadership and motivation.

The tools developed by Sociology are made use of by the scholars of Public Administration in order to understand the sociology of administrators. If one looks at the administrative structures engaged in the reconstruction of societies, especially those of developing countries, one will find that the bureaucracy is engaged in community action.

Modern administrators have to face a lot of trade Unions activities, strikes, lockouts, and demonstration are order of the day. The administrators must know how to deal with mobs and crowds and this is an issue that is related to the field of sociology, (Eghe, 2011). Sociology thus provides considerable assistance to public administration.

In our modern time 'Behaviouralists' have particularly laid stress on the close relationship of sociology with public administration. They feel that public administration is only mechanism of social acts and that no administrative problem can be solved unless that is viewed from social view point. This relationship becomes still clearer when one finds public administration carrying out sample surveys and opinion polls for formulation and execution of future and reviewing of the present policies. One also finds that social security and welfare activities are engaging more and more attention of public administrators. Family pension schemes, old age pension, right to work, benevolent funds are some of the measures which have been initiated by public administrators for the advantage of the society as a whole.

4.3 Public Administration and Psychology

Just like sociology, psychology also made significant contribution to the emergence of theories and practice of public administration. Psychology, which began to influence the study of political science at the turn of present century, has now made its appearance in the study of public administration too. Administration is concerned with human behaviour and psychology invariably has contribution to make to the understanding of it. Appleby (1949) also laid emphasis on psychological approach as one of the qualities mentioned by him for a good administrator. A good administrator, according to him "praises good performance in preference to offering criticisms of mistakes. If criticism is really called for, it is offered privately and as in-offensively as possible."

The main point which has emerged from psychological studies of administration is that as a result of psychological reaction of the individuals and groups, there develops an informal organization modifying and supplementing the formal one, shown on the organization chart, in important ways and that the administrator can ignore it only at his peril. The psychological method has largely been applied to business administration and a new branch of psychology known as "industrial Psychology" has developed. In the application of the psychological method to administration, Miss Marry Parker Follet was a pioneer and showed how the wishes, prejudices and values of the individual and groups influence their behaviour in administration. Viewed psychologically, administration becomes essentially a problem of human relations.

A lot of books and research articles have been published by prominent psychologists in the world of public administration which by extension widen our horizon of understanding dynamics and dynamism of organizations. The emergence of **Neoclassical Theory/School of Administrative Thought** consisting of behaviouralist Movement and Human Relationist Movement offered tremendous contribution to the understanding of public administration. Prominent psychologist Like Abraham Maslow, Fredrick Hertzberg, Douglas MC Gregor, David Mc Lelland and host of others also demonstrate how psychology enhance the understanding of the theories and practice of administration in general and public administration in particular.

The Neo-Classical Approach was an attempt at incorporating the behavioral sciences into management thought in order to solve the problems caused by classical theory practices. The premise of this inclusion was based on the idea that the role of management is to use employees to get things done in organizations. Rather than focus on production, structures, or technology, the neoclassical theory was concerned with the employee. Neoclassical theorists concentrated on answering questions related to the best way to motivate, structure, and support employees within the organization.

For instance, **The Behavioral Movement** came from various psychologists who focused on the psychological aspect of workers and other emotional elements such as feelings, and sentiments to explain human behaviour and performance in organization. They used the

knowledge of social psychology and management to in particular emphasizing those intrinsic rewards, psychological needs and self motivation motivates worker. Some prominent pioneers of this school are Abraham Maslow with his Hierarchy of Needs Theory, MC Gregory with his Theory X and Y, Fredrick Hertzberg with his Two Factor Theory, John Stacy Adams with his Equity Theory, David McClelland with his Maturity and Immaturity Theory, Chester Ivan Bernard with his Acceptance Theory.

Contributors like Abraham Maslow, Douglas McGregor, and Chris Argyris had made significant impact. While Maslow's focus was on the importance of human needs—major driving force for human motivation, McGregor had made certain assumptions about people, categorizing them under Theory X and Theory Y. Theory X essentially represents negative views about people, i.e., people are, by nature, lazy, have little ambitions, dislike work, avoid responsibility and require direction to work. Theory Y, on the contrary, assumes people are more positive, capable of self-control, innovative and creative, do not inherently dislike work. **Chris Argyris's** contributions to the behavioural school of thoughts are extremely important. His contributions are **Maturity-Immaturity theory,** integration of individual and organizational goals and pattern of Model-I and Model-II. According to maturity-immaturity theory, people progress from a stage of immaturity and dependence to a state of maturity and independence.

The well-known Hawthorne investigations (1927–1936) by Elton Mayo and his Harvard associates, also demonstrated the significance of psychological and social aspect of a worker as an individual and his work group towards enhancing employee performance. Therefore, for an administrator to be successful, he must encourage Team-working. Team work is possible only when team-spirit is created among the subordinates. If an administrator has to create team-spirit among his employees, he must possess a good knowledge of psychology. Perhaps that is why Cassey (1970) believes that administrators must have training in human relations, but he insists on the right use of his training in human relations. In his words, "the good which comes from training in human relations skills is proportional to the integrity and prudence with which these skills are applied", in administrative processes.

4.4 Public Administration and Economics

Economic theories, ideas concepts and constructs plays significant role in evolution of academic discipline of public administration. As one of the earliest prominent social science subject, economics is concerned with effective and efficient mobilization, allocation, distribution and utilization of human material resources. According to Eghe (2011), both public administration and economics deal with man, though from different viewpoints. Economics consider the wellbeing of people from economic perspective while administration considers the wellbeing of people from administrative point of view. Scholars like famous British economist, Lionel Robbins, (1898 – 1984) defines it as "the science which studies human behaviour as a relationship between ends and scarce means which have alternative use". This definition suggests that economics is as much concerned with human behaviour as many other Social Science disciplines.

This close relationship between economics and public administration makes it imperative for public administration to borrow a lot of concepts, ideas and principles from economics with a view to satisfying economic yearnings and aspirations of the people. This also becomes clearer when we look at the fact that economic activities of modern governments are increasing day by day. As such, the administrators have to shoulder more and more responsibilities. This position was corroborated by the submission of Sharma, Sadana Kaur (2013), who observed that the major objectives of administration during 18th and a good part of 19th century were maintenance of law and order and collection of revenue, as well as protection of lives and properties.

Today, public administrators must have a comprehensive knowledge of economics in order to be able to function and operate properly. This is because every administrative policy has to be evaluated in terms of its economic consequences. Most pressure groups and pulls which seek to influence government policy have economic interest attached to them. It is considered to be the foremost duty of administration to ensure economic prosperity and strength of the nation. It must fight adverse business cycle, inflations, and depressions, secure employment for the unemployed, maintain as far as possible favourable balance of trade and balance of

payment and do everything within its power to safeguard the financial credit and stability of nation, (Sharma, Sadana & Kaur 2013).

Similarly, as democracy is being established and considered as the best form of government with main purpose of ensuring social justice, equality and fairness among the society. Hence, democratic government believed in equal distribution of wealth among the members of the society. Therefore, we may be right to state that unless administrators have equipped themselves with basic knowledge of economics, they cannot fulfill the wishes and the aspirations of the masses.

This submission is in line with the provision of 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFRN as Amended). According to Section **16.** (2);

> *The State shall direct its policy towards ensuring the promotion of a planned and balanced economic development; that the material resources of the nation are harnessed and distributed as best as possible to serve the common good; that the economic system is not operated in such a manner as to permit the concentration of wealth or the means of production and exchange in the hands of few individuals or of a group; and that suitable and adequate shelter, suitable and adequate food, reasonable national minimum living wage, old age care and pensions, and unemployment, sick benefits and welfare of the disabled are provided for all citizens.*

The section made it very imperative for Nigerian government to harness the resources of the nation and promote national prosperity and an efficient, a dynamic and self-reliant economy; control the national economy in such manner as to secure the maximum welfare, freedom and happiness of every citizen on the basis of social justice and equality of status and opportunity; without prejudice to its right to operate or participate in areas of the economy, other than the major sectors of the economy, manage and operate the major sectors of the economy, without prejudice to the right of any person to participate in areas of the economy within the major sector of the economy, protect the right of every citizen to engage in any economic activities outside the major sectors of the economy.

Furthermore, modern age is the age of Economic planning which is one of the most significant instruments of accelerating national development. Through nation planning, government stipulates its economic policies and objectives for a given period of time. As such, problems related to planning cannot be handled by administrators if they do not have basic knowledge of economics, (Eghe (2011). According to Set (1969), planning in the modern jargon involves government control of production in some form or the other. Planned development needs fixing targets, which are to be achieved within a fixed time limit. These targets will remain paper work if the administrators are unable to do their work properly. They are persons who have to face political difficulties relating to targets.

In addition, the increasing preoccupation of modern state with economic and industrial matters has led to the idea of economic and industrial civil service distinct from the traditional civil service in its methods of recruitment, promotion, compensation, tenure and responsibility. In these several ways, economics influence and affected the theory and practice of public administration which in its modern context cannot be satisfactorily be understood without some knowledge of economics.

4.5 Public Administration and Law

Law owes a lot to the emergence of academic discipline of public administration. In other words, Administration is very closely related to constitutional law and can make valuable contributions to it. Woodrow Wilson explained this relationship where he said that "the study of administration, philosophically viewed is closely connected with the study of the proper distribution of constitutional authority. To be efficient, it must discover the simplest arrangements, by which responsibilities can unmistakably be fixed upon officials, the best way of dividing authority without hampering it, and responsibility without obscuring it. And this question of distribution of authority, when taken in to the

sphere of the higher, the original functions of government is obviously a central constitutional question. If administrative study can discover the best principle upon which to base such distribution it will have done constitutional study an invaluable service."

Public administration and law is so intimate that administration is always operating within the parameters of the laws of the land. Hence, nothing that is contrary to law can be attempted by the administrator, however, reasonable or desirable it may be on other grounds. Indeed, the public administrator has to be on the right side of law not only negatively in the sense of not breaking it, but also positively, in the sense of not doing anything unless the laws warrants it. If it does, it will amount to *ultra-vires,* (Sharma, Sadana & Kaur 2013). Jennings (1971) adds that administrative law is a branch of law which is concerned with composition, powers, duties, responsibilities rights and liabilities of the various organs of government which are engaged in public administration.

Public administration for long has been considered as part of constitutional law. This is clear from the definitions of constitutional law given by Dicey when he says that "constitutional law as the term is used in England, appears to include all rules which directly and indirectly affect the distribution or exercise of the sovereign power in the state. The distribution or the exercise of the power points towards the administrative side".

Delegated legislation also brings law and administration close to each other. In every country, the legislature is over saddled with responsibilities of law making. But sometimes, the legislature for lack of time passes law in skeletal form. The details are to be filled in by administrative authorities by making rules and regulations in the light of the bills passed. In this respect, administrators indirectly enjoy law making power.

Most laws contain in them expression of public policy ie they prescribe what shall be done and from that point of view as Wilson (1941) put it, public administration becomes the systematic and detailed execution of public law. It is on account of intimate relationship that in many countries public administration is studied as branch of law. Law and Public administration are also very closely linked with each other. That is why a public administrator is required to work within the framework of laws and as such he must have a close study and knowledge of laws of the land. He is also required to see that there is nothing contrary to the existing rules and also constitution of the country. A public administrator also helps in making laws and equally assists his political head in enacting new laws. In fact, all laws which his minister enunciates in the legislature are on the direct initiative of his senior civil servants who have felt their necessity in actual working.

The close relationship can also be examined when one finds that without laws a public administrator cannot function. Public administration must have a set of laws within which it will be required to work. Similarly, laws are most essential for checking public administration in their attempt to encroach upon the rights of the citizens which otherwise would have been on the mercy of the senior civil servants or others enjoying authority and power. It is this useful information and material which helps public administration in formulation and execution of policies. Without it, the task of public administration would have become very difficult and complicated.

5.0 Conclusion

The paper established that social sciences disciplines have close propinquity with the study and practice of public administration in various aspects. All social phenomena are found integrated in nature. No social event can have understood completely without an understanding of its various dimensions. While knowledge is regarded as single entity, the need to study different aspects of it led to specialization. Therefore, the study of various disciplines *vis-a-vis* others has become necessary. Public Administration as a discipline is only about 100 years old. It got separated from Political Science a few decades ago. It has close relations with other Social Sciences which is being increasingly felt and influenced by the disciplines. This is because Social science disciplines are considered as prime movers of public administration. Social sciences take "social person" as premise of human nature hypothesis, emphasizes cultural function and social structure, explains individual self-awareness, identity and role-playing.

At present, most of the developed and developing countries like Nigeria are in a crucial

period of social transition with profound changes in various interests and concepts. With the continuous promotion of various measures related to government reform, the demand for public administration research is also expanding day by day to cover all the related social science disciplines. Taking into account the complexity of various behaviours of people in social activities, a good understanding of the impact of public administration on various social disciplines can serve as a bridge and link for expanding the ideas, approaches and methods of public administration.

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