**Shershah ‘Suri’: The Great Mughal Administrator**

**Sajal Jain, Himkar Jadaun**

Student , Indore Institute Of Law

**Abstract**

In todays, world, the most successful country is that country which has good administration which works properly without any hindrance. I think there are few countries out of 196 countries which have well & God administration which work properly without any malpractices. But during school day we heard about administration of many kings & dynasties how successfully they manage all without any hindrance even they don’t have technological advancement but still they have proper planning of all seasons, infrastructure & economy. Some kings ruled so vast geographical areas but still they manage to do all this.

So, in this research paper I discussed the administration of shershah Suri he is not only the great conquer but also a great administrator, even many reforms & policies are very helpful for Mughal dynasty kings like Akbar & Local government.

Key

Words: - Administration, Town planning, shershah Suri, Planning

**Advent Of Muslim in India: -**

Soon after the death of Harshvardhan the political condition of India underwent a great change. His empire, in the absence of a powerful central government, was divided into a number of small states and there was political anarchy everywhere in the country. In 6th and 7th centuries the country was divided into nearly 70 independent principalities. The feudal system began to take roots in India. The land was property of the state, and rulers collected tax from those peasants who used it the rajah gave part of the land, along with the peasants living on it, to his relations and courtiers for their military service. The owner of the land, who collected taxes from the people, was to maintain detachments of mercenaries which formed the prince's army, the size of the tax was fixed by the prince's officials

A large part of land also belonged to Brahmans (priest). temples and Buddhist monasteries. At first it was only vacant land but later it became land with villages and peasants. These lands were not taxed But here one fact should be kept in mind that even under the feudal system the peasants were living in neighbor communities. The community was managed by the community council in which the village people were there. All disputes of peasants such as repairs of canals dams’ distribution of land etc. were settled by the council of village people.

In the meantime, the Rajput’s became powerful, and they succeeded in establishing a number of their own small states. Unfortunately, here too, we find the absence of political unity.

**About Shershah Suri**

Shershah was given the name of Farid Khan in his childhood His father. Hasan Khan, was a jaghirdars of Sahsaram in Bihar His grandfather. Ibrahim Khan Suri had left his home [Afghanistan) and come to India in the reign of Bohol Lodhi Sher Shah was probably born in 1472 AD at Bajwara Pargana near Hoshiarpur

Education:

His father, Hasan Khan, had married four wives simultaneously but he loved his youngest wife most of all Farid had to face many difficulties in his childhood owing to the prevailing influence of his stepmother and consequently his education remained neglected in his early years, thus worried. Farid Khan left for Jaunpur which was a great center of Islamic learning in those days in the year 1494 A.D. He studied there very diligently and soon attained great proficiency in Arabic and Persian He learnt by heart very important and reputed books like Gulistan, 'Bostan Sikandar Namah etc. Nawab Jamal Khan, the Nawab of Jaunpur was so much impressed by his extraordinary abilities that he prevailed upon Hasan Khan to treat his son (Farid Khan) well.

**Administrator Of Jagir [ 1497 – 1526 A.D.]**

After completing his education in 1497 his father entrusted him with all the management of jagir. He tried hard to eliminate the prevalent corruption and disorder at the jagir after taking over its charge. He awarded severe punishments to the officers who were in the habit of accepting bribes and fixed the land-rent after getting the land measured. The revolting zamindars were fully crushed. In this way, he established peace and order in his jagir and all the people began to acclaim him. This experience stood him in good stead later on.

**Shershah as the Emperor of India.**

After defeating Humayun at Kanuj, he occupied Delhi and Agra and in this he became the king of north India. Then he started establishing his own administration in which he was very expert because he works with different different kings.

**Administration Set – up: -**

**1.Land Revenue Reforms: -**

Sher Shah was the first Muslim ruler who got the whole of the land measured and fixed the land-tax on it on just and fair principles. The land of each peasant was measured first in bighas and the land tax.

Each peasant was given the option to pay the land tax either in cash or in kind

The peasants were required to deposit the land-tax directly into the Government treasury to be on the safe side, so that the collecting officers might not charge them any extra money.

Strict order had been issued to the revenue authorities that leniency might be shown while fixing the land tax but strictness in the collection thereof should be the inevitable rule. However, it was ensured that no injustice was done to any peasant nor it should harm or damage the crops.

Suitable subsidy was granted to the farmers in the time of drought or famine from the royal treasury.

Special orders were issued to soldiers that during the marches they should not damage the standing crops in any way.

In case of damages, compensation was granted to the farmers by the government This arrangement of Sher Shah Suri was so reasonable that not only was it adopted by Akbar but was also followed by the British Government subsequently.

1. **Military Reform: -**

Sher Shah Suri established direct connection between soldiers and the government and, therefore, they became loyal to the king. He used to recruit soldiers himself. He himself promoted them or dismissed them if found unfit.

It was he who introduced the system of payment of salaries to the soldiers in cash. He himself fixed the salary of each soldier.

The system of maintaining service rolls with identification records and branding of horses was also introduced so that no. one should be able to defraud the state.

The army was divided into two parts. One part which consisted of 1,50.000 cavalry. 25,000 infantries. 330 war-elephants. many pieces artillery etc. was kept under the king's direct control in the capital. In addition to this, cantonments were set up in different parts of the country. There the army was stationed under a highly placed officer known as the Faujdar in the forts.

The old forts were put in proper state of repairs. Many new forts were constructed in the Punjab. Mulwa and Rajasthan. The Rohtak fort built in West Punjab was the most reputed of all the new forts. It could accommodate 5.000 soldiers.

The Hindus were granted rights to join military service of the state. A famous general of Sher Shah Suri was Vikram its Singh Gourd who belonged to the Hindu community.

Special attention was paid to the discipline in the army Any violation of discipline was severely dealt with. Mill) Sher Shah Suri treated his soldiers very kindly. He tried to ameliorate their distress at all times. It was on the strength of highly organized and systematized army that Sher Shah Suri succeeded in establishing a vast empire.

1. **Espionage System: -**

Along with the police arrangements. Sher Shah Suri also set up a perfect spying system. He appointed highly experienced spies to keep himself acquainted with all the events that took place in the country. These soles went about the country in disguise and kept the ruler posted with everything that happened anywhere, any time. Moreover, these soles the ruler a great deal by acquainting him with the names of the oppressive officers and revolting sardars. It was due to these spies that the prevailing conflicts and quarrels among the Afghan Sardars came to an end at that time. Nobody could dare to enter into a conspiracy against the king now. Moreover, trade was greatly encouraged by the improvements rendered in roads built for easy communication.

1. **Judicial Arrangements**

Sher Shah Surt was a ruler who loved justice very much. He often used to say. Justice is the most valuable religious ceremony. It was on this score that he gave equal and uniform justice to everyone, whether, rich or poor, high or low, Hindu or Muslim alike.

No one could escape the just punishment by virtue of his high anal or high posting under the state Very highly-placed officers he Kawa’s Khan and Shujaat Khan could not escape the justice of Sher Shah and, when found guilty, were given harsh punitive regardless of their position Once Sher Shah did not spare his son Adil even, when he had dishonored the wife of a citizen of Agra The punishments were harsh and severe The death sentence was awarded as punishment for thefts, bribery, dacoity etc. In this way Sher Shah's judicial arrangements were admirable.

1. **Currency Reform: -**

Before Sher Shah Suri the coins were not made of pure metal but metal was mixed with them. It not only affected the trade of the country but also impaired her routine credit. Sher Shah Suri, therefore, reformed the currency and struck many kinds of coins of pure gold and silver. He struck copper-coins such as dam, half dam. a quarter dam and gave the name of rupee' to the standard silver colon. This rupee coin of Sher Shah remained current throughout the Mughal period. According to Dr. VA. Smith, the East India Company too continued the same rupee coin and made it the basis of their currency. In these coins Devanagari script too was adopted besides Arabic and Persian in this script, the name of Sher Shah is seen written as 'Shri Sher Shah

1. **Encouragement to Trade: -**

In order to encourage trade and commerce Sher Shah Suri effected changes and reforms in the tax system as well. Most of the unsuitable taxes on trade were abolished. Before him diverse taxes were levied on the imported goods at different places. But now the taxes were fixed, and it was decided that they should be collected only at two points. The first barrier for tax collection was the place where the goods entered the boundary of the empire and the second one was where the sale thereof took place. In this way the trade received a great deal of encouragement. Sher Shah Suri encouraged trade and commerce immensely by making many roads. introducing coins of pure metals and establishing peace and order: in the country

1. **Central Administration**

The central administration was presided over by Sher Shah himself and all the civil and military powers were concentrated in his hands. He was out and out a despotic ruler, who could transfer his officers and ministers according to his sweet will. He had divided the government work into several departments in order to carry on the administration on right lines. Each department was under the charge of a minister who was assisted by other high officers The main departments of Sher Shah were four which were known as:

1. Diwan-t-Waziri:

The minister in charge of Diwan-I Waziri was called the Wazir who managed finances (revenues and expenditure] and exercised control over other ministers as well.

(ii) Diwan-I Aris: -

The head of the department of Diwan-I Aris used to be called Arizin Mumakil who supervised recruitment, discipline and organization of the army but he was not the commander or general of the army.

He assisted the king in recruitment of the soldiers and fixing their pay scales

(iii) Diwan-I-RI salat: -

The department of Diwan-I-RI salat was under the charge of the foreign minister who was responsible for appointing ambassadors.

(iv) Diwan-I-Nisha: -

Similarly, Diwan-I-Nisha was under the charge of a minister who drafted the royal edicts and letters and was the custodian of all government documents and papers.

Beside these four departments, there were two other departments-

{1} Diwan-I-Qazi: -

The department of Diwan-I-Gaza was under the charge of the Chief Qazi who maintained the systematic working of Law and order and heard the appeals against the judgments of the Qazi’s.

{2} Diwan-I-Braid: -

The head of Diwan-I-Braid was called Barid-i-Mamalik who managed the department of the government spies.

Sher Shah himself was a very diligent ruler who supervised all the departments himself. He used to say often, it behaves the great to be always active.

1. **Religious Policy:**-

Though Sher Shah Surt himself was a staunch Sunni yet his treatment towards the followers of other religions was quite good. It is correct that he could neither abolish Jazira nor did he frame any rules to stop cow-killing Besides it he fought battles against Raja Purana Mal of Raisin and Rana of Jodhpur, Maldev. and killed innumerable Hindu soldiers. He demolished Hindu temples here and there as well. Even then his behavior towards the Hindus was far better than that of the Muslim Sardars of Delhi According to Dr. Kanungo "His attitude towards Hindus was not of contemptuous sufferance but that of respectful deference. "

He did not force Hindus to embrace Islam in Sarai’s he made separate arrangements for lodging and meals for the Hindus. In his coins he adopted Devanagari script and got written on them. "Shri Sher Shah" as his name. Not only this. He also appointed Hindus to very high posts under him. Raja Todor Mall and Vikram Jit Singh gaur occupied very high posts. He gave liberal donations for the spread of education among the Hindus and granted scholarships as well. Thus, while upholding an honorable place for his own religion, he did not show disrespect to Hinduism. Whereas he won over the Hindus to his side, he did not forfeit. the sympathy and support of the Muslims. This was his great achievement. In view of the above-mentioned reforms. we can say in the words of the famous historian Keene. "No government. not even the British, has shown so much wisdom as the Pathan."

**Successor & Downfall of The Suri Dynasty .**

Sher Shah Suri died of a wound he received in the siege of Kalinjar, on the 22nd May, 1545 A.D. Although he had declared his eldest son, Adil Khan as his successor yet his chiefs and ministers, against his wishes, installed his younger son, Jalal Khan on the throne Consequently, Jalal Khan became the ruler under the name of Islam Shah, on 27th May, 1545 A.D. His father's glimpse glimmered in him. He conquered Kalinjar and killed its Raja, Kirti Singh. He suppressed the revolt of his elder brother, Adil Shah who was an ease-loving prince. He also put down very ruthlessly the other rebels and brought his sardars under his control who were ambitious to acquire more and more power, day after day. He got assassinated all those chiefs whom he suspected in the least of rebellion. Even Islam Shah could not win popularity owing to his ruthlessness and cruelty. At last he died on 30th October, 1553 A.D. after 8 years rule.