COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS–MEANING, SCOPE AND UTILITY
Though Comparative Government and Comparative Politics are two different subjects, yet the modern scientists have laid emphasis on the combined study of both because both are closely related to one another and the results drawn by separating both shall not be trustworthy. Apart from this, comparative method has been used for the study of both the subjects. Aristotle, who is also known as the father of Political Science, made use of ‘Comparative method’ to understand and comprehend the political problem of his time. His book ‘Politics’ was the result of the comparative study of the constitutional system of 158 city states.
Comparative Government includes the theoretical study of the subjects like the various forms of government, organs of government, their organization and function etc. But no attention is to paid towards the study of formal and informal factors which influence the working of the government. Neither the study of the political behaviour nor of political processes etc is made the subject matter of comparative Government.
Comparative Politics is not concerned only with the formal institutions rather it is also concerned with the non-formal institutions and political activities such as elections, electoral behaviour, processions etc and non-governmental factors such as caste groups, tribes, language and religious organizations etc and their impact on politics.
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND COMPARATIVE POLITICS

1. The subject of Comparative Government is older than the subject of Comparative Politics.
2. Difference regarding the nature of study.
3. Difference with regard to tool of study.
4. Difference with regard to relations to values.
5. Difference in their Scope
6. Difference about the study of infrastructures
7. The study of Comparative Government is explanatory whereas the study of Comparative Politics is Analytical
8. Difference with regard to Usefulness.
Generally it is seen that various scholars use the concepts of ‘Comparative Politics’, Comparative Government, Comparative Constitutions, Comparative Political Systems etc interchangeably whereas these concepts are vastly different from each other.

Acc to Edward Freeman, “Comparative Politics is the comparative analysis of the various forms of governments and diverse political institutions”.

Acc to Michael Curtis, “Comparative Politics is concerned with significant regularities, similarities and differences in the working of Political institutions and in political behaviour.”
CHARACTERISTICS OF COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

1. Analytical and Empirical investigation.
2. Comparative study of the formal and informal structures
3. Study of infra-structures
4. Emphasis on the study of Developing Societies
5. Emphasis on the Inter-disciplinary method of study
6. Value-free study
7. Quest of theory building
8. Horizontal and vertical comparison
1. Comparative study of Political systems
2. Study of constitutional systems
3. Study of Political culture
4. Study of political Socialization
5. Study of political Ideologies
6. Study of political Participation
7. Study of political groups
8. Study of power, Influence and authority
10. Study of Political Processes
11. Study of the balance of power between Competing States.
12. Study of Problems of modernization and urbanization
13. Study of the role of the Bureaucracy
14. Study of the political Activities
15. Study of many Whys.
UTILITY OF THE STUDY OF COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

1. It enables us to understand similarities and difference between Political systems
2. Knowledge regarding contextual elements of different political Systems
3. Close inter-relations of different countries call for comparative study.
4. Scientific and systematic Study.
5. Study of Developing Countries
7. Theory generalization is possible in comparative Politics.
8. Revalidification of Existing Theories
9. It is value- free Study
10. Widen the scope of the Study.
PROBLEMS AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY OF COMPARATIVE POLITICS

1. Lack of common terminology
2. Problems of fact-finding
3. Wide range of variables.
4. Gap between Constitutional Forms and Political Realities
5. Problem of inter-connection between values behaviour.
6. Fickle nature of Man
8. Problem of defining of the boundaries
9. Universally acceptable results are not possible.
We conclude that comparative study of political systems is not so simple as it seems to be. However, this does not mean that comparative study should be given up. We cannot ignore comprehensiveness and effectiveness which came in the subject as a result of it.
REFERENCES

- V.N. Khanna, “Comparative study of Governments and Politics”
- Dr. S.R. Mahashwari, “Comparative study of Governments and Politics” Lakshmi Narain Agrawal, 2004