

# GOOD GOVERNANCE: NEEDS AND CHALLENGES

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**Abstract**— Good governance emerged as a powerful idea when multilateral and bilateral agencies like the World Bank, UNDP, OECD, ADB, etc. realized that it is a citizen-friendly, citizen caring and responsive administration. In absence of good governance, no development schemes can bring any improvement in the quality life of the citizens. On the other hand, if the power of the state, exercised in improper ways then the poor will suffer the most, as poor governance generates and reinforces corruption, poverty etc., so it is essential to strengthen the governance and it is also the precondition for to improve the lives of the poor.

Many significant efforts or initiatives have been launched to improve the quality of the governance, over the past few years. With the introduction of these initiatives it is indicated that the existing political system is very much willing to respond to the increasing challenges of the governance.

There are lot many things that remains to be done. Lawlessness is increasing in several areas of the country, and armed group are helping in restoring to violence with impunity for ideological reason.

**Index Terms**— Citizen-friendly, Development, Good governance, lawlessness, poor governance, responsible administration,

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

In the words of Kofi Annan: “Good governance is perhaps the single most important factor for eradicating poverty and promoting development.” Governance is the exercise of economic, political and administrative authority to manage a count affairs at all levels. It consists of the mechanisms, processes and institutions through which citizens groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate the differences.

Without good governance, no amount of developmental schemes can bring in improvement in the quality of life of the citizens. On the contrary, if the power of the state is abused, or exercised weak or improper ways, those with the least power in the society - the poor- are most likely to suffer that sense, poor governance generates and reinforces poverty and subverts efforts to reduce Strengthening governance is an essential precondition to improving the lives of the poor.

Good governance is recognized as essential for the success of any organization and it is considered as more important than ever. Board members of any organization play a very important role in serving their causes and communities they lead. To protect the reputation and values of their organizations they provide the long term vision. For this purpose, board needs to have procedure and policies as well as they need a proper team with good relationship within the organization.

Good governance is a widely used term, so it is necessary to understand what good governance is? If it includes the exercise of authority in managing the sources of a country, then good governance is about making sure that this exercise of power helps to improve the quality of life enjoyed by the citizens of the country. If the State practices good governance, then it is likely to be one of

the most developed countries in the world. It is proved by statistical analysis that good governance improves economic performance. The live example for this is Singapore, which by transforming into one of the least corrupt countries in the world, is fast becoming one of the world's prospering countries.

Lack of good governance has been identified as the root cause of many of the serious deficiencies in society. It is robs the citizenry of their security and their social and economic rights," said the President, Sri Pranab Mukherjee on 6 April 2013 during an award ceremony.

The President further pointed out that an alert police force and investigative agency can ensure that no crime goes unpunished.

But in reality where does the governance of a country stands?

Fair governance connects with society more than good governance, which is more of a technical exercise, says Norwegian minister at TERI summit.

According to Gadgil, governments need to change their mindset to bridge the gap between governance and practice, adding that most governing parties or combinations have short-term focus, merely concerned about winning the next election.

But underlining the need for the civil society to play a more active role, Gadgil said, "I would recommend civil society to keep track of government programmes."

## 2 Need for Good Governance

The most important need of public is security, especially of life and property. The responsibility of nation-state is to protect life and property of each and every citizen, particularly in seriously threat-

ened areas by the terrorism (Jammu and Kashmir), north – eastern states and naxalites violence in approximately 150 districts of India. In particular some citizens don't know about their rights and even cannot afford legal aid as this is lengthy and costly. To access justice, systematic solutions are required.

In democracy, citizen's right of liberty, life and pursuit of happiness can be secured only through rule of law. There is no one above the law, and this is something different from rule 'by' law. Even government is not above the law.

Corruption has been widely perceived as a major hindrance in improving the quality of governance. Human greed is the major cause of corruption; it is the major drawback of system that the graph of corrupt is raising.

For the removal of this practice, a conscious program for strengthening of public awareness and empowering of the existing anti-corruption agencies would be required, that would ensure that the resources, that belong to people are used in a right way.

Poverty is another challenge in front of good governance, for the reduction of poverty it is needed that an empowering approach, based on the thought that the poor have to be both the object of development program and principal agency for development. It is experienced that when- ever poor people got associated with public programs; they use the public funds wisely and effectively. Since the constitution has recognized "educational and social backwardness" special care has started for the poor students.

It is the basic need of the hour, how to enhance educational opportunities for poor students and how to provide long term credit to these poor students? An effective administrative system is required to manage all the new demands.

One of the marked weaknesses of the present regime has been its failure to effectively play its role in the socializing process. It has failed to use the machinery of the state to create a society of equals founded on the principles of social justice, secularism and eradication of casteism.

Our era is facing one more challenge these days that is employment for the youth. So, it is required to prepare the youth with such education that would help them to acquire vocational skills and command over new technology.

With the advent of globalization, a new era of challenges have emerged for the administration. In democratic set up, decentralization of powers is necessary to empower people in rural and urban areas to make improvements. For this, good leadership is required for the improvement of organizational culture.

As access to information was preserved for higher level in traditional organizations, this system needs to be broken and people should get whatever information they want to perform their task.

Another major challenge is to put in place institutional arrangements for service delivery that are workable in a particular district or a region and are made to function in a manner that are intelligible to the local people and that also encourages them to participate. For active involvement, the people would also need the support of well organized, well prepared, knowledge-oriented personnel and well thought out policies.

The concept and practice of good governance in a country demands that there should be constructive mechanisms and procedures that will enable the three principle actors – government, market and society – to play in concert and to supplement each other's capability.

Good governance is effective and equitable and promotes the rule of law fairly. It ensures that the voices of the poorest and the most vulnerable are heard in decision-making over the allocation of resources of development, and that political, social and economic priorities are based on board consensus among the three stakeholders the state,

private sector and civil society. All the stakeholders are critical for sustaining human development the state creates a conducive political and legal environment; the private sector generates jobs and income; and civil society facilitates political and social interaction.

An effort is made to interpret the terminologies like participation, rule of law, transparency and openness, responsiveness and responsibility, consensus, equity and inclusiveness, efficiency and effectiveness and accountability- commonly used world over to refer good governance within the ethical framework of the written constitution of India.

UNDP identifies nine main characteristics which measure good governance. These are:

- 1) **Participation-** All men and women should have a voice in decision-making, either directly or through legitimate intermediate institutions that represent their interests. Such broad participation is built on freedom of association and speech, as well as capacities to participate constructively.
- 2) **Rule of law-** Legal frameworks should be fair and enforced impartially, particularly the laws on human rights.
- 3) **Responsiveness-** Institutions and processes try to serve all stakeholders.
- 4) **Transparency-** Transparency is built on the free flow of information. Processes, institutions and information are directly accessible to those concerned with them, and enough information is provided to understand and monitor them.
- 5) **Effectiveness and efficiency-** Processes and institutions produce results that meet needs while making the best use of resources.
- 6) **Accountability-** Decision-makers in government, the private sector and civil society organizations are accountable to the public, as well as to institutional stakeholders. This accountability differs depending on the organization and whether the decision is internal or external to an organization.
- 7) **Strategic vision -** Leaders and the public have a broad and long-term perspective on good governance and human development, along with a sense of what is needed for such development. There is also an understanding of the historical, cultural and social complexities in which that perspective is grounded.
- 8) **Equity -** All men and women have opportunities to improve or maintain their wellbeing.
- 9) **Consensus orientation -** Good governance mediates differing interests to reach a broad consensus on what is in the best interest of the group and, where possible, on policies and procedures.

Good governance, accountability and transparency may be attractive buzzwords for politicians to use, particularly at election time, but electors ought to hold them to their word and make it clear that they expect them to turn their rhetoric into action. Also, some remedial measures have to be taken by the parties themselves to correct the ways of the party men who are tempted to abuse power arising from the charisma of the office.

As India is not among one of the most corrupt countries in the world, but, if, India is to gain its rightful place of an economic superpower in the international community then there must be Rule of Law and good governance in the country. It is not enough to talk about reforms and to be democratic. Because of good governance and Rule of Law, corruption etc., will automatically come to an end. "The care of human life and happiness and not their destruction is the only legitimate object of good government." Said Thomas Jefferson to

Maryland Republicans in 1809. Indian political leadership, policy makers and business minds had strong desire to make the country an economic superpower in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. India and China are always looked at, as, ideal economic growth models. When the scarcity of resources, diverted to meet the demands of the growing middle class or business houses by ignoring the needs of the poor, a conflict raised. The objectives of democracy are forcing Indian political leadership to look deeper into the causes of the poverty, inequality and suffering of the common man.

Good governance does not occur by chance. It must be demanded and nourished explicitly and consciously by the nation-state. The central challenge before good governance relates to social development. In his famous, "the tryst with destiny", speech on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1947, Jawaharlal Nehru articulated this challenge as "ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunities". So, good governance must aim at expansion in social opportunities and removal of poverty. In short, it means security, justice, empowerment, employment and efficient delivery of services.

There are many inter-related aspects of securing justice that includes security of life and property, access to justice and rule of law. For the reduction of poverty an empowering approach is needed to be based on the conviction that poor people have to be both the object of development programs and principal agency for development.

Here it is appropriate to refer that major challenges to Good Governance is criminalization of politics and corruption. The criminalization of the political process and the unholy nexus between politicians, civil servants and business houses are having a baneful on public policy formulated and governance. It is fact that public is not a silent spectator to this phenomenon nor is the media. Even new methods have also been implemented to fiddle away with the processes of law.

In India, high level corruption is also a major hindrance in improving the quality of governance. So, it is necessary to eradicate corruption from the society. For this, a well-nit program is required to make public aware, and the empowering of existing anti-corruption agencies would be required.

#### 4 Conclusion

In nutshell, we can say that in the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century it has become evident that those who want minimal government are having an upper hand against the advocates of the paternalist welfare state. An effective, efficient and democratic government is the best guarantor of social justice as well as an orderly society. It is necessary to look deeper into the causes of poverty, inequality and suffering of the common man. With the increase of the role of the NGO's and the market as institutions of modernizations and progress in the country, the state continues to have a leading say in transformation of society to make it just and equal. The print and electronic media in particular have strengthened this process also.

To remove major obstacles like poverty and corruption, the anti corruption agencies and a conscious program for strengthening of public awareness would be required.

Role of women is also increasing day by day and it is a key to good governance. Women participation in economic program is also needed and can be expandable as educators, caretakers and leaders.

Several types of innovations are taking place in the government, in the market and in the civil society. The content and the nature of

good governance would undergo changes in tune with rising expectations and fresh demands of the people. Democratic governance would expect and secure from its leadership to be alive to such aspirations and to continually tune institutions of polity to be effective instruments of citizen's welfare.

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