

GOOD GOVERNANCE

What is Good Governance? **Good governance** addresses the allocation and management of resources to respond to collective problems; it is characterized by participation, transparency, accountability, rule of law, effectiveness and equity. Good governance publicizes accomplishing transparent and accountable management of human, natural, economic and financial resources for the purpose of equitable and sustainable development, good governance entails the following:

- ⊙ Clear decision-making procedures at all levels of public authorities.
- ⊙ Transparent and accountable institutions
- ⊙ The primacy of law in the management and distribution of resources
- ⊙ Capacity building for development
- ⊙ Preventing and combating corruption
- ⊙ Actively supporting the promotion of human rights
- ⊙ And rule of law.

Good governance can be understood as a set of 8 major characteristics:

- ⊙ participation,
- ⊙ rule of law,
- ⊙ transparency,
- ⊙ responsiveness,
- ⊙ consensus oriented,
- ⊙ equity and inclusiveness,
- ⊙ effectiveness and efficiency and
- ⊙ Accountability.

These characteristics assure that corruption is minimized, the views of minorities are taken into account, and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision-making.

Participation

- ⊙ Participation by both men and women.
- ⊙ Participation could be either direct or through legitimate intermediate institutions or representatives.
- ⊙ Participation also means freedom of association and expression on the one hand and an organized civil society on the other hand.

Rule of law

- ⊙ Good governance requires fair legal frameworks that are enforced impartially.
- ⊙ Full protection of human rights, particularly those of minorities.
- ⊙ It also means independent judiciary and an impartial and incorruptible police force.

Transparency

- ⊙ Decisions taken and their enforcement are done in a manner that follows rules and regulations.
- ⊙ Information is freely available and directly accessible to those who will be affected by such decisions and their enforcement.

Responsiveness

- ⊙ Institutions and processes try to serve all stakeholders within a reasonable timeframe.

Consensus oriented

- ⊙ Need of mediation of the different interests in society to reach a broad consensus in society on what is in the best interest of the whole community and how this can be achieved.
- ⊙ It also requires a long-term perspective for sustainable human development and how to achieve the goals of such development.

Equity and inclusiveness

- ⊙ Ensuring that all members of society feel that they have a stake in it and do not feel excluded from the mainstream.
- ⊙ This requires all groups, and especially the most vulnerable to have opportunities to maintain or improve their well being.

Effectiveness and efficiency

- ⊙ Processes and institutions produce results that meet the needs of society while making the best use of resources at their disposal.
- ⊙ It also means sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of the environment.

Accountability

- ⊙ Governmental institutions as well as the private sector and civil society organizations must be accountable to the public and to their institutional stakeholders.
- ⊙ In general organizations and institutions are accountable to those who will be affected by decisions or actions.

WHAT ARE THE PILLARS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE? Four Pillars of Good Governance are:

- ⊙ Public administration
- ⊙ Representative institutions
- ⊙ Civil society organizations
- ⊙ Information and communication

Three Fields of Governance

- ⊙ **State:** Fuelled by legitimate authority, power and force, coercion and rule of law.
- ⊙ **Private sector:** Fuelled by profit motives and market mechanisms
- ⊙ **Civil society (Vibrant):** Fuelled by social capital and spirit of voluntarism.

WHAT ARE THE SCENARIOS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE? The scenarios of good governance are:

- ⊙ National constitution
- ⊙ Mutual consultation
- ⊙ Clear job description
- ⊙ Clear roles and responsibilities
- ⊙ Clear economic policy
- ⊙ Effective planning system
- ⊙ Integrated rural and urban development
- ⊙ Quality education
- ⊙ Peace and stability
- ⊙ Law and order
- ⊙ Health care
- ⊙ Job creation
- ⊙ Poverty reduction
- ⊙ Broad-based civil participation

- ⊙ Transparency and accountability
- ⊙ Free marketing
- ⊙ Effective and sound Zakat and taxation system
- ⊙ Balanced rural and urban development plans
- ⊙ Peace and stability

WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF BAD GOVERNANCE? The characteristics of bad governance are:

- ⊙ No mutual consultations
- ⊙ There is no consolidated peace
- ⊙ Injustice
- ⊙ Poor participation
- ⊙ Dictatorship style
- ⊙ Lack of confidence
- ⊙ Poor compliance of law and order
- ⊙ Unbalanced development
- ⊙ Poor or lack planning
- ⊙ Poor cooperation and collaboration
- ⊙ Struggle for power
- ⊙ Poor communication
- ⊙ Ignorance and poor education system
- ⊙ Lack of rational use of available resources
- ⊙ There is no multiparty system
- ⊙ Absence of free marketing
- ⊙ Poor leadership
- ⊙ Lack of transparency and accountability
- ⊙ Lack of free press
- ⊙ Corruption
- ⊙ Anarchy
- ⊙ Lack of respect of human rights
- ⊙ No law and order
- ⊙ Inadequate provision of basic services.
- ⊙ Inequity in resource sharing and utilization
- ⊙ Improper selection of staffing (right man not in right position).
- ⊙ Lack of respect for rules and regulations/norms/values
- ⊙ Lack of discipline
- ⊙ No clear roles, responsibilities and job description
- ⊙ Untraditional elections
- ⊙ Clannish system prevails
- ⊙ General instability.

HOW CAN POOR GOVERNANCE BE OVERCOME?

- ⊙ General community awareness raising on sense of ownership, participation and proper utilization of resources
- ⊙ Improvement and promotion of national education policy

- ⊙ Strengthening consultations and networking
- ⊙ Proper follow and application of law and order
- ⊙ proper taxation
- ⊙ Motivation of government employees
- ⊙ Job creation and income generation activities
- ⊙ Regulations and rules against clannish
- ⊙ Justice and fairness
- ⊙ Mutual consultations
- ⊙ Right person for the right position
- ⊙ Encouragement of rural and urban communities development
- ⊙ Fight against corruption
- ⊙ Effective financial management, transparency and accountability
- ⊙ Private sector investment and establishing conducive environment for international cooperation
- ⊙ Application of Islamic teachings
- ⊙ Skill trainings and capacity buildings
- ⊙ sustainable peace

WHAT IS LOCAL GOVERNANCE?

It is a governance system of administration that operates in a local area. Local government administration is identified as a real and territorial jurisdiction.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT? Functions of Local Government:

- ⊙ Provision of social services to the communities (essential public services)
- ⊙ Raising revenue and spending money. (e.g. educational facilities)
- ⊙ Care centres
- ⊙ Provide welfare to disabled
- ⊙ Construction and maintenance of roads
- ⊙ Provision of land for cemeteries
- ⊙ Housing, clearing slums
- ⊙ Water supply, sewage and rubbish disposal
- ⊙ Street lighting and cleaning, sanitation and drainage
- ⊙ Provide recreation services
- ⊙ Parks
- ⊙ Responsible for public health, dead animal disposal
- ⊙ Public toilets
- ⊙ Provision of mortuaries
- ⊙ Burying of destitute persons
- ⊙ Regulate trade activities (markets and abattoirs)
- ⊙ Perform regulatory services- consumer protection, provision of trade licenses and permits- important sources of revenue
- ⊙ Provide building regulations and protection
- ⊙ Local authorities are permitted to pass by- laws.
- ⊙ Local authorities provide jobs and training opportunities for people