

Good Governance and Human Rights

Dr. Manorama Gupta

Abstract—The concept of “governance” is not new. It is as old as human civilization. Simply put “governance” means the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented. Governance can be used in several contexts such as corporate governance, international governance, national governance and local governance. Good governance is achieved under a democratic political system in which the actions of all three sectors contribute to the good of society. It is most likely to occur when the government sector has high quality public sector institutions and when the nation has a strong civil society. Human Rights protection is a norm which a legal system portrays through Good Governance. Both the concepts are intrinsic to each other that one cannot be conceptualized without the other. Good Governance promotes human rights while human rights are a source of Good Governance. The basic purpose of Good Governance is to promote the human dignity and status. In this paper I will discuss the role of good governance in securing Human rights.

This paper discusses about the meaning of words such as good governance, good governance and human rights, good governance element named, definitions and World Bank and other institutions of good governance have been mentioned. A brief history of the formation of good governance and neoliberal view is explained.

The characteristics of good governance, good governance and human rights, properties and relationship are also explained.

Keywords— Women Empowerment, Politics ,India, etc.

I. INTRODUCTION

In international development, good governance is a subjective term that describes how public institutions conduct public affairs and manage public resources in the preferred way. Governance is "the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented (or not implemented)". [1] The term governance can apply to corporate, international, national, local governance or to the interactions between other sectors of society.

The concept of "good governance" then emerges as a model to compare ineffective economies or political bodies with viable economies and political bodies. The concept centers on the responsibility of governments and governing bodies to meet the needs of the masses as opposed to select groups in society. Because countries often described as "most successful" are liberal democratic states, concentrated in Europe and the

Americas, good governance standards often measure other state institutions against these states. Aid organizations and the authorities of developed countries often will focus the meaning of "good governance" to a set of requirements that conform to the organization's agenda, making "good governance" imply many different things in many different contexts.

Dr. Manorama Gupta , Associate Professor of Political Science, DAV (PG) College, Kanpur, India.

According to Grindle (2004), the relevance of getting good governance comes precisely from its relationship with the development of a country and the reduction of poverty. Setting an agenda for reaching good governance is of the huge interest but also a complex task, which makes this author to propose rather a “good enough governance” agenda as a starting point. In the construction of this "simpler" agenda, the idea is to revisit policies that have worked in the past, set priorities in a strategically way, consider policies with greater impact in alleviating poverty and reaching development, and look for innovative ways of implementing such policies.

In terms of economic growth, there are several authors relating that variable with good governance, but in the sense of “being related to” instead of “being part of”. In other words, scholars have been intrigued by the relationship between good governance and economic or political development. Grindle (2007) mentions there are many relations to be found between indicators of good governance and economic growth, however those associations are difficult to measure and even harder to be attributed as causal. Nevertheless, she mentions the work of Kauffman (2002) who found a causal and positive relationship between different dimensions of good governance and the GDP per capita in the long run, i.e. good governance makes development possible.

These dimensions are how the government is elected and oversights, the accountability power of citizens, the credibility in the government, the respect for institutions, both from government and citizens, and the effective delivery of public goods. He found that the relation between these two variables does not hold in the reverse direction, meaning that higher levels of economic growth do not lead to better governance. For example, Quain (2003) points out that China and Vietnam are frequent examples of countries that have made remarkable leaps in economic development and poverty reduction, but nevertheless retain many characteristics of poor governance.

II. CHARACTERISTICS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE:

When trying to relate good governance to human rights, it is important to distinguish between various ways of using the concept. Good Governance can be defined in some ideas. Like as a normative ideal, as analytical concept, and as a donor practice.

Besides this Good governance is consists of eight (8) major individuality.

These are as followings:

1. Participatory
2. Accountable
3. Consensus oriented
4. Effective and efficient
5. Responsive
6. Transparent
7. The rule of law
8. Equitable and inclusive

The principle and practice of democratic governance underpins governance in a local government sector. Democratic governance refers to the democratic nature of local government and the accountability of local governments and their communities. It makes corruption minimized, the suggestions of minorities are taken into account and the most vulnerable group's voice in society are heard in decision-making. It is also opens society's present and future needs.

1. Participation:

For, good governance one of the key cornerstone is the participation of both men and women. Participation might be either directly or through lawful intermediate institutions or as an agent. The important matter is that the concerns of the most vulnerable in society would be taken into suggestions in decision making does not always mean by representative democracy. Participation must be well-informed and organized. This means organized civil society on the one hand and freedom of association and press and expression on the other hand.

2. Consensus oriented

There are many actors and as many points of view in a certain society. It requires a broad and long-term outlook on what is needed for sustainable human development and how to achieve the goals of such development. Good governance involves mediation of the different interests in society to reach a broad consensus in society on what is in the best interest of the community and how it can be achieved. We understand what is best for them by observing the historical, cultural and social contexts of a given society or community.

3. Accountability

Accountability is another important condition for good governance. Generally an organization or an institution is accountable to those who will be affected by its decisions or actions. The governmental institutions and the private sector and civil society organizations must be accountable to the public and to their institutional stakeholders. Who has to be accountable to whom, varies depending on whether decisions or actions taken are internal or external to an organization or institution. Without transparency and the rule of law, accountability cannot be imposed.

4. Transparency

Transparency is another main thing to ensure good governance. Transparency means that taken decisions and enforcement of these decisions will be done in a way that will follow the rules and regulations. It also means that information is without stinting available and easily accessible to those who will be affected by those decisions and their enforcement. It also means that sufficient information is provided and these information is provided in easily understandable forms and media.

5. Responsiveness

Institutions and processes will try to serve all stakeholders within reasonable timeframe is another important requirement of 'Good governance'.

6. Effectiveness and efficiency

To ensure 'Good governance', effectiveness and efficiency is another important thing. When processes and institutions

decisions meet the needs of the best use of society's resources means 'Effectiveness and efficiency. The concept of efficiency in the context of good governance also coats the sustainable use of natural resources and environment protection.

7. Equity and inclusiveness

Well being of a society depends on ensuring that all members of the society feel that they have a chance in it and do not feel barred from the majority of society. If it is found that all groups, and mainly the most vulnerable, have equal opportunities to improve and continue their well being in the society, then it could be said that the equality and inclusiveness has been ensured.

8. Rule of law

Rule of law is the root of 'Good governance'. In a good governed society fair legal frameworks are enforced neutrally. It also needs full protection of human rights, certainly those of minorities. Free and independent judiciary and an neutral and honest police force can ensure the fair enforcement of law.

Relationship between Good Governance and Human Rights:

Governance refers to mechanisms, institutions and processes through which authority is exercised in the conduct of public affairs. The concept of good governance emerged in the late 1980s to address failures in development policies due to governance concerns, including failure to respect human rights. The concepts of good governance and human rights are mutually reinforcing, both being based on core principles of participation, accountability, transparency and State responsibility.

Human rights require a conducive and enabling environment, in particular appropriate regulations, institutions and procedures framing the actions of the State. Human rights provide a set of performance standards against which Governments and other actors can be held accountable. At the same time, good governance policies should empower individuals to live with dignity and freedom. Although human rights empower people, they cannot be respected and protected in a sustainable manner without good governance. In addition to relevant laws, political, managerial and administrative processes and institutions are needed to respond to the rights and needs of populations. There is no single model for good governance. Institutions and processes evolve over time.

Human rights strengthen good governance frameworks. They require: going beyond the ratification of human rights treaties, integrating human rights effectively in legislation and State policy and practice; establishing the promotion of justice as the aim of the rule of law; understanding that the credibility of democracy depends on the effectiveness of its response to people's political, social and economic

demands; promoting checks and balances between formal and informal institutions of governance; effecting necessary social changes, particularly regarding gender equality and cultural diversity; generating political will and public participation and awareness; and responding to key challenges for human rights and good governance, such as corruption and violent conflict.

III. CONCLUSIONS:

The human rights issues primarily concern the relationship between the state and its citizens. The economic development mainly depends on good governance and equitable. Now, these days, is what good governance is to ensure the political and economic development. There are two aspects of good governance, About the legitimacy of a political aspect and a technical aspect that is related to the capacity. World Bank publications showed that Strong government intervention and support services that can promote economic growth. Governance capacity of the state is concerned and This affects the ability to provide services to the public and to promote economy and human rights. Democratic governance and state capacity inextricably linked together. Good governance as an ideal principle refers to the effective user friendly laws that benefit those who live in the territory. Good governance and basic human rights standards should be defined by economic criteria and management. Relationship between human rights and good governance is the way in which human rights can be seen as good corporate governance reform policies.

REFERENCES

- [1] Kaul, J.L. and Sinha, Manoj K. (eds.), "Human Rights and Good Governance: National and International Perspectives", Noida, Satyam Law International, 2008. •
- [2] Nanda, Ved., P., "The "Good Governance" Concept Revisited" in *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, available at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25097772>.
- [3] "Good Governance: Practices for the Protection of Human Rights", Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, New York and Geneva, United Nations Publication, 2007. • Godbole, Madhav, "Good Governance: a Distant Dream" in *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 39, No. 11 (Mar. 13-19, 2004), pp. 1103-1107. Published by: *Economic and Political Weekly*, available at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4414753>
- [4] Joseph, Sarah, "Democratic Good Governance: New Agenda for Change" in *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 36, No. 12 (Mar. 24-30, 2001), pp. 1011-1014. Published by: *Economic and Political Weekly*, available at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4410424>
- [5] <http://www.uno.org> • <http://rti.gov.in/rti-act.pdf> •
- [6] http://arc.gov.in/11threp/ARC_11thReport_preface_contents.pdf •
- [7] <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CAC/> •
- [8] <http://www.article19.org/data/files/pdfs/publications/foi-as-an-internationalright.pdf>
- [9] <http://www.unescap.org/pdd/prs/ProjectActivities/Ongoing/gg/governance.asp>

Dr. Manorama Gupta is currently working as an Associate Professor of Political Science at D.A-V. College, Kanpur (India)