The Concept, Elements & Characteristic Good Governance

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The Concept of Good Governance

In general, **good governance** is perceived as a normative principle of administrative law, which obliges the State to perform its functions in a manner that promotes the values of efficiency, no corruptibility, and responsiveness to civil society. Good Governance ensures the formulation of appropriate policies and priorities to support the activities of the people to enable them to earn a decent livelihood, their access to state resources and opportunities and help them to lead a long and productive life.

Good governance depends on public participation where poorest and most vulnerable population can directly influence and participate in decision making. Good governance helps the poor to empower them toward change in their life style.

Elements of Good Governance

The following Key Elements are needed to form a good governance:

- 1. Constitutional Legitimacy;
- 2. Judicial Independence;
- 3. Democratic Election;
- 4. Transparency;
- 5. Rule of Law;

Elements of Good Governance (cont.)

- 6. Absence of Corruption;
- 7. Political Openness;
- 8. Active Independent Media;
- 9. Freedom of Information;
- 10. Stability of Law;

Elements of Good Governance (cont.)

- 11. Administrative Competence;
- 12. Administrative Neutrality: Merit-based public service, accountability to public interests on issues of public concern.
- 13. Tolerance, Equality, Public participation, public expenditure directed to public purpose.

Characteristic of Good Governance:

Good governance has 8 major characteristics. It is participatory, accountable, transparent, responsive, consensus oriented, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive, and follows the rule of law. Good governance is responsive to the present and future needs of the organization, exercises prudence in policy-setting and decision-making, and that the best interests of all stakeholders are taken into account.

1. Rule of Law

Good governance requires fair legal frameworks that are enforced by an impartial regulatory body, for the full protection of stakeholders.

2. Transparency

Transparency means that information should be provided in easily understandable forms and media; that it should be freely available and directly accessible to those who will be affected by governance policies and practices, as well as the outcomes resulting therefrom; and that any decisions taken and their enforcement are in compliance with established rules and regulations.

3. Responsiveness

Good governance requires that organizations and their processes are designed to serve the best interests of stakeholders within a reasonable timeframe.

4. Consensus Oriented

Good governance requires consultation to understand the different interests of stakeholders in order to reach a broad consensus of what is in the best interest of the entire stakeholder group and how this can be achieved in a sustainable and prudent manner.

5. Equity and Inclusiveness

The organization that provides the opportunity for its stakeholders to maintain, enhance, or generally improve their well-being provides the most compelling message regarding its reason for existence and value to society.

6. Effectiveness and Efficiency

Good governance means that the processes implemented by the organization to produce favorable results meet the needs of its stakeholders, while making the best use of resources – human, technological, financial, natural and environmental – at its disposal.

7. Accountability

Accountability is a key tenet of good governance. Who is accountable for what should be documented in policy statements. In general, an organization is accountable to those who will be affected by its decisions or actions as well as the applicable rules of law.

8. Participation

Participation by both men and women, either directly or through legitimate representatives, is a key cornerstone of good governance. Participation needs to be informed and organized, including freedom of expression and assiduous concern for the best interests of the organization and society in general.

Case Study: Does Bangladesh Exist a Good Governance? If Yes/No, Explain How?