According to UNESCO, governance refers to the “structures and processes that are designed to ensure accountability, transparency, responsiveness, rule of law, stability, equity and inclusiveness, empowerment, and broad-based participation”. Governance plays a vital role in the education a country provides to their youth. A country with bad governance diminishes the quality of education the government provides because their funding is being focused on things other than the public’s needs. Poor governance may be caused by corruption, the illegal conduct of the government for personal benefits, and political instability.

Cameroon is a country located in Central Africa that is surrounded by Nigeria, Chad, the Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and the Republic of the Congo. According to worldbank.org, Cameroon has shown some improvement in their education systems since more than 90% of school-age children in 2009 are in primary school, showing an increase in 21% since 1991. However, there are still many aspects that threaten the education of many children from poor economic backgrounds. For example, according to a 2010 UNESCO report, approximately 250,000 primary school children do not go to school because they dropped out, they were never registered, or they are supposed to register at a later time. Children living in rural areas are unable to continue post-primary education due to economic background, location, and gender.

To improve the education of the youth of Cameroon, UNESCO has set 4 strategies. Firstly, there should be performance standards and benchmarks at the school and regional levels of government. Secondly, they want to improve teacher management by recruiting teachers transparently, and they would like to address governance problems. Thirdly, organizing and monitoring the budgets more effectively and establishing public transparency to encourage good governance. To avoid corruption, a possible solution would be to have confidential and anonymous complaint centers to report cases of any suspected corruption. Furthermore, another solution for bad governance would be to hire external auditors to detect fraud and to protect the budget set aside for education.

In conclusion, the level of governance of a country is very crucial in the quality of education. Cameroon is one of the countries that has a poor governance, causing an increase in poverty and a decrease in the rate of school attendance. To improve governance, Cameroon is encouraged to follow a set of strategies such as recruiting better qualified teachers and keeping a budget used only for education.