



The Relation between Good Governance and Human Development in Afghanistan

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Abstract

This research is focusing on relationship between good governance and human development in Afghanistan by using the descriptive-analytical methodology by relaying on library data collection. The hypothesis in this research emphasize on the availability of good governance can promote human progress in Afghanistan. The research findings show that political structure and government managements are essential factors for achieving human developments, and the cooperation between government, civil society, and private sector forms the foundation for human development. Accountability and transparency, political stability, freedom of speech, absence of violence, rule of law, kingship of law, quality of legislation, control of corruption, government efficiency and effectiveness. According to the mentioned indicators for good governance, Afghanistan doesn't have the ideal position. Based on the foundations of human development, and the international organizations report, beside the significant efforts of private sectors in education, the political structure and human development in Afghanistan faces significant challenges. Enhancing human development requires strengthen partnership among the government and private sectors, along with the bolstering civil society.

Keywords: *Government; Good Governance; Development; Human Development; Empowerment*

Introduction

Development and human development is the major target of governments. Theory of good governance proposed in the development literature during 1980s. For development, countries are facing challenges such as poverty, unaccountability, corruption, absence of legislation kingship, and lack of economic development. After the 1990s, each year United Nations is publishing reports that shows the human development in different countries.

This reports are based on three indicator and criteria:

1. Long and healthy life
2. Access to education and knowledge
3. Stable life and sufficient income.

In the last years, effective steps been taken in Afghanistan to access education. Educational institutions have been established both in the education and higher education in the public and private sector in terms of quality and quantity.

The government also obtained the membership of the information access commission. After the collapse of the Republic and the regaining power by the Islamic Emirate, various voices been raised about law enforcement, transparency and good Islamic governance but still good governance in Afghanistan has its challenges and the government in this country has not yet achieved human development.

The intervention of great powers, the changes of political system and the violent changes of government in the last four decades have made the goals impossible to be achieved. The World Bank reports in respect to human development and good governance in Afghanistan are alarming.

The question that arises is how to achieve human development as the major development element? To answer the question theorists are proposing the theory of good governance that can pave the way for development and human development in third world states, including Afghanistan. So studying the relation between good governance and human development in Afghanistan is crucial.

In this research, the relationship between good governance and human development in Afghanistan will be pursued by focusing on educational institutions.

Studying the relationship between good governance and human development in Afghanistan is of practical importance, this country needs human development and good governance most of all in the current situation.

Question

What is the role of good governance on human development in Afghanistan?

Research Purpose

Afghanistan had/has the dreams for development and human development, though has been burned in fire of war in the last four decades. There are certain mechanisms in the world based on the experience of countries to reach human development. Like all other states, Afghanistan can achieve this important factor by establishing good governance.

Literature Review

There is not much written literature about good governance and human development in Afghanistan, but this country had membership in institutions such as information access commissions, which was an effective step towards good governance.

Research Background

There are many studies on the relationship between governance and human development in regional and global countries, such as, Rudra and Sen writes in an article (2011) entitled "Governance and Institutional Development in India" examined governance and institutional development in two Indian states using panel data analysis. In this study, they found a significant relationship between governance quality and human development in that country.

Beside them, Kamalza and Mbach (2004) in the other article study's the role of institutions in the development process of African countries and concluded that weak rule of law, corruption, poor management, lack of a strong civil society, and political interference were the main inhibiting factors in the development of these countries.

Knaack and Feng (2003) examined the relationship between governance, institutional quality, and economic growth. These studies show that improving indicators of good governance has direct effects on both economic development and human development.

Sameti, Ranjbar, and Mohseni (2011) in a study entitled "Analyzing the Impact of Good Governance on Human Development Index: A Case Study of Southeast Asian Countries" focused on the impact of good governance on the Human Development Index (HDI). This study shows that good governance quality has a positive impact on Human Development Index.

Definition of Good Governance

The term "governance" is derived from the Greek word *Kybernetes* and *kybernan*, and this new term refers to something beyond government. Its meaning is guiding, directing, or keeping things together (Naghbi, 2010: 7). The concept of governance refers to accountability, both in policymaking and implementation (Akbari, 2006: 137). Good governance has been proposed as the foundation of development in terms of how a country is managed, decision-making processes, and the interaction between the government and the people (Jasbi, Nafari, 2006). The World Bank defines good governance as the way power is used in managing economic and social resources to achieve sustainable development. (Kamijani & Salatin, 2008). In good governance, there is a close relationship among the three main pillars of government, civil society, and the private sector, and this partnership ensures proper and better utilization of public affairs (Gholipour, 2005). The United Nations Development Program follows an international development agenda and carries out extensive activities in various countries around the world in the field of good governance.

Good governance includes mechanisms, processes, and institutions through which citizens, groups, and civil society achieve their interests and fulfill their commitments (UNDP, 2002: 45).

In good governance, what matters is participation with other social forces at both domestic and international levels (UN-HABITAT, 2002: 6-7). From a religious perspective, the purpose of establishing government and governance in Islam is to address the rights of the deprived and defend the oppressors. Additionally, spreading spirituality, creating security, and increasing welfare in society, as well as the law enforcement, are among the main goals of Imam Ali's government.

Definition of Development

The United Nations has crystal clear definition about human development, and the ways to reach development.

According to Mahbub ul Haq and Amartya Sen "This perspective focuses on humans as the central axis and primary goal of development, demonstrating that development should ensure improvement in the quality of life for individuals. In this approach, education and empowerment of individuals are considered key assets and the most important factor in creating greater societal profit. Additionally, the government is seen as a facilitating actor in achieving human development, and its role in creating conducive conditions for societal progress is highly significant. According to this perspective, the size of the government is not important; rather, the performance and responsibilities of the government and the methods of implementing government actions to achieve human development and increase societal profitability are emphasized. In fact, the government should act as a facilitator and create suitable conditions for societal progress and human development." (Alizada and Arab, 1388: 44)

Theoretical Bases of Research

The origin of the good governance view can be found in the thoughts of Chester Barnard. According to him the solution to many social issues lays in the collaborative network of actors from government organizations, the private sector, and public institutions.

After the Second World War, western powers start to repair the damages and develop the states affected by the war. In this context, three approaches were proposed:

1. Big government approach
2. Small government approach
3. Good governance model

Good governance was about the economic growth, but later it also got a political aspect.

Big Government Approach

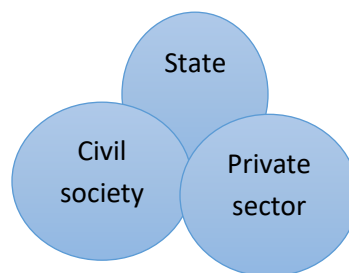
After the Second World War and the great economic crisis of the 1929s (Midari and Khairkhahan, 2013) according to many theorists and policymakers the only factor that can overcome devastation and the economic crisis from the Second World War is government. This approach started from 1945 and continued till the end of 1970. According to the advice of Keynesian economists and consultants, this approach was implemented in west. (Nadri Qomi, 2013, 8)

Small Government Approach

After nearly three decades the Big Government approach has shown its weaknesses and inefficiency, specifically in the economic sector. The new theory has been proposed under the title of small government that is known as market economy and Washington consensus. According to this theory government should be small with less involvement in market activities, and privatization should be strengthened. (Rahnoord, 2008, 2) according to this view, markets produce the best results and prices are the best allocators of resources.

Good Governance Model

The third approach emerged in the late 1990s, which overcome the two previous two approaches. The first approach emphasized on labors in government, which led to inflation and unemployment in the economy, and also had multiple forms, which led to the east Asian financial and the unsuccessful experience in eastern European states and soviet union. According to Estreeten, without the governmental intervention market will become more cruel and destructive institutes. (Midari and khairkhahan, 2013)



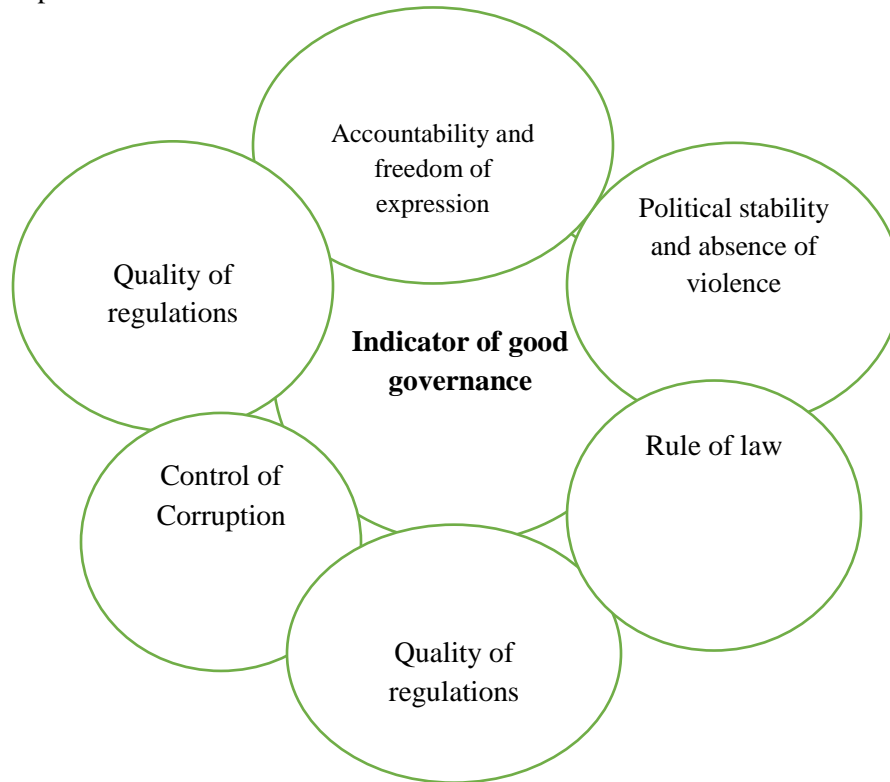
Model (1) the method of collaboration between state, civil society and private sector. “UNDP”

Based on the World Bank reports on the development and human development in Afghanistan from 2010 to 2015 shows promotion of education sector in Afghanistan.

Indicator of Good Governance

According to definitions of good governance, the central theme of good governance is how to achieve a government that can be a catalyst for economic development and equality. Based on document presented by the World Bank in 2006 good governance consists of six indicators (Kaufman, Kraay, and Mastruzzi, 2009, 17)

1. Accountability and freedom of expression
2. Political stability and absence of violence
3. Government Effectiveness
4. Quality of regulations
5. Rule of law
6. Control of corruption



2nd Model; Indicator for good governance

Accountability and Freedom Speech

The Oxford dictionary defines accountability as: “Being responsible for decisions and actions in such a way that others expect you to explain those actions and decisions when asked.” (Oxford Advance Learner’s Dictionary, edition 8).

One of the key indicators of good governance is responsiveness, according to which not only governmental institutions but also the private sector and various civil society organizations should be accountable to the general public and stakeholders who are part of that institution. The satisfaction of participants, or in other words, the citizens of a country, is an essential element for legitimacy of the government, which can only be achieved through free participation based on justice and freedom. This happens when the government adheres to strict laws and also allows for free expression of opinions.

Various International documents have emphasized the right of people to participate in governance (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, p. 123).

Skadler, prominent professor of public law, wrote in the article titled “Conceptualization of Accountability” “accountability has a meaning that is far from reach; a meaning that still needs to be discovered. The boundaries of this definition, as well as its structure, are still in an aura of ambiguity. (Skadler, Anders, and ..., P. 13)

Here, it is meant to be accountable and the right to assert the existence of political and social freedoms, in which the fields of people's awareness rise and increase so that they can criticize the performance of the rulers. The consequence of such growth, the factor Governments may be forced show more efficient performance. The awareness of the people in a land makes the governments secure in meeting the needs of the people and other demands of their citizens to be more responsive. So, in this sense, the accountability of the government requires two important principles: Responsible Rulers and Powerful Citizens: in this sense, the effectiveness of the government's accountability depends on the officials whose decisions are considered important on the policymaking process and national policies of the country to create good governance. These decisions depend on the amount of pressure of people who use their political rights such as the right to vote, protest against the decisions taken by the government and try to prevent unilateral measures that cause the government to be unresponsive. On the one hand; existence of ignorance of Afghanistan's policymakers at the highest and lowest levels of Afghanistan's social fabric on the other hand; lack of citizen's awareness of political, economic, social and cultural rights has become a factor for the government's lack of accountability in this country. As SIGAR writes in report quoting Jabar Naimi, the governor of Kunduz, Wardak, Khost and Laghman provinces, "In most districts, we have never addressed the real problems of the people. We acted based on our assumptions to ensure stability in the country." (SIGAR, p. 76)

The report further states that the USA and its allies have made ambitious efforts to encourage the Afghan people to be aware of politics, economics, education, defense rule of law, gender equality among men and women, and social relations among women after their invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, but the Afghan society has historically had a different view of the mentioned factors, especially the role of women in the Afghan society. The actions of America and its allies faced internal resistance and caused the failure of their policy in this country (Ibid, p.79).

Nevertheless, in the last two decades, the government of Afghanistan was enacted based on the constitution under the title of the Islamic Republic, but various challenges and mismanagement by the officials of governmental and non-governmental institutions, considering the current and external dimensions, have weakened the government's accountability to build prosperous Afghanistan for the citizens and played a fundamental role in creating affluent society.

Political Stability and Absence of Violence

Political stability is another component of good governance and it shows how much a government and political system affected by illegal processes and violent means outside the framework of national laws has been able to be subject to instability or overthrow. According to this index, the greater, is the probability of political instability in a country, It shows weak governance and the more the country in question is affected by political stability it gets a higher score in the field of good governance. quality of public services, the quality of formulation, implementation of public, government policies and the amount of commitment that the government accepts in front of these policies and commitments; It has a fundamental role in how to govern (Samti, 1390: 192).

This is despite the fact that the political stability in Afghanistan remains in an aura of uncertainty after the intervention of the United States and its allies, and Afghanistan is still faced with a series of challenges and debilitating conflicts. It faces political, economic, security, government institutions, etc. (Tiyar, Ilkes and Verdin, Scud, p. 5) According to the United States visa report in 2020 that many political factions in Afghanistan have no desire to deal with the balance of political power in the last two decades. (USA 2020 Special Report, p. 4) This clear lack of will to resolve conflicts; Prepared the ground for decentralization of power and it has weakened the centralized political system in the last decade of Afghanistan.

World Economic Forum, the Economist Intelligence Unit and Political Risk Services and other international institutions use the political stability index focusing on violence/terrorism and the presence of illegal or violent means, It measures political motivation, etc. (The Global Economy.com, 2021)

Governance of Law

The UN definition of the rule of law refers to the principles of governance in which all individuals and private and public institutions are accountable to the laws. Publicly published rules apply equally. According to the definition of the World Bank, the rule of law seeks to limit the power of the government and protect the rights of citizens against the abuse or arbitrary use of its power by the government. The rule of law is a guarantee for equal treatment of citizens before the law (Samti, 1390: 197)

This is despite the fact that the Afghan constitution does not have a clear definition of rule of law. Although the preamble of the Constitution emphasizes the rule of law but the explicit definition of the rule of law is not mentioned in the constitution, instead; the political motives of the leaders play a significant role.(Elyzi, Hatem, p. 3)

In the last twenty years, the rule of law in Afghanistan has faced various challenges and the laws have never been implemented. In most regions of Afghanistan, the leaders have held the seat of power based on the individual power of the "gun law". Although they have been in power or not, they have exercised power over governmental and non-governmental institutions by using militias under their command. (Report of the American Institute of Peace, p. 3)

Quality Rules

The quality of laws is another component of good governance that can meet the legal needs of citizens by referring to the country's effective national laws. SIGAR wrote in a report that the US military center and military operations are included in the rule of law guidebook That the rule of law is an inherently "often intentionally vague" term constitutes broad agreement on the rule of law. It is the main legal government Based on that, all public and private persons, institutions and organizations, including government officials and other legal and natural persons, are the same and accountable. Law enforcement is judged independently and is compatible with international laws and human rights. (SIGAR, p. 2)

Quality brings transparency rules. Transparency means the free flow of information, the presentation of views or freedom of expression, and the ability to easily access information is guaranteed for everyone. Also, transparency can be seen in the context of society's awareness of how to make decisions and implement them. In such a situation, the mass media will be able to easily analyze the policies adopted in the decision-making and executive system of the country. (Dabbagh, 1388: 4)

Effective and Efficient

Good governance means that processes produce results that meet the needs of society with the best use of resources. The concept of efficiency in governance includes sustainable use of natural resources and conservation. Nevertheless, the better efficiency of the political system in Afghanistan provides the ground for public mobilization and improves citizens' trust in the government. So that the opposition cannot get the support of the natives of this land. On the one hand, the Afghan political system can enjoy popular support as long as it proves its reliability. On the other hand, the weakness of the political system causes the growth of banditry, lawlessness and corruption, which are strengthened and nurtured in a power vacuum. The military forces, especially the police, are able to gain respect for themselves when they can protect the people.

Nevertheless, the feeling of impunity allows powerful groups and individuals in the country to ignore the national sovereignty and effective law. Functions to be inhibited. Although it seems difficult to eliminate the stubborn military and political opponents in Afghanistan. For example, in the last two decades, even weak and marginalized people have never been caught by the consequences of violating their laws in this process. According to the ruling government in Afghanistan, they should approach their relationship with such people under the cover of the national laws of the country, because processing the rule of law and making them effective is useless without achievements and results.

However, recognition and strengthening of those informal institutions of society that deal with decision-making, resolving disputes and building consensus at the national level and in peripheral areas such as provinces should be strengthened.

Yasmin Zazi wrote in the article that according to Code 91 and 92, the use of the financial resources of the entire country by the head of the executive branch in emergency situations has been determined with the consultation of the World Bank and its approval by the Cabinet of Ministers, But in 2020, according to media reports, he called it a successful measure to prevent the misuse of the National Monetary Fund by drafting and approving the by-laws in which the president's powers to use the entire country's monetary fund were limited. which the financial donor community has been satisfied with (Zazi, p. 14).

Corruption Control

Corruption is a cognate of the administrative and governmental system and human activities have emerged as an integral part of organizations and institutions. Administrative corruption was/is the main challenge in the last two decades of the government and other governments in Afghanistan. According to the report of Transparency International, in 2022, under the leadership of its new leader, Afghanistan has improved its corruption status and has ranked 150th among 180 countries in the world with 24 points. Meanwhile, a year ago, Afghanistan ranked 174th in this category with 16 points. (Transparency International Organization report, January/25/2022)

Research Methodology

This research has been done using analytical-descriptive method and the method of data collection is library.

Research Findings

Around the world, higher education is under pressure in response to the changing needs of society and because of its role in economic and social development. The structures of higher education in different countries are moving towards new models of governance, and for this reason, attention is focused on the relationship between the university and the labor market, and the entrepreneurial university is the case of many countries. Expanding the quantity of higher education and increasing the number of students in universities and higher education institutions, increasing higher education supply institutions under the ownership and management of the private sector, developing flexible educational methods such as virtual education, increasing the diversity of students in terms of gender, age and ethnicity, globalization of higher education and so on ... Are among the most important changes made in higher education, which has caused more attention to the governance of higher education. The creation and formation of private higher education institutions has been done in line with good governance. The main idea is a good look at the way of management towards higher education in the society. But it has had its own challenges, which can be briefly mentioned: the expansion of the number of universities and higher institutions, as well as the low quality of courses in some institutions, the lack of proper

supervision by the government regarding the quality of education, rentier relations and scholarships from government institutions for some of the universities and Educational institutions, economic view of higher education, unemployment, lack of employment and other problems are a serious challenge for higher education in Afghanistan. The role and position of educational institutions in Afghanistan in the production and development of knowledge is not hidden from anyone. Along with government educational institutions, private educational institutions have also been active in knowledge development. There have been challenges. Based on good governance, there should be a close relationship between the three main pillars of the government, civil society, and the private sector, and the partnership of these three sectors in decisions, mechanisms, and processes will lead to proper and better use of public affairs.

Achieving Human Development

According to the governance theory, the process of achieving development and human development is caused by the meaningful interaction of three big institutions (government, private sector and civil society).each of them has duties that are well identified and separated. The government is responsible for providing public services and creating a platform for sustainable human development by creating and maintaining stable, efficient and fair legal frameworks for public and private activities. The government also supports the rights of vulnerable citizens, maintains the stability of the country's macroeconomics, maintains health standards and provides public security, directs resources towards providing basic services needed by society, creates infrastructure and maintains the social order of citizens' equality, accountability is the law of governance.

Civil Society

Civil society refers to a field of social relations that is free from the interference of political power and includes a set of institutions, associations, private and civil organizations (Bashirieh, 1374). According to Tocqueville, civil society is the independent eye of the society (Tocqueville et al., 1347). Italian theorist Gramsci, with the distinction he makes between civil society and political society, He considered the field of civil society as the place where soft, invisible, subtle power emerges in the form of educational, cultural and religious systems and other institutions, and he considers civil society as the cultural arm and soft power of the government (Macher, 2004). Civil society plays a very important role in protecting the rights of citizens. Civil society connects citizens with the public sphere. Civil society channels people's participation in economic and social activities and strengthens it through organizing in powerful groups to influence the process of determining the macro policies of the society (Alizadeh and Arab, 2017).A civil society based on civil and Islamic ethics can be efficient and effective; civil ethics include: trust, mutual respect, legality, responsibility, accountability and transparency.

Private Sector

The private sector as a production factor in strengthening investments and growth of gross national product in order to increase per capita income, economic, market dynamism and create relative prosperity is one of the important sectors in facilitating good governance. The government plays an important role in development, but it is not the only one, the private sector is the main source of creating job opportunities (Alizad and Arab, 2008). Sustainable human development depends in part on creating jobs and providing sufficient incomes to improve living standards. In the way of managing society based on the model of good governance; The government is not responsible, but the interaction of the government, civil society and the private sector is necessary to realize good governance. Based on the model of good governance, civil society and government complement each other. It is natural for a government that is at the request of the people and the civil society that it needs a social base and public acceptance for its survival. Good governance is not formed in a vacuum, but requires opportunities and favorable conditions, such as the consensus of the elites, the will to develop in the government, the value

and cultural cohesion of the society, consensus on the fundamental goals in the development process, meritocracy, all of the above in the shadow of A civil society created by civil ethics becomes possible.

The private sector has invested heavily in higher education in Afghanistan. According to the statistics of the Ministry of Higher Education in Afghanistan, currently 134 universities and private higher education institutions are active in Kabul and the provinces, among which 12 universities have master's programs and 35 programs are being promoted (Ministry of Higher Education, 25/Qos/1402). According to the interview of the head of the Union of Private Universities in 1401, 217 thousand students are studying in 131 institutions of higher education. In recent years, the number of students dropping out and enrolling in private universities has decreased by 50% (Pajhwok, 18 Hamal, 1401). In order to achieve good governance, government policies need to be formulated and implemented within the framework of good governance. It is a matter that depends on the political elite. The values and stances of the political elites make all cases possible, along with that, the community experts and people of remembrance perform their duties, which by making them famous in relation to the political leaders can prevent deviation and perversion in some cases. The cooperative interaction of the government with the private sector, especially universities and private higher institutions, can make human development possible.

Conclusion

The research results show that the structure of the government is important, there are a series of opportunities and challenges in the big government. Also, there are a series of opportunities and challenges in the small government and the expansion of the private sector, but what is important is that the government must be powerful in the political and economic field. The ability of the government is due to the way the government interacts with the civil society and the private sector. This interaction should be based on real participation with the civil society and the private sector in decisions and policies. People should be able to have the right to comment on the policies and policies of the government in different sectors, and the law should be applied in the same way, and corruption in the society should be controlled based on the transparency that arises. Therefore, the position of Afghanistan in the international reports that are published is worrying. In the reports of international organizations, Afghanistan's position is not favorable both in terms of good governance and human development. In many cases, Afghanistan is even behind Chad and Sudan. In the field of human development, the country is facing serious challenges, although the actions of the private sector in education are significant, according to the statistics of the Ministry of Higher Education of Afghanistan, there are 134 universities and private higher education institutions in Kabul and the provinces of Afghanistan. According to some statistics, 217 thousand students study there. In the case of public sector partnership with the private sector and the strengthening of civil society, it is possible to achieve efficient and effective quality workforce training.

Suggestions

- The presence of representatives of universities and private institutions in policy-making commissions in the Ministry of Higher Education;
- Granting more independence to universities and private higher institutions to promote good governance
- indicators; Sympathetic monitoring of universities and private higher institutions;
- Strengthening civil society in Afghan society.

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