

Good Governance and Corruption: A Review

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Introduction:

Good governance has today become a ‘mantra’ for curing the all ills of public administration the world over, it is like a panacea. In virtually all sectors of public intervention and service delivery, it is now agreed that unless and until the state of governance is ‘good’ service of product delivery will not be proper .In the recent past, a large number of people and organizations have given a variety of definitions of is all about .Governance is defined variously in terms of the context. According to one definition, “the ways in which stakeholders interact with each other in order to influence the outcomes of public polices” is public governance. According to the World Bank, “the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country’s economic and social resources for development” is good governance.

Concept of Good Governance:

The concept of good governance has been receiving considerable attention in recent past administration. The issue of good governance has been in the forefront of public administration discourses and discussions in the academia.

The World Bank indicators of good governance encompassing democracy, transparency and accountability, it may be said that the whole idea of good governance is that of a participative system in which those who are called upon to govern on behalf of the people are motivated with a will to giving their best, serving and doing good to the people, solving their problems and making their lives more live able, satisfying and enjoyable. The essential prerequisites for quality governance are that the system should be good and suited to the needs, aspirations,

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background and ethos of the people concerned and those selected for operating the system should be endowed with character and competence and motivated by the spirit of public service.

Good governance is strongly advocated by influential donors like the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and Multilateral Organizations like the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Commonwealth Secretariat to stem the tide of misgovernance academic world and corruption.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE:

- Citizen participation and satisfaction.
- Transparency in all decision making.
- Accountability of actions taken.
- Equality and social inclusion.
- Ethical and honest behavior.
- Ability to compete in a global environment.
- Efficiency of service delivery.
- Respect for democratic values.
- Respect for the rule of law.
- Use of appropriate technology and environmental sustainability.
- Promotion of democracy and open pluralistic societies;
- Strengthening of transparency ,accountable and effective national government;
- Reinforcement of the rule of law ,including fair and accessible legal and judicial system;
- Promotion of an independent media and dissemination of information ; and
- Anti corruption initiatives
- Good leadership will be to ensure good governance
- E-governance leads the performance of good governance

Good Governance is dependent mainly on the excellence of human beings engaged in government and the enlightened Citizenry and Action plan for an effective and responsive government rightly stresses the need of good governance.

Forms of corruption: corruption takes three forms these are petty, middling and grand corruption. Petty corruption involves lower level public employees, while middling corruption involves mid level civil servants. Grand corruption takes place at the behest of top most political and administrative functionaries.

Ex: 2G spectrum scam & Coal Scam.

Corruption can also take place in any one or at all three levels are individual, institutional and systematic. It is evident from above discussion on good governance and corruption that there is an inverse relation between the two. If there is corruption, then there is bound to be bad governance. Bad governance and corruption exist side by side and one complements the other.

Corruption :

Corruption do day is the greatest enemy of good governance and causing harm to democracy and development.

Corruption is global phenomenon. It is almost in every nation in one or the other form since time immoral. In Ancient times, the judges received bribes in Egyptian, Babylonian and Hebrew societies. In Rome, bribe was a common feature in elections to public offices. In France, Judicial offices were sold during 15th century. England was described a ‘shrink-hole’ of corruption in the 17th& 18th centuries. In the 19th century also, corruption was so rampant in Britain that Gibbon described it as the most infallible symptom of constitutional liberty.

In India, Koutilya has referred in his Arthashastra to embezzlement by government servants out of the state revenue. He has mentioned about 40 types of embezzlement and corrupt practices adopted by government servants. During the British rule, bribes were accepted not only by the Indian officials but by the highly-placed British officials too. After independence, through political elite at the national level remained very honest for about one and a half decades but after the third and fourth general elections, the new political elite lost people’s confidence of being honest. The government employees in all public concerns at all levels started accepting huge bribes even for small considerations.

At present, India is viewed as the seventh most corrupt country in the world according to a non-government German organization called ‘Transparency international’. This organization ranks country for the honest or corruption in their transactions according to the perceptions of Businessmen dealing with those countries and financial journalists. In this study of organization found New Zealand, Demark and Singapore as honest countries (getting more than 9 marks out of 10) and Indonesia, China, Pakistan, Venezuela, Brazil, Philippines, India, Thailand, Italy and Mexico as corrupt countries (getting between 2&3 marks out of 10).

In the last two decades or so, several scandals and financial irregularities, including paying of massive commissions, pay offs kickbacks, have been reported in our country. The most notorious scandals in India like those of Bofors, stock market securities, Hawala, Sugar, Animal husbandry, urea, Telecommunication, 2G spectrum, Coal Scam and others. **Combat Corruption:** It is possible to contain in our society? Many leaders when come into power for the first time declare their determination to eradicate corruption but soon they themselves become corrupt and start amassing huge wealth.

Explaining the root cause of corruption in India, NRI and New Jersey State, Former Deputy Speaker Upendra J. Chivukula has said a majority of Indian politicians pursue politics as business while their counter parts in the US consider it as a social service. A majority of politicians in India start earning money soon after winning the election as they used to spend a huge amount on their campaign. In the US, entering politics amounts to making a sacrifice in life to a certain extent. Intellectuals enter politics in the US to implement their innovative ideas for the development of the nation. The laws are stringent in the US to curb corruption. People, who got frustrated by the rampant corruption at all levels, extended their whole hearted support to Anna Hazare's Crusade. If a strong Jan Lokpal Bill is set up as demanded by Anna Hazare, Corruption in the country can be checked effectively. It will pave the way for the India's economic growth. Upendra felt that India could not become a developed nation even 69 years after Independence due to rampant corruption. Graft among employees of lower cadre is quite media should play a great role in eradicating corruption in Society.

Corruption Control Measures:

Good governance cannot be achieved without corruption – control. For corruption control to be effective, a number of measures need to be initiated on a priority basis.

- Systematic reforms which target underlying weakness in policy, administration and polity and create an environment conducive to be elimination of corruption.
- Specific, focused, national anti-corruption strategies.
- Popular mobilization against corruption.
- Awareness of corruption in the private sector and civil society.
- Vigilance should be increased.
- Liberalization policy should be increased very cautiously.
- Create healthy public opinion against corruption.
- Ensure high standard of conduct by the top personnel.
- Social transformation.
- Need of Radical steps.
- Strengthen CBI and make it impartial.
- Create and strengthen the Institutions of Lokpal and Lokayuktas.
- Provide statutory status and wider powers to vigilance commission.
- Ensure opens and Accountability.
- Eternal Vigilance to check corruption.

Conclusion:

It may conclude that corruption today has ceased to shock people. Even when malpractices are detected, the ministers and officials go scot free. At the most, they are transferred. So long corruption fails to attract legal, moral and social censures; there is no hope of eliminating or even reducing it. It may not be possible to root out corruption completely all levels but it is certainty possible to roll it down or to contain it with in the tillable limits .Corruption is a cancer which every India must strive to obliterate.

Good governance is linked to probity. One of the key symptoms of poor governance is corruption. Corruption thrives on lack of political will, secrecy, lack of accountability, weak and ineffective enforcement

agency, inadequate anti-corruption law measures, Judicial system and failure to mobilize and sustain public opinion against corruption.

Experience of India with good governance and corruption control has been unsatisfactory. Therefore, our Government must be disseminated to good governance in order to replicate and enable then to build on and ensure that India will fulfill the vision 2020.

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