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## Governance and Development

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### Synonyms

[Governance](#); [Development](#); [Interconnect](#)

### Introduction

The concept of governance is concerned directly with the management of the development process, involving both the public and the private sectors. It encompasses the functioning and capability of the public sector, as well as the rules and institutions that create the framework for the conduct of both public and private business, including accountability for economic and financial performance, and regulatory frameworks relating to companies, corporations, and partnerships. It is argued that modern nation states in their early stage and for many years subsequently remained responsible for “governance” only or mainly through formal organs. The apparent appeal of the term “governance” for policy-makers such as those in the World Bank was the term’s elasticity in referring to the complexities of political structures within the broader process of administration

and management. It was a term that connected the concepts of politics and administration (Uddin 2010). The quality and effectiveness of governance depend mostly on how judiciously the government uses the said instruments to help people achieve the ultimate goal of their progress – justice, equity, and peace (IDPAA PRIA 2001). Without effective governance functions, it is assumed that the benefits of the reforms will not reach to the poor and the funds will not be used effectively (Azmat and Coghill 2005). On the other hand, the concept of development is neither new nor old. Development is a continuously changing and dynamic concept. Since the beginning of civilization, it has been taking different shapes and dimensions. To be practical, there is a fine line exists between the concept of good governance and development. The efficient application of good governance ultimately results in bringing development in various sectors.

### Understanding of Governance

The concept of “governance” is old as human civilization, and therefore, it means different things to different people. Simply put “governance” means the process of decision are implemented (or not implemented). Actually, governance is the exercise of political, economic, and administrative authority to manage a nation’s affairs, and it is the complex mechanisms, processes, relationships, and institutions through

which citizens and groups eloquent their interests, exercise their rights and obligations, and mediate their differences (UNDP).

Land-ell-Mills and Serageldin, governance may be taken to denote “how people are ruled how the affairs of a state are administered and regulated; it refers to a nation’s system of politics and how this functions in relation to public administration and law” (Khan 1996). World Bank conceptualize governance as the way “. . .power is exercised through a country’s economic, political, and social institutions” (The World Bank’s PRSP Handbook 1992). This includes (1) the process by which governments are selected, monitored, and replaced, (2) the capacity of the government to effectively formulate and implement sound policies, and (3) the respect of citizens and the state for the institutions that govern economic and social interactions among them” (Kaufman et al. 1999).

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) expressed that the term “governance” is the “manner in which power is exercised in the management of a countries economic and social resource for development” (ADB 1995). On this meaning, the concept of governance is concerned directly with the management of the development process, involving both the public and the private sectors. It encompasses the functioning and capability of the public sector as well as rules and institutions that create the framework for the conduct of both public and private business, including accountability for economic and financial performance, and regulatory frameworks relating to companies, corporations, and partnerships. In broad terms, then, governance is about the institutional environment in which citizens interact among themselves and with government agencies/officials (IDPAA PRIA 2001).

Governance is the process whereby societies or organizations make important decisions and determine whom they involve and how they render account (Canada Institute of Governance 2002). In fact, governance encompasses every institution and organization in the society, from the family to the state and embraces all methods – good and bad – that societies use to distribute power and manage public resources and problems. The working definition used by the British

Council, however, emphasizes that “governance” is a broader notion than government (and for that matter also related concepts like the state, good government, and regime) and goes on to state: Governance involves interaction between the formal institutions and those in civil society. Governance refers to a process whereby elements in society exercise power, authority, and influence and enact policies and decisions regarding public life and social development (The British Council 1991).

Governance refers to “all of processes of governing, whether undertaken by a government, market or network, whether over a family, tribe, formal or informal organization or territory and whether through the laws, norms, power or language” (Bevir 2013). It relates to “the processes of interaction and decision-making among the actors involved in a collective problem that lead to the creation, reinforcement, or reproduction of social norms and institutions” (Hufty 2011).

Governance is said to have three legs: economic, political, and administrative. Economic governance covers decision-making processes that affect a country’s economic activities and its relationship with other economies. Political governance includes the formulation of policy, while administrative governance is the system of policy implementation. As can be seen from this and similar definitions used by international development agencies, governance is an all-encompassing concept. It permeates all sectors, and it makes no distinction between governance, policy-making, and policy implementation (Hyden and Court 2002).

Governance can be more understood by examining the functional dimensions of governance and their institutional arenas:

Dimension	Institutional arena	Purpose of rules
Socializing	Civil society	To shape the way citizens raise and become aware of public issues
Aggregating	Political society	To shape the way issues are combined into policy by political institutions

(continued)

Dimension	Institutional arena	Purpose of rules
Executive	Government	To shape the way policies are made by government institutions
Managerial	Bureaucracy	To shape the way policies are administered and implemented by public servants
Regulatory	Economic society	To shape the way state and market interact to promote development
Adjudicatory	Judicial system	To shape the setting for resolution of disputes and conflicts

Source: Hyden and Court (2002)

Governance can be also termed as the operation of three key actors, namely, state, market, and civil society (Fig. 1).

So therefore, governance refers to the formation and stewardship of the formal and informal rules that regulate the public realm, the arena in which state as well as economic and societal actors interact to make decisions.

### Conceptualization of Development

The concept of development is neither new nor old. It is a continuously changing and dynamic concept. Since the beginning of civilization, it has been taking different shapes and dimensions. It could be defined as the capacity of a state to increase its human resource with the aim of achieving higher outcome of production for the satisfaction of the basic needs of majority of its citizens and empowering them to make demands on the government (Sapru 2002).

Development is called a multidimensional concept. It should not be discussed in terms of economic development alone (John 1996). There are various dimensions along with components of development. The political component of development seems to consist of increasing rationality,

secularization, equality, and participation in the political system. In broad sense, development is a complex phenomenon comprising many dimensions such as political, economic, social, administrative, and cultural (John 1996). Amartya Sen argues development should include a broad range of freedoms or rights such as the basic capabilities to avoid starvation, undernourishment, or premature mortality, as well as rights to education and being able to engage in participation in the political process. This argument is also reflected in the discussion in the 2000 Human Development Report of the relationship between human rights and human development approaches.

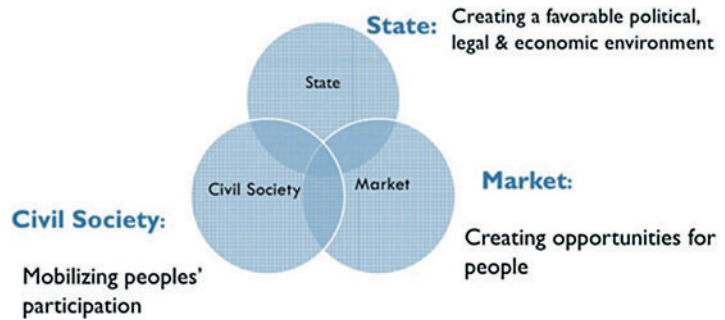
Development is a process which enables human beings to realize their potential, build self-confidence, and lead lives of dignity and fulfillment. It is a process which frees people from fear of want and exploitation. It is a movement away from political, economic, or social oppression. Through development, political independence acquires true significance. And it is a process of growth, a movement essentially springing from within the society that is developing (The Challenge to the South: Report of the South Commission 1990). The Brandt Commission report stated that, "Development never will be, and never can be, defined to universal satisfaction" (The Brandt Commission Report 2001).

In addition define the concept of development in different way. Weidner defines development as a process of growth in the direction of modernity and particularly in the direction of nation-building and socioeconomic progress. A famous scholar named Michael Todaro defines development as a multidimensional process involving changes in structures, attitudes, and institutions as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality, and the eradication of absolute poverty.

In brief, development is a process of improving the well-being of the people. It is about raising the standard of living of the people, improving their education and health, and also opening out to them new and equal opportunities for a richer

## Governance and Development,

**Fig. 1** Three key actors of governance (Source: <http://www.slideshare.net/nayanarenu/good-governance-6268274>)



and more varied life. Better health – a longer life with less sickness – is crucial to a better standard of living.

## Relationship Between Governance and Development

### Needs and Rights Approach to Development

A rights-based approach to governance and development has many advantages. First of all, it shifts the focus from government to citizen. Good governance is a public good that citizens should be entitled to. Secondly, by focusing on entitlements, it recognizes that poverty is not just a matter of being economically deprived. It is defined and sustained by a sense on the part of the poor of helplessness, dependence, lack of opportunities, and lack of self-confidence and self-respect. The language of rights makes clear that the poor are not the subject of charity and benevolence by governments or the rich but that they are entitled to a decent standard of living and that rights are the vehicles for their participation and empowerment. The third thing about a rights-based approach is that it draws attention to the importance of norms and rules. How a society is governed and how it achieves its development is as important in this perspective as what these processes accomplish. That is why this study is justifiably focusing on rules, not just results. The quantitative indicators of development – social or economic – should be analyzed in terms of how they were achieved. Regimes, and how they are governed, are important in this context. What scope do they leave for citizens to enjoy their rights? It is how these rules, aggregated into a

particular political regime, are perceived that gives us the clues to how good governance is (Hyden and Court 2002).

Guiding the analysis of governance is a series of basic principles that reflect the emerging consensus at the global level of what should, and could, constitute “good governance”:

- *Participation*: the degree of involvement and ownership of affected stakeholders
- *Decency*: the degree to which the formation and stewardship of rules are undertaken without humiliation or harm of the people
- *Fairness*: the degree to which rules apply equally to everyone in society regardless of status
- *Accountability*: the degree to which public officials, elected as well as appointed, are responsible for their actions and responsive to public demands
- *Transparency*: the degree to which decisions made by public officials are clear and open to scrutiny by citizens or their representatives
- *Efficiency*: the degree to which rules facilitate speedy and timely decision-making

### Provision of Infrastructure Development

Governance and development are interrelated and interdependent. Overall development of a country depends on effective governance. By this process, a country achieved their ultimate social and economic goals. If government takes proper initiatives to both social and economic sector, the development of countries will be ensured. So, they have inner relationship, for example, infrastructural development of Bangladesh,

construction of Padma Bridge, roads and highway, culvert, hospital, school, college and university, etc.

### **E-Governance and Development**

E-governance is recently common phenomenon all around the world. The Government of Bangladesh is committed to establish Digital Bangladesh within 2021 which is called “vision 2021.” For example, Access to Information (A2I) is the project of the Government of Bangladesh which is maintained by the Prime Minister Office. They take various projects to develop IT sector. E-service center is now available for their firm attempts.

- District E-service Centre
- Upazila E-service Centre
- Union E-service Centre or Union Digital Center

### **Level of Correlation with Development**

#### **Outputs**

There is a linkage between development institutional features of government that are designed to perform governance effectively and efficiently. The important thing for us is to demonstrate how an elite survey of governance perceptions in transitional societies now and 5 years ago correlates with objective development indicators contained in the World Development Report and the Human Development Report. If governance is important, assumed in international development circles, one would expect that wherever governance scores are high, rules enjoy legitimacy and should translate into outputs that indicate the effectiveness of the political process in serving economy and society. The analysis would also examine which dimension of governance may show the highest level of correlation with development outputs (Hyden and Court 2002).

### **Governance as a Means to Enhance Human Development**

The definition of governance has centered on what makes institutions and rules more effective and efficient in order to achieve equity, transparency, participation, responsiveness, accountability, and

the rule of law. These aspects are crucial for human development and the eradication of poverty since ineffective institutions usually result in the greatest harm to those who are poor and vulnerable. Whatever form the framework takes, it must both be premised on and support governance for peaceful, inclusive, and responsive human development. In particular, it should lead member states and development actors to:

- Focus on strengthening institutions and human resource capacities at all levels, concentrating on parliaments, electoral bodies and related processes, the security and justice sectors, public services, and promoting coherence across institutions
- Support a state-society compact and culture grounded in constitutionalism, access to justice, equality, and human rights
- Assist public institutions to become more effective, responsive, accountable, and representative through e-government and other means, foster public sector capacities and public-private partnerships at national and sub-national levels, prevent corruption, and promote the transparent and sustainable management of public goods and financial and natural resources
- Support capacity for cross-sectoral, integrated, and inclusive decision-, policy- and law-making, at all levels
- Ensure the strengthening of citizen participation and civil society organizations’ engagement, including through e-participation, to ensure accountability and transparency and better inform decision-making
- Support transparency and the right to access information about public affairs, encouraging states to adopt and implement legislation ensuring broad access to information by the public, including through the use of mobile, social media, and other appropriate technologies
- Strengthen the environment for an independent and pluralistic media and ensure that the media serve the needs of society by reflecting a diversity of political views, cultures, languages, and beliefs (UN Development Agenda 2015)

## Linkage between Governance and Development

Fair and effective governance is critical to ensuring that development benefits both people and the planet. Governance should entail processes, decisions, and outcomes that sustain natural resources alleviate poverty and improve the quality of life. A governance lens offers a powerful impetus for promoting reforms in policies and programs for sustainable development. These include open and transparent opportunities for poor and disadvantaged citizens to access information and secure their rights over land, forest, and energy resources and to encourage governments to adopt policies that are more friendly to people and the environment. The massive injection of public funding for mitigation and adaptation and the complex political processes that underpin climate change negotiations can benefit from governance perspectives to shed light on the power, interests, and resources at stake in order to bring about better outcomes (Weber 2015).

### Institutional Arrangements of Governance Performing in Development Sectors

Institutions of governance include public administration and public services connected, in particular, with the sound management of resources, delivery of and equitable access to public services, responsiveness to the views of citizens, and their participation in decisions that concern them. Strategies adopted in response – including better personnel management, transparency in public finance, a curb on corruption, citizen participation, and enhanced accountability – have since become common currency in public administration dialogue. In addition, performance norms have been the subject of debate in the fields of education, health, finance, and other development sectors (UN Development Agenda 2015).

### To Maintain Efficient Market as a Component of Economic Development

Government capabilities for delivering effective governance were now argued to be essential for maintaining efficient markets and restricting the activities of states to the provision of necessary public goods so as to minimize rent seeking and

government failure. The importance of markets in fostering and enabling economic development is not in question. Economic development is likely to be more rapid if markets mediating resource allocation in any country become more efficient. The policy debate is rather about:

- The extent to which markets can be made efficient in developing countries
- Whether maximizing the efficiency of markets (and certainly maximizing their efficiency to the degree that is achievable in developing countries) is sufficient to maximize the pace of development

For example, the successful East Asian developers of the last five decades, where strong governance capacities existed, were typically very different from the governance capacities necessary for ensuring efficient markets (Khan 2010).

### Provide a Means of Early Development through Growth-Enhancing Governance

Growth-enhancing governance capabilities are capabilities that allow developing countries to cope with the property right instability of early development, manage technological catching up, and maintain political stability in a context of endemic and structural reliance on patron-client politics (Khan 2010). Effective growth-enhancing governance capabilities can create the preconditions for achieving greater economic efficiency over time.

### Growth-Enhancing Governance and Economic Growth

There are some structural features of developing countries that require very different governance capabilities if developing countries are to make successful and sustainable transformations into higher productivity economies.

- The first governance capability is required to manage the structurally weak property rights that characterize developing countries.
- Secondly, emerging capitalists in developing countries face a structural problem with

acquiring the tacit knowledge and learning that is essential for achieving international competitiveness.

- Thirdly, developing countries suffer from structural political corruption due to the difficulty of managing political stabilization using fiscal processes.

Success in economic transformation has rather required governance capabilities in managing patron-client politics in ways that allow political stability sufficient for capitalist accumulation to continue (Khan 2010). The growth-enhancing governance is a result of the capabilities of governance which result in economic growth that is a fundamental element of development.

### **Governance and Participatory Development**

The goal of economic and social development in developing countries is to set in motion a process of self-reliant and sustainable development through which social justice will be realized. “Self-reliant development” means building the endogenous mechanisms of society that will enable developing nations ultimately to achieve growth without aid. Participatory development as a form of development heightens sustainability and self-reliance and aims for the realization of social justice by improving the quality of people’s participation. Governance as an ideal orientation of the state does not have a direct cause-and-effect relationship with participatory development, but the government should assume the role of a provider of a proper environment for market economy, extensive promoter of people’s capabilities, builder of efficient administrative structures, and reflector of the popular will (JICA 1995).

### **Policy Links to Governance Approach Resulting to Development**

Contemporary governance and economic policy reform strategies are derived from different links. An important theoretical development was the idea that pro-poor service delivery was a way not only of directly attacking poverty but also of empowering the majority and creating

expectations that would drive a popular demand for greater accountability (Fig. 2).

The importance of the governance perspective in informing contemporary development policy and discourse cannot be overemphasized. A powerful way of evaluating the appropriateness of the relationships between growth and governance asserted in the governance agenda is to look more carefully at some of the data and evidence that is used by proponents of the agenda to support the program (Khan 2010).

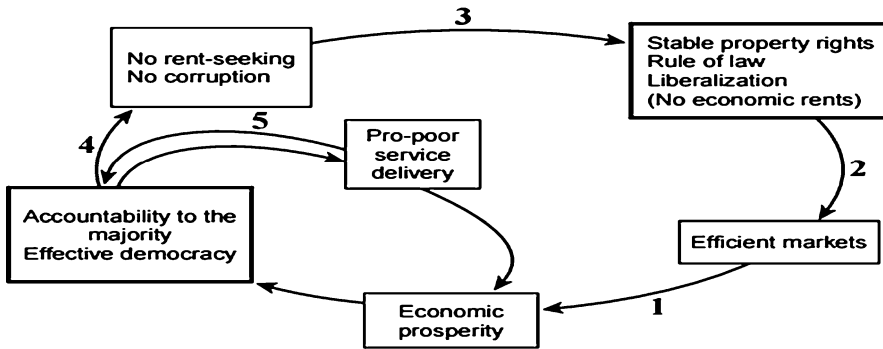
### **Governance and the Management of Political Stability Contributing to Development**

The governance challenge is to understand how, in specific contexts, the management of political stability is being achieved using the historical endowments of institutions and power structures and whether feasible changes in political institutions and political organizations can assist in strengthening political stabilization. Here too, the priorities of market-enhancing governance may be misplaced. What we need is a much better understanding of the types of patron-client networks through which political stabilization and political accumulation take place in different countries, so that governance interventions can be designed to improve sustainable growth and development outcomes (Khan 2010).

### **Conclusion**

Governance relates to the processes of interaction and decision-making among the actors involved in a collective problem that lead to the creation, reinforcement, or reproduction of social norms and institutions. Development is the process in which someone or something grows or changes and becomes more advanced. The view of development is purely an adjustment of the initial view of the concept that is governance. Governance provides an alternative to democratization which is a precondition for development. It has a direct link with the development outputs. Governance can also be used as a means to enhance human development and to promote sustainable development. An important component of economic





**Governance and Development, Fig. 2** Policy links to good governance approach (Source: <http://www.grips.ac.jp/forum/DCDA/Chapter05.pdf>)

development is efficient market which can be ensured by effective governance functionaries. It is also related to participatory development and policy measures liked with development. Governance can bring political stability and serve as an enduring area in development studies. So, the two terms governance and development are intimately related to each other.

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