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## Good Governance in India: Promoting Transparency and Combating Corruption

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### **Abstract:**

*Recently, the term "good government" plays a very important role in the modern governmental system. Now the people are very aware and aware of how the government works. Government also tries to satisfy the general public where good governance creates an environment that fosters strong and equitable development and is an essential complement to sound political policies. Good governance means a participatory form of governance that functions in a responsible, responsible and transparent manner, based on the principles of efficiency, legitimacy and consensus in order to promote the rights of individual citizens and the public interest. Good governance means ensuring justice, empowerment, employment and efficient service delivery. The article deals with these issues in detail and also discusses administrative and political failures. It identifies the criminalization of politics and corruption as two great challenges. The document lists several areas of concern that need to be vigorously addressed and calls for a synergy of efforts between government, the market, and civil society. It is necessary to formulate a national strategy that gives primacy to the Gandhian principle of "antyodaya" without sacrificing growth and holding the instruments of the state accountable for good governance.*

**Keywords:** *Accountability, consensus orientation, effectiveness and efficiency, good governance, participation, responsiveness.*

### **Introduction:**

In recent times, the word "good governance" has become a very fashionable term and is being used in various ways, covering a large number of organizations in both the public and private spheres. Good governance is the form of governance that serves citizens by safeguarding the territorial integrity of the state and ensuring individual security, the rule of law, and the provision of services ranging from education, health, to livelihoods. Good governance refers to accountability, transparency, openness, participation, political legitimacy, freedom of association,

and participation in the governance process, an established legal scheme based on the rule of law. Today, most of the countries in the world try to implement the concept of good governance in the functioning of their government, but could not achieve it due to the various obstacles that the government faces. In this article, I am going to discuss “corruption” as the main obstacles to good governance.

## II. Objective of the study:

The main objectives of this work are to learn about good governance and explain the challenges of good governance, with a special emphasis on corruption.

## III. Methodology:

This document is primarily based on information gathered from various books, magazines, magazines, and Internet sources. This document is primarily based on secondary data.

## IV. Characteristics of good governance:

According to the United Nations Economic and Social Commissions for Asia and the Pacific (UNESPACP), good governance has eight characteristics: [1]

- A) **Participation:** participation in the administration of both men and women is the cornerstone of good governance. Participation can be direct or indirect.
- B) **Rule of law:** good governance requires fair legal frameworks that are applied impartially. It also requires the protection of human rights, the imperial and independent police force and the bureaucracy.
- C) **Transparency:** It means that the information is freely available and directly accessible to those who will be affected by such decisions and their application. The Indian Right to Information Act plays a very effective role in this regard.
- D) **Responsiveness:** Good governance requires that the institution and the process try to serve all stakeholders within a reasonable time frame.
- E) **Consensus-oriented:** good governance requires reaching broad consensus in a society on what is best for the community and how it can be achieved in a sustainable and prudent manner.
- F) **Equity and inclusion:** the well-being of a society depends on the general development of its people, including women, the poor and the economically and socially backward, without whom no real progress of society can be achieved. This proper representation in the decision-making process is very important.
- G) **Effectiveness and efficiency:** Good governance means that the process and the institutions produce results that meet the needs of the stakeholders and, at the same time, make the best use of the resources at their disposal.
- H) **Accountability:** Accountability is a key requirement of good governance. Every

governmental system, whether public or private, must be accountable to the people. Accountability cannot be enforced without transparency and the rule of law.

The World Bank identifies seven parameters of good governance as

- Legitimacy of the political system,
- Freedom of association,
- An established legal framework,
- Bureaucratic responsibility,
- Freedom of expression and
- Solid administrative system.

#### **V. Challenges for good governance in India:**

When evaluating India's position among other countries in the world, it is revealed that India compares favorably with many developing countries, although it has a long way to go to reach the level of developed countries. Criminalization of politics and corruption are two of the main challenges of good governance in India.

The main challenges for good governance in India are:

- A) Empowerment of women: it is impossible to think about the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. In India, the situation of women is very unsatisfactory. One way to assess the state of a nation is to study the state of its women. In India, women represent almost 50% of the population, it is unfair that they are not adequately represented in government institutions and other allied sectors. To ensure good governance, it is essential to ensure the empowerment of women.
- B) Increase in violence: good governance requires peace and order. When one looks at it from the point of view of the principles of good governance, it becomes clear that peace and order are the first step towards development. Terrorist attacks, strikes, riots are instruments of this culture of harmful violence. When the government uses force to contain these situations, the state police sometimes violate the human rights of ordinary citizens. It requires clear vision, courage, and understanding to deal with this.
- C) Corruption: good governance requires eliminating corruption in all aspects. The increase in the level of corruption has generally been perceived as a major obstacle to good governance. In India, the government implemented different welfare policies like PDS, NRHM, MGNREGA, Prime Minister's Jandhan Yojna, etc. However, due to corruption among our bureaucrats, our government cannot succeed in implementing these programs. [2]
- D) Delay in justice: A citizen requires justice on time, but due to various factors, a common man does not receive timely justice. Citizens are unaware of their rights. Poor people cannot

afford the money to pay for a lawyer. There are many reasons for delaying justice. The government must eliminate these causes so that all people can find justice in time.

- E) Centralization of the administrative system: Good governance requires decentralization of the administrative system. The lower-level system of government can only function efficiently if they are empowered to do so. This is relevant to the Panchayati Raj Institutions, which currently suffer from inadequate repayment of funds and function to carry out their constitutionally assigned functions.
- F) Criminalization of politics: The criminalization of politics and the profane nexus between politicians, public officials and business enterprises are having a damaging influence on public policy-making and governance. [3]
- G) Empowerment of socially and economically backward people. Socially and economically backward people cannot help in good governance. These people stand in the way of development. To meet the goal of good governance, the elevation of socially and economically backward people is very essential.
- H) Environmental security and sustainable development: good governance requires environmental protection and sustainable development.
- I) Challenges of globalization, liberalization and the market economy: Challenges arising from globalization, liberalization and the market economy also stand in the way of good governance.

#### **VI. Major Initiative:**

E-governance: E-governance is an important tool of good governance. E-governance offers better programming and services in the emerging information and communication technology (ICT) era, which heralds new opportunities for rapid social and economic transformation around the world. Governments at the national and state level seek to harness its potential and create new dimensions of economic and social progress by introducing changes to the traditional governance structure in the e-governance system. Electronic governance has a direct impact on its citizens, who obtain benefits through direct transactions with the services offered by the government. Explore a new facet of the leadership approach, skill and mindset of the nation's citizens. E-governance can renew the relationship between the public sector, the private sector and the government and allows for better policy outcomes, high-quality services, and greater engagement with the country's citizens. [4]

#### **Right of information:**

Citizens are the center of democratic governance. The right to information is derived from the fundamental right to freedom enshrined in Article 19 of the Constitution of India. The Right to Information Act was enacted on October 12, 2005, marking a significant change in Indian

democracy and ushering in a new era of empowering the common man in India. Through this law, government works and decisions can be examined, audited, reviewed and evaluated to ensure that they are consistent with the principles of public interest, integrity and justice. The greater the citizens' access to information, the greater the government's responsiveness to community needs. Thus, the right to information promotes openness, transparency, and accountability in administration by making the government more open to public scrutiny thereby reinforcing transparency and accountability.

### **Conclusion:**

Improving governance in India is part of the development process. It is argued that corruption can be curbed through systematic changes in governance by introducing participation, transparency, accountability and probity in administration. The right to information is also considered an essential part of citizen rights that can be expected from the government.

The high level of corruption in India has been widely perceived as a major obstacle to improving the quality of governance. The complex and not very transparent command and control system, the government's monopoly as a service provider, the underdeveloped legal framework, the lack of information, the weak notion of citizen rights, the deficient infrastructure, the poverty, the illiteracy, the lack of public order, etc., have provided incentives for corruption in India. Corruption hurts everyone, whether in the form of high prices, reduced quality, budget deficits, or widespread mistrust of government institutions. It may not be possible to eradicate corruption at all levels, but it is possible to contain it within tolerable limits so that good governance can be achieved.

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