Good Governance and its Working: at the Indian Context

Banasree Devi
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science
Narangi Anchalik Mahavidyalaya, Guwahati, Assam, India
devibanasree@gmail.com.

ABSTRACT: The concept of “good governance” plays a very important role in the modern governmental system. Today people are very conscious and they always aware about the day today functioning of the Government. So the government also tries to satisfy the general people where good governance create an environment which fosters strong and equitable development and it is essential complement to sound economic policies. Our present Prime Minister Narendra Modi also tries to his best effort to establish good governance both at the centre as well as the states. The term “governance” refers to all process of governing undertaken by Government and non-governmental organizations including family. It is a processor the act or function of exercising authority to regulate affairs of man in a given territory. Governance maybe participatory as well as normative. Where the former given importance to the engagement of citizens in the process of governing the state whereas the normative concept of governance is ‘value loaded’ where importance is given to the concept of ‘Good Governance’. This paper is an attempt to discuss about the concept of Good governance and its implementation in the present administrative system of the country.

Keywords: Accountability, Consensus Oriented, Effectiveness and Efficiency, Equity and Inclusiveness, Good Governance, Participation, Responsiveness

I. Introduction:

Today’s world has been changing very rapidly which influence a lot at the day today functioning of the Government. With the development of science and technology the society has been changing which influence a lot to the concept of governance. The develop countries of the world today give importance to the concept of good governance. Since modern people are very conscious about the day today activities of the government therefore government also try to make their system more transparent and accountable so that it can fulfil the wishes of the modern democratic system. Good governance creates an environment which fosters strong and equitable development and it is essential complement to sound economic policies. Today most of the countries of the world try to implement the concept of good governance in the function of their government but could not succeed because of various obstacles faces by the
In this paper I am going to discuss the concept of good governance and its various problems as well as various suggestions to overcome these problems.

II. Objectives of the Study:
The main objectives in this paper is-
1. To know about good governance
2. To understand the characteristics of good governance.
3. To find out the challenges of good governance.
4. To give suggestions to overcome these problems of good governance.

III. Methodology:
This paper is mainly based on information collected from various books, journals, newspaper, and magazines and internet sources. This article is mainly based on secondary data. The method of this study is mainly descriptive.

V. Result and Discussion:
A. Good governance: The word good governance derives from the Greek verb kubernao which means to steer. The dictionary meaning of governance is way of governing. It is the process undertaken by Government and nongovernmental institution including family[1]. It refers to a process or act or function of exercising authority to regulate affairs of man in a given territory. Good governance implies the process of decision-making and its implementation free from abuse and corruption[2]. In recent years, the issue of good governance is widely regarded as one of the key ingredients for poverty reduction and sustainable development[3].

B. Characteristics of good governance: According to U.N Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) Good Governance has eight characteristics[4]:

a) Participation: Participation in administration by both men and women is the key cornerstone of good governance. Participation may be direct or indirect.

b) Rule of law: Good Governance requires fair legal frameworks that are enforced impartially. It also requires protection of human rights, independent and imperial police force, and bureaucracy.

c) Transparency: It means that information is freely available and directly accessible to those who will be affected by such decisions and their enforcement. Right to Information Act of India plays a very effective role in this regard.
d) Responsiveness: Good Governance requires that institution and process try to serve all stakeholders within a reasonable timeframe.

e) Consensus oriented: Good Governance requires reaching a broad consensus in a society on what is in the best interest of community and how this can be achieved in a sustainable and prudent manner.

f) Equity and inclusiveness: A society’s wellbeing depends on the overall development of its people including women, poor, as well as economically and socially backward people without which real progress of the society cannot be achieved. Their proper representation in the decision making process is very important.

g) Effectiveness and Efficiency: Good governance means the process and institutions produce results that meet the needs of stakeholders while making the best use of resources at their disposal.

h) Accountability: Accountability is a key requirement of good governance. Every governmental system whether it is public or private should be accountable to the people. Accountability cannot be enforced without transparency and rule of law.

The World Bank identifies seven parameters of good governance like legitimacy of the political system, freedom of association, an established legal framework, bureaucratic accountability, freedom of expression and sound administrative system.

C. Challenges of good governance in India

During the freedom moment our leaders through various objectives like swaraj, ahimsa, Satyagraha wanted to introduce good governance in India. After independence the preamble to the constitution of India focuses on moral and human values and inclusiveness of all in the governance of the country. Besides these directive principles of state policy, sixth and seventh schedules of the constitution also included various provisions for equity and inclusiveness. The 73rd and 74th constitution amendment acts changes the trends by providing the constitutional status to grass roots level democracy and by bringing some significant changes in it including reservation of seats for women. The second Administrative Reform Commission laid stress on establishment of an ombudsmen type of institution to make administration more accountable towards the people. On 15 June 2005 the parliament passed the historic Right to Information Act to make administration more accountable and transparent. Our present Prime Minister Narendra Modi also laid stress on inclusiveness, transparency and responsiveness for good governance. But the process of modernization and socio-economic changes over the past few decades have given rise to a new set of problems pertaining to public policy and administration. These are:

a) Women empowerment
b) Empowerment of socially and economically backward people.

c) Growing incidence of violence

d) Environmental security, sustainable development

e) Challenges of globalization, liberalisation and market economy

f) Changes in science and technology.

Corrupt official, unnecessary delay in providing justice, mindset of the people, and complex procedure of administration, rigidities, and complexity and over centralisation of administrative system have rendered even the best of schemes ineffective. Bureaucracy is called the engine of good governance. The government implemented different welfare policies like PDS, NRHM, MGNREGA, Prime Minister’s JAN DHAN JOJONA, etc. which are very influential for good governance. But because of corruption practise among our bureaucrats our Government cannot achieve success in implementation of these programmes.

VI. Suggestion:

- Through open online discussions people can discuss various problems of the govt. and can give suggestions to solve it which will be beneficial for the govt. itself.
- Social media can also help for proper functioning of good governance.
- Fair conduct of election is also very important for good governance[5].
- From the grass root level to the upper level all men and women should have a voice in the decision making so that people from all walks of life can take part in the decision making process.
- Requests and complaints should be responded within a reasonable timeframe [6].
- Decisions should be taken and enforced in accordance with the rule. In democracy respective govt. should not try to fulfil their own party aims instead of caring the needs of the people. Therefore decisions, taken by the govt. should be made available to the public.
- Public officials should always try to improve their performances.
- The govt. should be ready to experiment new programmes. Officials should always try to learn for experience of others.
- The budget should be prepared in consultations with the public. The govt. should constantly monitor the financial matter of the different departments.
- All decision makers both individually and collectively should take responsibility for their performances.

VII. Conclusion:

Rightful implementation of different attributes of governance like accountability, impartiality, transparency, responsiveness, rule, of law, etc. Improve the quality of governance. It is always important on part of the government to analyse their work thoroughly and to
improve it whenever necessary. The “engine of good governance” is bureaucracy should be people oriented and duty bound without which it is not possible to establish good governance in real sense of the term. Corruption should be eliminated from lower to the upper level of administration without which he concept of good governance become meaningless. The government should laid stress in solving burning issues of the states otherwise it will not able to solve the problems of insurgency which is a great hurdle in the path of good governance.

References:

[3] Choudhury Bishnu charan ibd p. 6