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What is good governance and how it is different in the private and public sectors? Elaborate on seven good governance factors. Also indicate where Pakistan stands in those indicators.

Introduction:

The word "governance" itself gives positive attribute and the word "good governance" was introduced by World Bank and UNDP in 1990s to distinguish self-explained governance by countries from the real governance. The word governance like government is derived from the Greek word "kubernáo" which means to control the direction or to be moved in specific direction. It was first used by Plato in the sense of government phenomena. Governance refers the direction government acquire to obtain the welfare of society.

Good Governance:

Good governance is the governance with some traits and characteristics added. Good governance is an indeterminate term used in international development literature to describe how public institutions

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conduct public affairs and manage public resources. The lack of a generally accepted definition of the concept is compensated by the identification of principles that strengthen good governance in any society. The most often enlisted principles include: participation, rule of law, transparency, accountability, predictability and effectiveness.

Differences between good governance of private and public sectors:

Public and private sector governance in essence share basic common characteristics. It is the context in which they are embedded that differs the differences.

a) Objectives:

The objectives of private sectors governance is profit maximization of shareholders whereas the objectives of public sector governance is public good.

b) Agents:

In private sector governance the agents are shareholders whereas in public sector governance the agent is public.

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c) Organisation structure:

In private sector the enterprise can be outside or inside models whereas in public sector the department, statutory authority, state-owned enterprise and private/public partnerships can plan the model.

d) Accountability:

Private sector governance is accountable to shareholders whereas public sector governance' accountability is diffused (spreaded over a wide area or between large number of people).

e) Reporting:

In private sector governance there is annual report to be checked by shareholders whereas in public sector the annual report is viewed by Ministers, parliament, Auditor general, agency heads, and Treasury and finance.

Good Governance Indicators:

The characteristics defined by World Bank, UNDP and ADB are recognised by world as necessary for the good governance without these traits no governance is considered that it is following the good governance.

1. Participation:

Participation is a significant element of good governance. A participatory government invites all the stakeholders to take their input in the policy formation about any issue, and then its implementation in effective way. In a democratic country, the most important stakeholder is considered the masses of that country. So, all decision-making is done with public will.

In Pakistan:

Lack of citizens' participation or lack of citizens' interest to participate is one of the major issues that are hindering good governance in Pakistan. The masses are not much aware of their participatory rights, so they don't keep eyes on public officials, don't raise their voices and don't put pressure on government to enforce their legal rights.

2. Transparency:

Transparency is considered the best tool to curb the corrupt practises in the modern world. It urges the administration to make, and implement decisions according to the law and regulations.

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Otherwise, they know that they will face accountability for violating them in the presence of a transparent system.

In Pakistan:

Unfortunately in this regard Pakistan is far behind the required standards in respect of culture of openness, willingness of government and public officials to share information with citizens.

Pakistan ranks 117 out of 180 countries with very low score of 33/100 in respect of transparency and corruption. However, the positive sign is that in 2010, through 18th Amendment a new Article 19-A was incorporated in constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan regarding the transparency and right to information. Beside this amendment, all four provinces and federation also have enacted laws for transparency and right to information, such as at federal level, The Right of Access to Information Act 2017, and at province level, The Balochistan Freedom of Information Act 2005, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Right to Information Act 2013, The Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013,

Sindh Transparency and Right to Information
Bill 2016.

3. Accountability :

Accountability is the key component of good governance. It is directly associated with the rule of law, and the system of transparency is the governing system. For this various committees and watchdogs are established by the government to prevent corruption and mal-practices in the state institutions.

In Pakistan:

Islam being the state religion of Pakistan, which emphasizes much on self-accountability such as internal, external, political and accountability of state to citizens have been missing in political culture of Pakistan. Ehtesab Ordinance 1997, Ehtesab Act 1997, and then NAB ordinance 1999 have been enacted for accountability and to curb corruption and corrupt practices in Pakistan, but this process of accountability has received severe criticism that it is used to victimise, persecute and outrage political opponents by the Government.

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NAB itself has been under criticism by the Supreme Court of Pakistan for maladministration, mismanagement and plea bargaining which court named as "Institutional Corruption".

4. Rule of law:

Rule of law is an indispensable character of good governance that ensures equal opportunities in a democratic country. It maintains human rights and provides protection to the minorities in the society. In this manner impartiality, predictability and stable legal framework come into existence. The courts play an important part to implement rule of law in the country along with the police and prosecution departments. Thus an independence of judiciary is emphasized in the well-governed societies.

In Pakistan: -

The situation of rule of law have always been in trouble and deteriorated throughout the post-independence era. The lawyers' movement in 2007 seemed bit historic, but it lost its hype for the rule of law after the restoration of judiciary. In Pakistan, the rule of law have been

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confined to conventional concepts of law enforcement and internal security to cope up with security threats, elimination and control of crimes. But the rule of law interpreted and applied in Pakistan misses the basic elements such as transparency, accountability before the law, equal, clear and just application of law, recognition and protection of fundamental human rights and impartial and accessible dispute resolution.

5. Responsiveness of Institutions:

Good governance requires an element of responsiveness in the state institutions. It must be binding with the institutions to provide services to the public sectors at their door-steps in the hour of need. In case, any dispute arises between among the people about any policy matter, their responsibility lies on institutions to negotiate with all stakeholders and finalize the matter what is in the true interest of people and the country. This practice eschews mistrust between the public and the institution and goodness

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along with sanity prevails as a result.

In Pakistan:

In Pakistan, the whole domain of responsiveness is retarded and outdated, such as, the mechanism to facilitate access to information, that includes, nomination and designation of officials, accessibility of source of information, availability of standards for access to information services, availability of explicit linking of priority programs, availability of online services of information, complaint and registration. The research shows that the institutions of Pakistan have very poor performance in respect of accountability and responsiveness, which depicts that the institutions of Pakistan are unaccountable and unresponsive to stakeholders and public at large at the same time.

6. Equity and Inclusiveness :

Equity and Inclusiveness are such fundamentals of good governance as ensure the equal opportunities for all the people in the society. In societies many people lagged others in terms of wisdom, wealth and intellectuality.

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Dueing this, they can't become able to sustain themselves equally with the other privileged people of the society. Here governments' interuention becomes compulsory to maintain equality. In such circumstances, the government recourses the taxation progress to spend on inabilities of the down-trodden segments of the society to bring them parallel to other privileged people. This equality empowers them and develops them economically, politically and socially.

In Pakistan:

The inclusive gouernance and inclusive decision making is absent in Pakistan. Although there are many provisions in Preamble, Article 2-A and chapter of Fundamental Rights of the constitutions of Islamic Republic of Pakistan regarding equity and equality, but practically the cleavages and bays between the different classes are very wide and becoming even wider with the passage of time, that seems very difficult to be bridged in near future.

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7. Efficiency and Effectiveness:

Efficiency and effectiveness are the main pillars of good governance. They make the institutions able to come up with the wishes and needs of the public by utilising minimum resources and time. They play significant role in upgrading the standard of lives of people in their meagre resources.

In Pakistan:

There are poor process indicators of institutional efficacy, efficiency and effectiveness in Pakistan such as, absence of relations between institutional activities and resources and institutional outcome.

Conclusion:

Good governance plays a vital role in uplifting the livelihood, lifestyle and life standard of citizens. But, unfortunately, it has been one of the biggest concerns in Pakistan since its inception. For this it must control the scourge of corruption, abuse of power, unfairness in its institutions by devising a proper mechanism of transparency and accountability.