

Title:
Good Governance without
Democratic Accountability is not possible.

Outline

1. Introduction

Thesis statement: Good governance intersects with principles like democratic accountability. It creates a system of check and balance, ensures delegation of power and social inclusion. However, democratic accountability faces challenges like imbalance of power and suppression of constitutional guarantees. It can be addressed by ensuring rule of law and transparency in the functions of democratic institutions.

2. Understanding the intersectionality between governance and democratic accountability
3. Ways in which democratic principles ensure good governance

a. A check on the executive to not commit ultra vires of its functions e.g., Gov. of Canada

b. Strong judicial hold on the executive and legislature for transparency e.g., open court of US and Ex-President Nixon

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c. Smooth delegation of power from central gov. to local gov. of local gov. of Turkey

d. Democratic political parties that ensure participation of common people e.g., electoral laws of Pakistan and India

e. Facilitates social inclusion and equality in social and government settings

f. Strong and democratic civil society that works as a watchdog e.g. G7 needs to work with civil society on Palestine issue

4. Challenges posed to democratic principles weakening the governance

a. Absence of balance of power amongst organs of the state e.g., Book "Governing the Ungovernable"

b. Suppression of constitutional freedom e.g., V-Dem 2023 report "78% living in Autocracy"

c. Absence of "Rule of law across all forums e.g., Pakistan ranks 138/142 in 2023

d. Ineffective government agencies dealing with finances and planning e.g., Report of Planning Commission of Pakistan 2023

e. Corrupt and selective working of the state institutions e.g., Job quotas in

Bangladesh

f. Undemocratic practices of civil society in developing states e.g., civil societies of France and India

5. Strategies to implement^{and improve} democratic accountability for good governance

a. Strengthening the institutions of accountability e.g., Economic and Financial Crimes Commission of Nigeria 2024

b. Transparency and open governance in all settings

c. Promoting the strong Rule of law e.g., Report of UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific

d. Empowering the society through social media to hold the institutions accountable

6. Conclusion

“In a democracy, highest office is the office of the citizens, who run the state institutions” - words of ex-President of the Supreme Court of US. It reflects that democracy is a product of the functions of its citizens, which facilitate the operations of a governance. Democracy creates a system of checks and balances to ensure none of the organs of the state e.g., judiciary, executive and the legislative commit ultra vires. Power is delegated from central institutions to the lower governing bodies for the sake of good governance. Meanwhile, political parties and democratic civil society work as a watchdog to highlight government's inefficiencies and corruption. However, it faces different challenges like the absence of balance of power between state institutions, as well as, the suppression of fundamental freedoms. Inefficiency in the working of state institutions and culture of corruption is major roadblock towards the achievement of good governance in a democratic state. Civil society also opts for a silent treatment over undemocratic practices of the state organs with wise

~~and democratic principles' application~~
~~good governance can be achieved.~~ It
would need strengthening of the state
institutions and ensuring transparency
in the work culture. Empowerment of
the civil society along with the society as
a whole through social media ~~can~~ can
strengthen the democratic norms. One
can certainly ~~ask~~ inquire that "Is it
not the culture of accountability which
is prerequisite for a strong governance?",
also "how else good governance can be
ensure without the mandatory application
of democratic principles?" hence, good governance
intersects with the democratic principles
It creates a system of checks and balances,
delegation of power and social inclusion.
However, democratic accountability faces
challenges like ~~imbalance of power and~~ ~~absence of rule of law.~~ It can be ~~achieved~~
with transparency and rule of all across
all institutions.

Good governance does not work
in isolation. It has a strong correlation
with democratic principles like 'accountability'.
Countries like US and UK have strong
accountability mechanisms and also

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One of the ~~biggest~~ democracies of the world ~~is the follower of virtuous democracy~~ and UK has a well-established accountability mechanisms. Furthermore, accountability can be observed in vertical and horizontal settings that operate within state institutions and in social settings. In a working paper, titled "How to achieve good governance?"²⁰²³ by UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific it is opined that good governance works on true democratic principles like "accountability, rule of law, efficiency, and transparency".

A democracy operates on the basis of constant check on the state institutions, which carry out day-to-day functions. Legislative of the state keeps a check on the executive and the judiciary keeps an eye on the legislative. It restricts the institutions to work within their defined work boundaries and not to commit ultra vires. Recently in October 2024, a video went viral on social media ~~regarding the legislative scrutiny of Justin Trudeau regarding his international tour on public expenditures. He was questioned along with his cabinet to provide~~

plz put some mature examples here

~~detailed information on financial cost of his unauthorized international tours. So, democracy keeps a check on the executive - a prime pillar of a good governance.~~

Likewise, principles of democracy ensure a strong judicial hold on the executive and legislature for transparency purposes. No governance succeeds in its objective without achieving transparency in functions of state organs. US has only ^{one} President in its Presidential history, who resigned from his office on corruption allegations. Former President ^{Richard} Nixon had to ~~resign~~ from his office when the Supreme Court of US ordered for investigation in government activities. It implies that transparency is a pillar of good governance and democracy facilitate the application of transparency.

Not only transparency, democracy operates on the basis of delegation of power from central to the local government. Governance cannot survive with the concentration of power. It has to be divided and granted from top to bottom to carry out functions. Local government system

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of Turkey is a precedent for developing countries. In 1924 and 1929 reforms were introduced in the local government and it was divided into town-trees, so that the power and functions are delegated efficiently. It helps in the performance of local institutions. Hence, democracy ensures division of power from top to the bottom.

Democracy is primarily obtained by the political parties to certify the participation of common people. Political parties are the carriers of democratic representation. It gives voice to the common people and democracy undermines dynastic politics. Electoral laws of Pakistan 2017 and of India require from the political parties contesting in general elections to submit affidavit to the election commission certifying that top leadership is elected through votes and not on the basis of nepotism. Supreme Court of Pakistan did not grant election sign to a political party, named Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, which failed to conduct elections. Therefore, democratic political parties ascertain that common citizens reach to the top government positions.

plz try to write objectively

political party

Furthermore, it facilitates social inclusion and equality in social and government settings. Democracy is the participation of all citizens in social settings. Everyone gets equal rights and equivalent services without any discrimination. Countries, which believe and practice social inclusion, witness equal participation and representation of women in the institutions. Current examples are Ex-vice President of US Kamala Harris, Chief Minister Punjab Pakistan Maryam Nawaz, Chief Justice of Lahore J. Alia Akram and, first lieutenant general Johar Nigar.

To simply put, democratic principles of social inclusion lead to inclusive governance.

Just like inclusive institutions, it opens gateway for a strong and democratic civil society. Civil society in any state acts like a watchdog as it advocates for strong, transparent, efficient and accountable institutions. It acts like a constant force of democracy. In 2021, during G7 group meeting in Italy, 200 NGOs submitted request to G7 member states to collectively resolve the issue of Palestine.

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All G7 group members are democracies, which accept right to self-determination and right to hold separate government system. It, therefore, pushed to G7 group members to stand up for the democratic rights of Palestine to have an autonomous government.

However, these democratic values of accountability face different challenges that ultimately weakens the governance system. First and foremost issue is the absence of balance of power. Institutions interfere in each other's tasks and lack in holding each other accountable. Dr. Ishrat Hussain opines in his book, titled "Governing the Ungovernable" that "one prime reason of weak governance in democratic states is the 'imbalance of power. Institutions interfere in others' functions and badly lack in accountability." It implies that, major hindrance is the democratic balance of power which weakens the institutions.

The imbalance of power fuels the suppression of constitutional freedom. Weak institutions try to control the masses by restricting right to movement, right to assembly, and right to protest etc.

whereas, democracies only thrive with free and fair accessibility of Constitutional guarantees. In reality, it is a far picture to be witnessed as revealed by V-Democracy 2023 report that in 2024 78% of the world population will vote for a democratic poll, who are actually living in an autocracy. Because, they do not have right to peaceful assembly, protest, movement right etc. Therefore, institutions become weak due to limited and suppressed Constitutional freedoms.

Absence of freedoms give rise to the absence of 'Rule of Law'. State institutions manipulate and misuse their powers, misrepresent their work performance and do not honour the principles of equality before the law. Pakistan is an example of absent rule of law. An important fundamental of democracy is the rule of law if it is missing the overall game name structure gets effected by it. Worldwide, Pakistan ranked 132/142 on Rule of Law Index - a reflection on the state of rule of law and effectiveness of its institutions. Nonetheless, strong governance can only be ensured with strong application of rule of

law.

Ineffective government agencies dealing with finances and planning further undermines the effectiveness of its governance structure. Financial and planning of the projects is a part of accountability in terms of allocated task of an institution. The Planning Commission of Pakistan released a report "status of domestic district education in Pakistan 2023" which highlighted that overall status of financial and architectural and governance planning across 134 district stand at 53/100. It shows the ineffectiveness of the institutions that work for the delivery of education. In a nutshell, inefficiency of the institutions blocks a way towards strong governance.

Out of these institutions, some work selectively and mixed with corruption. They work when it supports their personal interests or work on the delivery of corrupted money or services. It hijacks the overall system and undermines the essence of democracy. On August 5, 2024 Bangladesh witnessed regime change due to violent protests. The protests began against job quota systems

that favoured the few over all others, High Court and Supreme Court of Bangladesh failed to reverse corrupt schemes of the government and selectively tried to favour the government. Government further appointed new Chief of Army Staff on the basis of nepotism which proved to be a last nail in the coffin. Ultimately, selective and corrupt practices of state institutions ousted the PM and took the nation at the verge of a martial law.

In addition to this, undemocratic practices of civil society in developing states undermines the role of strong governance. Undemocratic civil society actually fails in its function of being a watchdog. It works to serve the interests of a certain class or the interests of its own. Civil society of France and India is an example of it, where civil society did not question the undemocratic policies and laws of the state. It includes Citizenship law 2001 of India which only accepted Hindus as citizens of India and Anti-separatist law 2002 of France, which excluded

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Muslims on the basis of religion. Civil society did not question these undemocratic steps and let their respective governments apply personal interests over interests of a strong and inclusive governance.

~~These challenges can be addressed to facilitate the process of attaining autonomous, transparent and inclusive institutions.~~ Firstly, the institutions of accountability should be strengthened. Judiciary, accountability bureaux, legislatures, executive and tribunals should be given space to work freely without any external and internal interference. In 2004, Nigeria introduced an Economic and Financial Crimes Commission to keep a check on the institutions that would bring institutional respect and confidence of the people. Therefore, other democracies should focus on strengthening their institutions by applying ^{the} democratic principles.

Secondly, transparency must be ensured and open governance must be allowed in all settings. For legislation purposes, laws should be debated openly, interpreted by the judiciary openly, and implemented by the executive in day light. Recently,

Supreme Court of Pakistan declared Nusrat Bhutto v.s. the Federation of Pakistan case a judicial murder and corrected the course of judicial decisions. It made transparent decision and represented the picture of open governance. Suffice is to say that transparency is a norm of democracy ensuring accountability of the governance.

Thirdly, good governance is possible with the promotion of strong rule of law. Rule of law means the equality of every citizen and every institution before the law. UN issued a working paper on the "How to ensure good governance?" in which it mentioned 'important pillars of democracy that make a foundation for responsible governance. These pillars include "accountability, transparency, rule of law and efficiency." With a prime focus on these pillars, any democratic state can build a resilient governance.

Fourthly, this is the digital era in which election campaigns, health awareness and crime alerts are issued on social media. Elections year 2024 witnessed the true power of social

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media. According to Global Digital Rights, 5.22bn people use social media, equating to 63.8% of the world's population. A correct use of social media by democratic states can help the state in empowering its citizens that would help in carrying out values of a democracy. Citizens will be able to hold the institutions accountable in a responsible manner.

By closing the discussion on the topic, suffice it to say that good governance and democratic accountability work in intersectorality. A governance without accountability is a tyranny, but not democracy. It introduces a system of checks and balances, ensures balance of power, transfers fair share of the power and gives space to democratic parties and civil society. It also faces roadblocks like imbalance of power, suppression of fundamental rights, corrupt and inefficient state institutions that do not honor any principles and norms of a democracy. Without correcting and removing these roadblocks good governance cannot be achieved. For that purpose, there needs to be rule of law,

transparency in the functions of state institutions, and empowerment of the society to hold their institutions accountable. Good governance is possible through horizontal and vertical accountability in states like Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh. Henceforth, no good ~~governance~~ is possible without democratic ~~accountability~~.