

Outline

Governance and Accountability

1. Introduction

2. Ways in Which Accountability is a Necessity for Governance

2.1 Fear of accountability acts as a prerequisite for proper functioning of a government

2.2 Accountability eliminates inefficiencies within a system

2.3 Accountability mechanisms provide checks which ensure rule of law

2.4 Proper accountability eradicates corruption

2.5 Accountability aids in establishing transparency within governance structures

2.6 Accountability ensures that the organs of state work as per the constitution to ^{uphold} ensure separation of powers

2.7 Strict mechanisms ensure promotion of merit and reduced nepotism

2.8 Encouraging merit along with transparency allows efficient governance and reduces elite capture

2.9 Absence of accountability leads to a dysfunctional state

3. Roadblocks in Ensuring Accountability to Achieve Good Governance

3.1 Compromised judicial systems lack the ability to provide impartial decisions which reduces accountability

3.2 Corruption entrenched systems, especially within Third world countries, oppose accountability measures

3.3 Dynastic political structures breed nepotism which reduce the ability to implement accountability measures

3.4 Lack of adoption of digitalisation reduces the potential of ensuring accountability

3.5 Authoritarian governments or hybrid regimes control systems of government which negatively influences accountability mechanisms

4. Strategies to Ensure Accountability to Achieve Good Governance

4.1 Adopting E-governance to ensure a transparent system of accountability

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4.3 Independent judiciary which can ensure transparency and accountability to restrict overreaching exercise of power by organs of state

5. Conclusion

World Bank defines accountability as one of the key components of good governance. Governance is the process of decision-making and then implementing those decisions. If the decision-making and implementation is done in the right manner, ensuring transparency, responsiveness, and effectiveness, it is classified as good governance. Thus, accountability is a necessity in achieving good governance because the absence of accountability results in inefficiencies, corruption, nepotism, and weakened rule of law. Implementing accountability mechanisms requires an impartial judiciary, a fair political system, and promotion of meritocracy. Accountability cannot exist with systems that breed nepotism and are influenced by a few elites, because accountability mechanisms exist to eradicate them. Accountability can allow good governance provided that states begin to adopt e-governance, ensure judicial independence, and promote meritocracy. States which are ~~at~~ ^{in the} present day dysfunctional, lack good governance because they

do not have proper accountability systems. Compromised systems cannot allow states to succeed.

A state is run by individuals. In democratic nation these individuals are elected through an electoral process by citizens of the state. Since the enlightenment period, philosophers have contended that human nature is selfish, evil, and power-seeking. Provided that human nature is not ideal in character and states are run by individuals, to ensure the proper functioning of a state, accountability measures and mechanisms were created!

The lack of accountability especially within democratic nations influences those in power to operate efficiently and effectively. Accountability acts as a regulator of individuals and provided that the individuals in power could be assessed, they act cautiously, at times against their nature. These regulations result in improved performances of the individuals which is ^{eventually} reflected in the states performance.

As individuals perform efficiently many inefficiencies within the state

are eliminated. The fears of accountability results in higher performance and increased effectiveness. This idea can be observed when comparisons between public corporations is made with privately owned companies. Private companies are almost always more efficient than public companies because they have strict accountability measures and they properly implement them. Significant difference can be observed between states as well, Japan which has a strict accountability mechanism has higher efficiency in all fields as compared to Pakistan. On average, Japan hires only 6.9 employees to sanction a train while Pakistan has 343 employees per train. The Supreme Court of Pakistan has 864 employees while UK has only 64. The significant difference between Pakistan and Japan, UK is primarily based on efficiency. Japan and UK are more efficient because they are highly focused and strict in implementing accountability mechanisms as compared to Pakistan.

The effectiveness of accountability mechanisms which allows the efficiency is because of the checks and balances.

present within these accountability mechanisms. Proper evaluating systems, key performance indicators, efficient implementation processes, and impartial judicial system is part of the accountability mechanisms. When these checks and balances are applied on individuals in power, not only does their performance become more efficient but rather it also improves rule of law within a country. Recently, The Rule of Law Index for 2014 was published within which Pakistan stood at 129/142 while Singapore was ~~between~~ among the top 5. The key difference between Pakistan and Singapore was in the metrics of corruption, order, and justice. The three metrics in which Pakistan scored significantly low can be traced to the absence of checks and balances. Similarly, Nigeria ranked the lowest in order and justice among 142 countries because it lacks checks within its system which results in bad governance and disorder.

Corruption occurs rapidly when accountability mechanisms to counter it don't exist or are inefficient.

The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) which is conducted by Transparency International ranks countries as per their perceived corruption. The perception upon which they rank is based on the absence or non-implementation of accountability mechanisms. The higher a country's corruption is, the worse the ranking of governance is for that country. Absence of accountability leads to corruption and corruption is correlated with bad governance. The CPI ranked Pakistan at 140/160 which clearly indicates that Pakistan's accountability mechanisms are a failure. Proper accountability mechanisms eliminate corruption because the measures taken to ensure accountability directly target corruption.

A way through which accountability is achieved and corruption is reduced, is through enhancing transparency. Transparency is one of the key components of Good Governance laid down by the World Bank. Accountability and transparency are interlinked because a transparent system automatically implies that accountability exists. World Bank since 2000 has

Focused on third-world countries to increase transparency within their system through digitalisation to eliminate corruption. Another step taken by IMF and World Bank to ensure transparent usage of their funds by receiving countries is through the establishment of Disbursement-linked Indicators (DLIs).

Transparency is a key measure which is aided by accountability measure and allows a country to achieve good governance.

Within a transparent system with effective accountability mechanisms, the state operates as per the constitution. The constitution defines a system ^{with} for majority countries includes an idea which emerged from Montesquieu, a French thinker, Separation of power. Power among states is divided between the Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary, as per conditions defined by the constitution. However, there remains a tendency among the three organs to overstep their powers and at times compromise the power of other organs. This issue is dealt by accountability mechanisms of the judiciary to keep a check on

the executive and ^{legislative} ~~judiciary~~. For proper functioning of the government and to ensure good governance, it is essential that all three organs operate within their provided mandate. This is ensured by proper accountability mechanisms.

Nepotism undermines good governance. A state which regards personal preferred individuals over merit, becomes susceptible to failure. During 1980s and 1990s, Latin America was facing a significant problem of drug trafficking. The U.S along with governments of Mexico, Columbia, and numerous other Latin American nations declared war on drugs. However, despite significant flow of funds from U.S to the South American nations, the war failed to produce results because South American governance structures were based on nepotism over merit. Countries such as Columbia lacked capable and effective people within their governments due to compromised appointment systems. Resultantly, these nations faced severe governance failures and were unable

to solve the problem. The example of South America presents a relationship of accountability with another component of good governance, which is responsiveness. Due to lack of merit-based appointments because of absence of accountability, these governments within South America were not responsive as per requirement.

Accountability promotes transparency and meritocracy which reduces the elite capture within a country. A transparent system inducts officials on merit which reduces the possibility of elite capture within a society. India's UPSC exam system which inducts bureaucrats is essentially based on merit-based system. Provided that the system is transparent and counters influences, it upholds merit. Merit-based appointments reduce the elite capture of bureaucracy within India, allowing it to stand at better governance footing.

Accountability is the essence of governance. Strong accountability means good governance within a country. States which don't have proper accountability mechanisms become dysfunctional because they have weak governance which

collapses with time. Pakistan is a prime example of a state which ~~has~~ as per most ~~of the~~ observations, has become dysfunctional. Due to absence of accountability mechanisms and a compromised judiciary, Pakistan has ~~been~~ been facing rising crime rates, increase in corruption, and downgrade in majority index. Accountability makes states functional and The absence of the very factor which exists to regulate states, leads to a dysfunctional state.

Accountability fails to exist in an environment where judiciary is compromised. The judiciary exists to uphold the principle of accountability. A judicial system which does not provide ~~an~~ impartial decisions fails to ensure accountability. Good Governance requires accountability and to achieve accountability a strong judicial system is a prerequisite. Judicial systems which are influenced or controlled by the executive branch cannot fulfill the purpose, and stand as a major barrier towards

Implementing accountability measures within states which have a system entrenched by corruption, is problematic. Systems which have operated for decades with corrupt practices, now consider it as

as a norm. Studies from South Asia indicate that corruption has become embedded within their system to an extent that many consider it as an acceptable norm. Challenging such systems becomes a difficult task because accountability mechanisms are strongly opposed and in most cases are not adopted.

States, especially in Third world countries have dynastic politics culture. The political dynasties follow a hereditary succession structure. Over decades their control becomes so deep-seated that eliminating their influence remains a far-fetched dream. These political systems control governance structures by implementing reforms and appointing individuals as per their liking. The system breeds nepotism and thus reforms which focus on enhancing accountability are never implemented in their intended spirit. Provided that the entire systems are compromised and controlled, accountability ceases to exist.

The absence of capable individuals and political parties operating as

dynasties, severely resist digitalisation practices. Due to the fear of losing control, these systems prefer traditional practices which have minor transparency. The resistance to digitalisation reduces the ability of implementing accountability mechanisms.

Moving towards good governance through ensuring accountability requires adoption of E-governance. A digital governance system improves transparency, reduces the likelihood of corruption to occur, and allows implementation of strict measures.

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Moving towards good governance through ensuring accountability requires adoption of E-governance. A digital governance system improves transparency which reduces the likelihood of corruption. Moreover, it allows streamlining of operations which allows systemising processes. Systemised government operations reduce the margin of unethical practices.

Governments need to uphold meritocracy. Nepotism yields corruption but not results. To achieve good governance, states need to eradicate corrupt individuals and reinstate deserving and capable individuals in their place. Through standardised processes and impenetrable systems, the hiring

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Should be conducted. Accountability mechanisms in place would allow efficient individuals to emerge which would automatically allow easier adoption of digitalisation, reduce corrupt practices, and increase responsiveness of governance.

Separation of powers exists to ensure each organ conducts its task without any external influence to ensure effective functioning of state. An independent judiciary is essential to ensure accountability within a state to achieve good governance. An independent judiciary focuses on achieving transparency within a state. More importantly, judiciary needs to ensure that the executive branch does not exercise powers beyond the level allowed by the Constitution.

Governance exists and functions through accountability mechanisms. States cannot achieve good governance

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without an effective role played by regulators. A concentrated effort in reducing barriers towards proper accountability system should be focused upon through adoption of digitalisation to achieve good governance. The fear of accountability is a necessity for effective governance in any and every state. Efforts in ensuring accountability at times require overhauling the entire system but it remains essential for states aiming to achieve good governance.