

ESSAY

(1) Governance is not [✓] about Ruling People but Empowering Them

(i) Introduction:

Thesis Statement:

~~can not be achieved through forceful~~ ^{Effective} governance rule and coercion but by empowering citizen. [✓] Political [✓] participation, [✓] economic opportunity, [✓] social inclusion and [✓] provision of legal rights are [✓] core elements that are essential for [✓] accountability, [✓] transparency and a sustainable and good governance in general

(ii) [✓] Ruling [✓] centric [✓] Governance [✓] v. [✓] Empowering Governance

(iii) Drawbacks of Ruling Centric Governance

- (a) It creates a poor a weak political system and culture
- (b) It leads to economic disparity
- (c) Develops culture of marginalization in a community
- (d) Aids in creation of weak institutions

(iv) Empowerment of citizen is key to Good Governance

- (a) Ensures development of a healthy political system
- (b) Helps in socio-economic growth of people
- (c) Improves justice in society
- (d) Global content

(v) Pathway from Ruling based Governance to Empowering Governance

- (a) Decentralization and devolution of power
- (b) Transparency and Accountability
- (c) Efforts towards human development

(vi) Conclusion

The question of what makes a strong and good governance is age old. It has been asked throughout history in academic and power corridors. Can a government truly be strong if its people are weak? The question gained momentum since Age of Enlightenment through history has been misunderstood as a mere exercise of authority by state over its citizen. ~~Historically monarchs, colonial powers and authoritative regimes~~ fueled by thoughts of thinkers such as Plato, Thomas Hobbes and Machiavelli have emphasized obedience and control through coercive means over empowering of citizen. These powers prioritized centralization of power over social welfare to maintain order however the order has mostly been short-lived and failed to provide sustainable growth. The modern understanding of governance fueled by ideas of enlightenment e.g. John Locke, Rousseau etc emphasize freedom, participation, accountability and inclusivity as principles of good governance. ~~The recognize citizen not only as a member of a community or state but active participants~~ Governance efficiency can be achieved

~~not by forceful rule and coercion~~
~~but by empowering citizen.~~ Political participation, economic opportunities, social inclusion and provision of legal rights are ~~core~~ elements that are essential for accountability, transparency, sustainability and good governance in general. A ~~ruling~~ ~~central~~ governance model creates ~~a~~ weak political culture and weak institutions that leads to economic disparity ~~creating~~ marginalization in society while ~~an empowering governance through strong institutions and political structure creates an equitable and just society.~~ Empowering of citizen can be done by ~~decentralization of power~~, ensuring accountability and transparency and working on ~~human~~ development.

A ~~ruling~~ ~~central~~ governance model ~~is~~ one where policies are dictated by ~~a~~ central power, a group ~~of~~ small ~~elites~~ or an individual, and the general public are meant to comply ~~no~~ questions asked. This form of governance mirrors Vilfredo Pareto Elite Theory where ~~a~~ small ~~the~~ organized elite ~~group~~ through access to information, ~~capitalization~~ of

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resources and control over institutions
exercise power over the unorganized
majority. The ruling central government
in order to consolidate power
often disturb the balance of power
between the arms of government
making one superior to another
(often making ~~legislation and executive superior~~
to ~~judiciary~~) ~~distracting~~ contradicting the
concept of ~~separation of power~~
as laid down by Montesquieu.

Examples of this can be seen in
~~colonial administration~~ where the British
government introduced a small body
of elite British to rule over the
subcontinent. The existing institutions were
weakened and brought under few
individuals and the people/citizens were
made mere subjects. They were
not ~~involved~~ in day to day governance
~~affairs~~. Another feature of this type
of governance is that the rulers
are ~~oppressed~~ and the model is short
lived. The authoritative regime is small in
numbers and is always in fear of
revolution of general public. The regime
always try to ~~legitimize~~ its role
through ~~democratic~~ back ~~sliding~~ but it

~~has been historically observed that they live short term. We have seen it in case of we saw it in Direct crown rule in Sub-Continental which did not last the century or in dictatorial regime in Pakistan which barely last a decade.~~

In Contrast to the type of model the governance that empowers people emphasizes participation of citizen in governance. This model inspired by Social Contract of John Locke and Rousseau aims to legitimize the state through delivery of rights and ensuring freedom. It aims at human development through education, health and legal rights and provision of free speech to ensure governance carry out the main idea of democracy as stated by Abraham Lincoln "Government of the people, by the people for the people". Free speech is one of the main characteristic of this type of governance model where criticism is addressed properly and taken as constructive rather than an attack. By ensuring freedom of ideas government try to incorporate

JS Mills theory of 'Market Place of Ideas' to ensure growth in a society. Let us discuss the drawbacks of ruling centre governance in detail and explain why it fails to deliver.

One of the major drawbacks of a ruling centre governance model is that the damage it causes to political system and culture of a state. Centralization of power is a key feature of this governance model. Citizens have limited avenue to influence policy making and political participation is often limited leading to alienation of general public. The policies made through this process are often not effective as they do not consider the opinion of local population. The gaps became visible very soon after implementation and the action of government is met with hostility. This can be seen more of Pakistan especially Pakistan in 20th century where the government decided to consolidate power in Federal leading to poor policy making and implementation. The problems

caused by such policies in Pakistan are even present may inform of poor national integration, neglected toward P. Balochistan, lack of human development etc. This leads to a serious mistrust between the government and the people and if not properly addressed can lead to devastating consequences as seen recently in protest in Bangladesh where alienation led to mistrust leading to mass protest and overthrow of the government of PM Sheikh Hasina in 2024.

Another issue with the ruling centric governance is that it has historically led to economic crisis or economic disparity. Economic disempowerment often lead to elite capture, misallocation of resources, abuse of funds and poor development programs even if it started with a noble goal. One clear example of this is the communist government in USSR. In USSR after Bolshevik revolution a communist government was established with aim of equality for all. They took over all major institutions and worked to empower public

welfare a dream that soon became a nightmare for people. A few elites took control, corruption was rampant, human development got worse and worse and in the end the system collapsed and USSR was disintegrated in 1990s. Along with economic crisis the type of governance models are also often associated with promoting economic disparity. The elites that take control become corrupt and start to benefit themselves rather than the people. This was seen in 18th century France where the ruling elite had become extremely corrupt and spendthrift while the general public faced economic hardships. The grievances of the people were often neglected which led to the French revolution where King Louis along with most of elites were beheaded and overthrown. The economic disparity led to such a bloody revolution - the idea of which are rarely seen.

One of the worst drawbacks of the ruling centric governance is its poor social development. Magribi

of certain groups which fail to consolidate power, gender disparity, lack of education to ensure legitimacy, poor health care structure, rural-urban inequality and under developed infrastructure is common under these governance models. The idea is fear of being overthrown tries to keep general population afraid and underdeveloped. This can be seen in tribal system evident in Pakistan where the sardar tries to keep people from progressing in fear of losing his power it is not limited to Pakistan's tribal system but in every authoritarian regime or organized the higher authorities try to limit the power of lower population. This poor human development in future leads to a nation that has a population that is incapable of working or thinking leading to its downfall.

One of the most impactful issue with the policies of the ruling central governments is its attitude toward the institutions. This type of model works to weaken

the present institutes through consolidation
 of power or coercion. The wide
 institution lead to minimal accountability,
 rampant corruption, inadequate and inconsistent
 policies and worse of all lack of
 trust. ~~This can be seen in case~~
~~of African countries where weakening~~
~~of institution lead to rampant~~
~~corruption, injustice and social crisis~~
 As Hezal Ali (RA) once said "System of
 disbelief can work but a system based
 on injustice can't." This corrupt, ineffective
 system leads to questions on government
 legitimacy. On contrast to this a
 system of governance where the
 people are empowered performs
 much better.

A government that includes
 public in governance matters has
 proven to provide better policy,
 making and efficiency. ~~The public do~~
~~it ensures two tier accountability where~~
~~the public keeps the government~~
~~accountable and is also responsible~~
~~This puts the responsibility of~~
~~holding the government accountable~~
 in the hands of public and
 strengthens the social contract between

the state and people. Example of
the political involvement of public
~~can be seen even in times ancient~~

times where greek states involved
public in policy making and held
the ruling body accountable the
modern democratic system is best
example of it. The political involvement
ensures ~~to~~ make policies for
people with diverse cultures ensuring
sustainability and national integration.

The involvement of people
in governance ensures effective and
efficient use of economic funds
for general welfare. Transparency in
economic activities not only builds
trust but also strengthens the nation
by curbing corruptions and malpractices.
It helps in avoiding economic
disparity creating a society built
on equitable distribution of resources,
allowing social mobility and creates
a healthy nation. ~~Any looming~~

economic crisis can be curbed
through promoting a Keynesian economy
where the government intervenes only
if economic crisis occurs to
ensure public welfare. The economic

empowerment directly affects the social structure of a nation leading to end of marginalization and promotion of inclusiveness and equity. This economic equity directly affect the sustainability of a nation as highlighted by western and eastern thinkers such as J.S Mills, Ibn-Khaldun etc.

One of the hallmark characteristic of governance model that empowers public in their efforts in improving human development. Such governance model work on education and vocational training and provide opportunities for employment that enable citizens to contribute to national productivity. Such individual innovate, contribute of economy and reduce dependence on state. These activities lead to gender equality, strengthening of community and a productive and informed community in general which further lead to a strong nation. It can be seen across the globe that nations that are high in human development and have inclusive policy making like Sweden and Norway excel and governance indicators and

are generally strong nation and
confident citizens ✓

Another important feature
of ~~governance~~ model that makes
it extremely effective is its
effort toward strengthening of its
institutions. As stated by Douglass
North in his theory of Institutionalism
Strong institutions matter more than
individual personalities. Strong institutions
means proper separation of power
with check and balances to ensure
smooth governance. ~~Not a strong~~
~~governance represent a equality~~
and justice. They protect right
of all citizens irrespective of their
social standing and allow government
to curb corruption and misuse of
power. In theory if each institution
is allowed to work without ~~interference~~
~~gov.~~ of most of governance related
issues resolve by themselves. One
of the best example of this
is countries like Singapore and
America where independence of
institutions have led to accountability
~~and smooth governance and~~
~~trust of general public.~~

For creation of a governance model ~~some~~ that empower its citizen ~~some~~ pre-conditions are necessary. One ~~of~~ such is ~~decentralization~~ of power and its ~~further~~ ~~distribution~~ ~~through~~ ~~implementation~~ of local government system. When power is centralized the public is unable to get involved in governance matters as seen in case of Pakistan. It is only through decentralization of power that public can be empowered to participate in policymaking. Local government system ~~is~~ ~~the~~ ~~one~~ step forward but ~~distributing~~ ~~power~~ to the grass root level ensuring ~~policy~~ ~~reflects~~ ~~the~~ ~~needs~~ ~~of~~ ~~a~~ ~~particular~~ ~~community~~. This leads to efficient use of resource through tailor made policies and instills trust between government and people.

Another step toward empowerment is to ensure transparency and accountability. It is very important as transparency and accountability not only build trust but also ensure that any entity that wishes to

decrease or undermine public participation
 can be dealt with timely before
 it gains power to compel the
 system. Independent oversight bodies,
 citizen feedback and digital governance
 mechanisms ensure reduction in
 corruption and improve policy efficiency.
 Last but not least, one of
 the most important aspect for
 ensuring empowered governance is
 efforts toward human development.
 Without a developed and productive
 population other measures amount
 to nothing. It is through providing
 quality education, expanding economic
 participation, instilling concept of
 citizen responsibility, social protection
 and general welfare that it can
 be achieved. As outlined
 by Amartya Sen in her theory
 of human development not only
 economic freedom but also
 freedom of education, health and
 dignity must also be ensured for
 development. By implementing these
 measures system of empowered
 governance can be established which
 through its policies, promotes equity

and crosses a stable and sustainable nation.

Concomitantly, governance is not about ruling people but empowering them. A ruling centric governance model prioritised control through any means necessary which leads to degradation of trust between people and government, alienation of public, ineffective policy making and weak political culture.

~~Citizens under such governance models often face economic disparity and social marginalisation and injustice due to weak institutions while~~

~~governance model that work on empowerment of people through systems such as political activity, social equity and legal protection provides protection and human development provide space through which citizens can contribute to national development and sustainability.~~ To ensure

an empowering governance structure it is important to ensure decentralisation of power, transparency and accountability and active efforts toward human development as seen in case of countries such as Norway, Sweden and Singapore.