

What is Governance?

'Governance' means the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented (or not implemented).

Governance focuses on the formal and informal actors involved in decision-making and implementing the decisions made.

Governance also focuses on the formal and informal structures set in place to arrive at and implement the decision.

What is Good Governance

'Good governance' includes 8 guiding principles that are used in the processes of making and implementing decisions.

The use of good governance principles can decrease corruption and misuse of resources, and ensure that the views of minorities and the most vulnerable are included.

Good governance practices can enable responsible and responsive governments and organisations. They help leaders make the right decisions with the most effective outcomes.

Actors in Governance

There are various actors in governance including government ministers, departments, civil servants, political parties, civil society, media, urban rich and poor, rural rich and poor, religious groups, traditional groups, international and regional organisations.

Good governance can be exercised on the following levels:

- Family
- Community
- Government – local and national
- Regional and International

8 Good Governance Principles

- for leaders and institutions

1. Accountable

Public officials must be answerable for government behaviour, and be responsive.



2. Transparent

Information needs to be made available to the general public for clarity on government decisions. Transparency can help inhibit corruption.



3. Responsive

Institutions and processes should try to serve all stakeholders within a reasonable timeframe.



4. Effective and Efficient

Processes and institutions need to produce results that meet the needs of society, while making the best use of resources.



5. Equitable and Inclusive

People should not feel excluded from the mainstream of society and everyone should have opportunities to improve their well-being.



7. Participatory

Citizens, both men and women, need to be involved in the development process. People need to participate so that the government can make informed choices.



6. Follows the Rule of Law

There needs to be fair legal frameworks that are enforced impartially, fully protecting human rights and rights of minorities.



8. Consensus-oriented

Different interests and viewpoints need to be mediated to reach a broad consensus on what is in the best interest of the whole community.



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