



Voluntarism is the Essential element of Sustainable Community Development in Bangladesh

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is to examine that building safe, stronger, healthier and sound communities is exhilarated by the process of sustainable community development work of which voluntarism is the integral part. In the key concepts to be discussed, this also emphasises on the significance of the indefatigable voluntary actions in all levels of policy making procedures for the sustainable community development in Bangladesh. This paper has been divided into Four (04) key points:

1. The social, economic and environmental values and the desire of a sustainable framework for the community development in Bangladesh.
2. The significance of voluntarism towards the community and local development of Bangladesh.
3. Recorder histories that showcase the contribution volunteers are making to meet the goal for local and community development.
4. According to the policy relevance; the current scenario of voluntarism for community development.

Arguably, the most significant outcome that comes through voluntarism is enhancing the relationship through networking and having positive outcomes. Volunteers are not always service provider only; sometimes they try to develop social capital, human capital, physical capital or cultural capital

Moreover, poverty alleviation, remedial process of illiteracy, health and sanitation, water and resource management, environmental issues, disaster readiness and the sense of good governance through the dedication and continuous effort of the volunteers have been highlighted to ensure the ultimate sustainable development of Bangladesh.

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Introduction

Bangladesh has a glorious and long history of Voluntarism. After a lingering colonial rule and twenty five years Pakistani rulers, this delta-shape country has been at liberty since 1971 through an armed struggle. With the change over time, some changes and developments have also hitherto been occurred in all sectors of the state. But the issue of governance, pertinent to sustainable development, faces questions from donor agencies, members of civil society and funding agencies, has been gaining importance among various stakeholders involved in development programmes. That is why governance in general and good governance in particular has been gaining momentum in Bangladesh.

The concept- Voluntarism: Voluntarism is a school of thought that regards the will as superior to the intellect and to emotion (Wikipedia). This description has been applied to various points of view, from different cultural eras, in the areas of metaphysics, psychology, sociology, and theology. The term voluntarism was introduced by Ferdinand Tönnies into the Philosophical literature and particularly used by Wilhelm Wundt and Friedrich Paulsen. The etymology of the word is from Latin (voluntas: the will, the desire; also: arbitrariness).

Voluntarism is sometimes used to mean the use of, or reliance on voluntary action to maintain an institution, carry out a policy, or achieve an end. Here the word voluntary action means action based on free will, which in turn means action which is performed free from certain constraints. The constraint of (government) coercion is often considered in this context, where it remains the question what constitutes coercion.

Volunteering is generally considered an altruistic activity and is intended to promote goodness or improve human quality of life. In return, this activity can produce a feeling of self-worth and respect. There is no financial gain involved for the individual. Volunteering is also renowned for skill development, socialization, and fun. Volunteering may have positive benefits for the volunteer as well as for the person or community served. It is also intended to make contacts for possible employment. It is helping, assisting, or serving another person or persons without pay. Many volunteers are specifically trained in the areas they work, such as

medicine, education, or emergency rescue. Others serve on an as-needed basis, such as in response to a natural disaster.

Theoretically five categories of volunteering

(1) Self-help and mutual aid- people with shared problems, challenges and conditions working together to address or ameliorate them.

(2) Philanthropy and service to others- It typically involves an organisation recruiting volunteers to provide some kind of service to others and is the type of activity which most people recognise as volunteering.

(3) Governance- volunteers who provide leadership and direction to groups or organisations.

(4) Advocacy or campaigning- collective action aimed at securing or preventing change which includes campaigning against developments seen to be damaging to the environment.

(5) Expressive Behaviours- expressing their interest and passion in a particular field through volunteering (Ellis et al. 2010).

A sustainable community development framework must offer a clear structure around which volunteering can be positioned and recognised, as a way of achieving sustainable community development. It is important that people are given the opportunity to 'identify their own needs and aspirations', to take action to exert influence on the decisions. The significance, value and contribution that volunteering makes to sustainable community development which affect them and to be facilitated to find ways to improve the quality of their own lives, the communities in which they live, and societies of which they are a part. Experience has shown that the most effective and sustainable community development programmes are those which involve local people at all stages. The times of 'parachuting people' into communities, especially paid staff to do things to a community rather than support them to do things for themselves has shown to be an ineffective model. Local people are more likely to invest in a programme of work and be actively engaged with it if they are given ownership and meaningful ways of being involved. Volunteering research supports this view that attracting and retaining people to volunteer is more successful when people are offered opportunities to

carry out meaningful roles which suit their interests and skills.

Voluntary provision of services to religious, civil, medical, educational and environmental and other private or governmental organizations doubtless has a long history. Such volunteer efforts keep expenses down for non-profit and philanthropic organizations empower individuals and groups to help others, and make volunteers feel needed. If we focus Voluntarism in brief; we will found the existence of these:

Volunteering: It means doing work willingly and without payment for benefits of community or society or other individuals.

Volunteer: A person of age 15 years & above doing work willingly and without being paid for it.

Formal volunteering: Volunteering through or for an organization.

Informal volunteering: Volunteering not through or for an organization. It is spontaneous and sporadic helps to individuals or group of individuals.

Nonprofit Institution (NPI): These are economic units producing goods or services but profits earned not being distributed among those managing, controlling, or financing them.

Nonprofit Institution (government): These are NPIs financed and controlled by government.

Household: Means a small group of persons sharing the same living accommodation, pooling some, or all, of their income and wealth and eating in one mess (same cooking arrangement). There can be one person household also.

Defining Sustainable Community Development: The term “sustainable communities” has various definitions, but in essence refers to communities planned, built, or modified to promote sustainable living (Wikipedia). Sustainable communities tend to focus on environmental and economic sustainability, urban infrastructure, social equity, and municipal government. The term is sometimes used synonymously with “green cities,” “eco communities,” “liveable cities” and “sustainable cities.” Different organizations have

various understandings of sustainable communities; the term’s definition is contested and still under construction. For example, Burlington, Vermont’s Principles of Sustainable Community Development stress the importance of local control of natural resources and a thriving non-profit sector to a sustainable community. The Institute for Sustainable Communities outlines how political empowerment and social well-being are also part of the definition. Additionally, referring to communities in Shanghai and Singapore, geographer LilyKong has paired concepts of cultural sustainability and social sustainability alongside environmental sustainability as aspects of sustainable communities. Meanwhile, the UK’s 2003 Sustainable Communities Plan often abbreviates its definition of sustainable communities as “places where people want to live and work, now and in the future”. Addressing the scale of sustainable communities, political scientist Kent Portney points out that the term sustainable communities has been used to refer to a broad variety of places, ranging from neighbourhoods to watersheds to cities to multi-state regions. Etymologically, the term “sustainable community” grew out of the related discourses of “sustainability” and “sustainable development” that gained widespread use among local, national, and international politicians and policymakers in NGOs starting in the late 1980s. The term originally referred to environmental concerns and was later applied to cities.

Examples of Sustainable Community: Sustainable community initiatives have emerged in neighbourhoods, cities, counties, metropolitan planning districts, and watershed districts at different scales pertaining to community needs. These initiatives are driven by various actor groups that have different methods of effectively planning out ways to create sustainable communities. Most often they are implemented by governments and non-profit organizations, but they also involve community members, academics, and create partnerships and coalitions.

Non-profit organizations help to cultivate local talents and skills, empowering people to become more powerful and more involved in their own communities. Many also offer plans and guidance on improving the sustainability of various practices, such as land use and community

design, transportation, energy efficiency, waste reduction, and climate friendly purchasing. Some government groups will create partnerships where departments will work together using grants to provide resources to communities like clean air and water, community planning, economic development, equity and environmental justice, as well as housing and transportation choices. Social movements have gathered momentum, spreading sustainable community ideas around the world, not only through example, but also by offering classes and training on sustainable living, permaculture, and local economics.

National Initiatives: The Partnership for Sustainable Communities is an interagency partnership between the Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. These departments work together with a mission to “improve access to affordable housing, increase transportation options, and lower transportation costs while protecting the environment”. All three bureaus offer funding opportunities to support communities in areas of clean air and water, community planning, economic development, energy efficiency, equity and environmental justice, as well as housing and transportation choices. The partnership incorporates six principles of liveability into its grant-making and program development. It offers:

- Provide more transportation choices
- Promote equitable, affordable housing
- Enhance economic competitiveness
- Support existing communities
- Coordinate policies and leverage investment
- Value communities and neighborhoods

Along with working collaboratively, these government agencies also have their own initiatives. The Department of Housing and Development has an *Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities* which features a Sustainable Housing Initiative, aiming at “supporting the construction and rehabilitation of green affordable housing” and does this through programs that retrofit or construct energy efficient homes. They also work to standardise energy efficiency standards across federal agencies, as well as expand the availability of financing for home energy improvements and multifamily housing.

The Environmental Protection Agency has a *Smart Growth Program* which conducts research, publishes reports, showcases outstanding communities, and works with communities through grants and technical assistance. They also have a Green Communities Program which provides communities with a tool kit of information to help them reach sustainable goals. The tool kit is arranged in a five-step program which allows communities to:

- Develop **community assessments** of their current conditions
- Formulate **trend analyses** that answers the question “Where are we going?” in the face of no intervention
- Create **vision statements** of where the community sees itself in the future
- Establish **action plans** about what programs and initiatives will help the community reach its goals
- Access tools to **implement** action plans

The Department of Transportation has a *Liveability Initiative* which issues “grants to eligible recipients for planning, vehicle purchases, facility construction, operations, and other purposes”,^[12] with numerous goals, including the improvement of surface transportation, providing public transit on Indian reservations, providing access to disadvantaged communities, etc.

Why defining volunteering is important for Social development as it is the fourth Sector: Voluntary or community-based organizations are called the fourth sector of development enterprise. UNV Chief (2003) said in the World Summit on Sustainable Development- “Voluntary action is fourth cornerstone of sustainable development”. Like other cornerstones, sustainable development must be encouraged, understood and facilitated because in this era of globalization turning into global village, the need for voluntary actions calls for much attention of policy-makers, stakeholders and community members for sustainable development of the country. Sustainable community development and good governance moves parallel. It is not possible to gain one with the absence of other’s. Here the civic senses as well as the voluntary sense play an important role to change the total scenario in a more befitted manner. Achieving sustainability through the voluntarism is a very common issue in many developing and underdeveloped countries.

All people's participation in the socio-developmental work is

It has only been in more modern times that definitions have been used to describe activities such as volunteering and the process of community development as contributing to positive and sustainable changes in communities, particularly the most deprived communities around the globe. For many significant reasons, defining voluntarism is so important, not least because since the 19th century, volunteering as an activity has developed into a highly dynamic and varied form of civic engagement, as Ellis et al. (2010) categorisation attests to. Furthermore, identifying people as volunteers is important because it recognises people for the work that they do and helps build solidarity between people working towards achieving a common goal. Volunteers are uniquely different from paid workers and this should be recognised, they are different in the sense that they are not being financially remunerated for the work they do and are therefore first and foremost motivated by desire to contribute to social need, build up skills and / or connect with others. Identifying volunteers also means that they can more easily access support and guidance from the volunteering infrastructure with regards to recognition and effective volunteer management i.e. recruitment, selection, support, management and dealing with legal issues around involving volunteers.

The Statistics of Volunteering in Bangladesh:

Indicators	Number	Percentage (%)
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1. Volunteers (thousand):

Total	: 16,586	100.0
Male	: 12,660	76.3
Female	: 3,926	23.7
Rural	: 12,546	75.6
Urban	: 4,040	24.4

2. Volunteer rates: (percentage of population with age 15 years & above)

Total	:	17.5
Male	:	26.6

Female : **8.4**

3. Volunteer rates by division:

Barisal	:	25.4
Chittagong	:	20.4
Dhaka	:	19.4
Khulna	:	20.3
Rajshahi	:	10.8
Sylhet	:	13.6

4. Volunteers engaged in (thousand):

Total	: 16,586	100.0
Informal volunteering	: 14,729	88.8
Formal Volunteering	: 1,608	9.7
Both formal and informal volunteering	: 249	1.5

5. Percentage (%) formal volunteers by type

Total	:	100
Non-government NPI	:	72.0
Government NPI	:	9.9
NGO	:	4.3
Others	:	13.8

6. Volunteering hours (million)

Total	: 1,962	100.0
Male	: 1,478	75.3

Female	:	484	24.7
Rural	:	1,544	78.8
Urban	:	418	21.2

Total	:	1,022	100.0
Formal	:	218	21.3
Informal	:	804	78.7

7. Formal volunteering hours (million)

Total	:	418	100.0
Rural	:	303	72.5
Urban	:	115	27.5

8. Formal volunteering hours by type (million)

Total	:	418	100.0
Non-government NPI	:	233	55.7
Government NPI	:	108	25.8
NGO	:	37	8.9
Others	:	40	9.6

9. Value of volunteering (million taka)

Total	:	117,720	100.0
Informal	:	92,640	78.7
Formal	:	25,080	21.3

10. Full-time equivalent volunteers (000):

11. Value of volunteering as % of GDP (FY 2009-10) 1.7

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics Survey on Volunteerism in Bangladesh 2010

Benefits for Career Development- The ultimate goal of Sustainable Community: When we said that it really is OK to consider what's in it for you when figuring out how and where to volunteer? This statement becomes even more relevant in the case of career or professional development.

Whether a person is currently unemployed, completing the degree or simply considering future career possibilities can be an ideal way to:

- A. *Develop new skills and competences.*
- B. *Apply for existing skills in new ways in new environments*
- C. *Explore new career paths*
- D. *Expand your personal and professional networks*
- E. *Get on the radar of hiring professional, giving them the opportunity to see you in action*
- F. *Give back while assessing of actively pursuing your next role.*

Iconic Examples of Voluntarism in Bangladesh:

Bengal famine: The organised form of voluntary organizations was first established in Bangladesh (Bengal) following the Bengal famine of 1943, which claimed the lives of three million people. Following the typhoon in 1970 that registered a death toll of 500,000 people in Bangladesh, the number of VOs increased (Ibid).

The 1991 Bangladesh cyclone: The cyclone of 1991 in Bangladesh was the deadliest tropical cyclones on record. On the night of 29 April 1991 a powerful tropical cyclone struck the Chittagong district of south eastern Bangladesh with winds of around 250 km/h (155 mph). The storm forced a 6

metre (20 ft) storm surge inland over a wide area, killing at least 138,000 people and leaving as many as 10 million homeless. Thousands of Volunteers started working with the Helping agencies from home and abroad to mitigate the disastrous after effect.

Rana Plaza Collapse: On 24 April 2013, Rana Plaza, an eight-story commercial building, collapsed in Savar, a sub-district in the Greater Dhaka Area, the capital of Bangladesh. The search for the dead ended on 13 May with a death toll of 1,129. Approximately 2,515 injured people were rescued from the building alive.

It is considered the deadliest garment-factory accident in history, as well as the deadliest accidental structural failure in modern human history.

Voluntary Organizations: The Fourth Sector:

Voluntary or community-based organizations are called the fourth sector of development enterprise. UNV Chief (2003) said in the World Summit on Sustainable Development-”Voluntary action is fourth cornerstone of sustainable development”. Like other cornerstones, sustainable development must be encouraged, understood and facilitated because in this era of globalization turning into global village, the need for voluntary actions calls for much attention of policy-makers, stakeholders and community members for sustainable development of the country. Voluntarism can also be defined as a will of free service leaving out the question of paid or unpaid, where the service is given to promote social welfare and also to help the people of the locality to undertake activities in a self-reliance manner, partially or wholly, to satisfy their felt needs.

Voluntary organizations are the major vehicles for social development. The people involved in the voluntary organizations provide financial support and required services thorough their free will. Voluntary organization, in this paper stands for, nonprofit groups formed by the people of any community to accomplish some developmental goals. These local voluntary or community based organizations may also be called development agencies, or self-help organizations, which are run, financed, established and organised by the people of respective community whereas an NGO is established, organised and financed by people outside the community where it functions.

Voluntary works through voluntary or community-based organizations can bring a change among local people where they can play a vital role for sustainable development. Voluntary organizations can be good development partners of the government to lead the country for sustainable development.

Recommendations:

For Bangladesh, we are proposing the following recommendations to recognise this as fourth sector:

- Reforming the Existing Policies.
- Somewhat of a compulsory voluntarism for the specific time span.
- Establishing National Voluntarism wing.
- Voluntarism as a part of internship.
- Bridging between the Government and non-Government sectors.
- Structured Voluntarism studies in the elementary education.
- Establishing voluntarism quota for higher education and job.
- Connection between voluntarism and the entrepreneurship through social business platforms.
- Categorization in voluntarism for grooming the leadership.
- Allocation in National Budget for the volunteers.
- Motivating the voluntarism by providing noncash service.
- Young scholars/students should go for internship in the government sector.

Concluding Remarks: Local governance is a key issue in developing policy for human settlements. In addition, in many countries especially those of Latin

America the transition from authoritarian regime toward democratic governance have increased people's involvement in local decision-making. Under the aegis of local governance, innovative participatory budgeting and planning practices have emerged in a wide variety of contexts. The aim of these new practices is to contribute to local sustainable development through developing a joint vision and strategy for the future. For a long-time in recent past, Bangladesh remained under authoritarian rule owing to colonialism and military dictatorship. During this time, concessions at the local level were often used to legitimise authoritarianism at the national level (Siddiqui, 1994). Even when democracy was ushered in, problems remained the same due to patron-client relationship, gender discrimination and other drawbacks. Participation is primarily seen in terms of empowerment of the disadvantaged, since powerlessness is considered the main reasons for their exclusion from development benefits. In the context of Bangladesh, it would demand that the poor and the women, who constitute the majority have been generally left out of the decision-making and implementation process, actually become an active part of the same through mobilization. Moreover, Bangladesh is still in the list of some aid depended countries, where development related policy-making is considerably influenced by donor conditionality. And thus, good governance has been a buzzword in the donor-prescribed development initiatives. Most donors now include good governance as a condition of their aid performances. So in this case criticism can be made on the failure of ensuring good governance at local level on the governmental initiatives. Good governance is a sine qua non for sustainable development and freedom of choice is a key to good governance. If people's effective participation is established, it can help establish good governance, characterised by efficiency, transparency and accountability (Ahmad and Ahmed, 2002).

Furthermore, Voluntarism is a part of our cultural heritage.

The people of Bangladesh have a tradition of involvement in different forms of voluntary activities. The major growth in the voluntary organizations in Bangladesh, however, primarily followed the failure of the government in meeting the needs of the people (Hassan 1999). Voluntary organizations as partners of the government can take major initiatives to eradicate poverty, develop

skill of the people through training programmes, and provide health care to the people in the adjoining areas, whereas government organizations have failed to achieve these above objectives for the people. So in this regard, the government should take the following measures to encourage the participation of voluntary organizations and strengthen people's participation in decision-making at local level for sustainable development.

And these measures are to:

- Take policy and institutional frameworks needed for the people to make their choices count in governance.

- Establish good governance, which refers to the transparency, accountability, and the rule of law to prevent crime and corruption and ensure distributive justice for progress towards sustainable development.

- Take initiatives for effective governance at all levels of society with an aim at establishing decentralised governance for identifying local problems and ascertaining the felt-needs and aspirations of the people.

- Make the best possible framework for promoting local people's participation in governance and development process as well as for articulation of local needs and mobilization of local resources (Ahmad and Ahmed, 2002).

- Organise, assist and encourage the spirit of people for voluntarism highlighting their roles and importance in different aspects of sustainable development of the country.

- Make easier way for voluntary organizations to work with the people without any bar so that they can take part in development process.

- Bridge the gap between male and female for establishing a viable society and equal social justice to reach the goal of the new millennium.

- Take initiatives to mobilise local people and resources, especially voluntary labour for sustainable development, and thus facilitate monitoring the implementation process.

Unless the voluntary organizations become a part of the overall development process of the country concerned, the voluntary organizations will lose enthusiasm and ultimately may fade away, and a potential vehicle for undertaking local-based sustainable development may be destroyed (Hasan 1999). The local and national governments in Bangladesh should come forward to accept

voluntary organizations as development partners of the country. And the involvement of the local voluntary organizations in development process also ensures good governance in the country. Furthermore, mainstreaming popular participation and encouraging voluntary actions will ensure good governance at local level leading to sustainable development.

So, Voluntarism need to be recognised as the fourth Sector in terms all aspect's development not only in Bangladesh but also in the other Developing and under developed countries.

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Introduction

With the rapid permeation of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), new vistas and opportunities have been emerging and unfolding themselves for a revival of public discourse and improved governance efficiency. ICTs offer concrete credible and advantages opportunities for local and national governments to better their performance in respect of transparency, participation and decentralization. Crest of ICTs within planning and design of development strategies helps to strengthen the establishment of efficient, effective and transparent governance systems. On-line electronic deviled can vastly improve the catering of services and information flows from administrations to their constituencies; communication among administrations and citizens can be enhanced and, lastly, ICTs offer unique opportunities for commotions citizen involvement and participation in the decision-making process. This is particularly relevant in the context of developing countries, where many countries have recently underwent Tran's mortification of democratic setup, and where despite of transformation the men dispensation have been faced up with stiffing problem of lack of responsibility, transparency under over bearing corrupt practices.

Issues associated with good governance

Good and bad governance requires the understanding of the kernel of the state which are embedded in the constitution and confronting the state. Governance means a process that is employed to achieve the noble dead of the state. Thus, governance simply implies the art of governing a people within a given territory or a state. Governance means a state in action. Governance in political sense is a more complex activity to achieve. Political governance is service centric. Thus, governance has a great deal to do with the allocation of values in the system, in this context. In this regard the World Bank view governance as, "the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development.

The world bank fond out 3 key aspect of governance the form of a political Regime; the process by which authority is exercised in the management of a country's social and Economic

resources and the capacity of governance to design, formulate and implement policies And discharge functions. The United Nations Development Programme sees government and governance as being synonymous. Accordingly, it defined governance as a complex mechanisms, process, relationships and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences. Government, as an art of governance, enjoys four important attributes which include sovereignty, power, authority and legitimacy. In these countries, I would like to different with Abadan as his statements lacks logical conclusion... rather, I feel, the ICT revolution will have both ends, such as, citizens freedom and governments regulations met successful.

These attributes are the instruments of effective governance in the sense that they provide the necessary anchor and legal/moral justifications to the government. Governance includes institutional and structural arrangements, decision making processes, policy formulation and implementation capacity, development of personnel, information flows and the nature and style of leadership within a political system. By governance, we generally mean the manner in which power is exercised by governments in the management and distribution of a country's social and economic resources. The manner of distribution makes governance a bad or good. Thus, when resources are distributed to promote inequality or to achieve personal or group clevises the essence of politics and state is defeated. Good governance, as a concept, is applicable to all sections of society such as the government.

What Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), says good governance has eight major characteristics (UNESCO, 2005). It is participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive and follows the rule of law. It assures that corruption is minimized; the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision-making. Failure of governance implies that political will has not properly managed the economy and social institutions. According to the World Bank (1992) bad governance has Many features, such as failure to make a clear separation between public and what is private, hence a tendency to divert

public resources for private gain; failure to establish a plausible framework for law and government behaviour in a manner that is conducive to development, arbitrariness in the application of rules and laws; excessive rules, regulations, licensing requirements, etc, which impede the functioning of markets and encourage rent-seeking; priorities that are inconsistent with development.

According to Obadan (1998), with features occurring together they create an environment that is hostile to development. He further argued that the authority of governments over their peoples tends to be progressively eroded. In authoritative regimes, coercion is wide-spread, equality in all respects degenerated, wealth being in consign nominal relations and also in those hands that are in proximity to power centre. Such regimes are usually characterized by abysmal decadence of human life, socio-economic and political life in such regimes are path etic democratic values are descry. Hence, such governance is bad governance. To undo this system by replenishing of democracies and E-governance to harness recourses in a manner that enriches socio-economic fabric of a political community. The resource utilized must also be commensurate with the level of development attained. In short, good governance is all about the performance capacity of a government. And performance capabilities of leadership.

The best governing establishment or the governance are those that willingly or didactically responds to all round development of human kind in a given social system. That good governance extracts its citizens from the deep slumber where in, its citizens are groping for deliverance from wretched socio-economic detestable situations. In a sense, it arguments mantel, physical and material prosperity of its denizens. Achieve the desired end of the state ends such as equity, protection of life and property, enhanced participation, preservation of the rule of law and improved living standard of the populace. The concept of "governance" is not new. It is as old as human civilization. Simply put "governance" means: the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented (or not implemented). Governance loud is referred as corporate governance, international governance, national governance and local governance.

Good governance has 8 major characteristics. It is participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive and follows the rule of law UNESCAP, 2012. It ensure that corruption is minimized the views of minorities and that the voices of the most vulnerable land considered are heard in decision-making.

Characteristics of Good Governance

1. Participation: Participation by both men and women is a key conratiasal essence of good governance. Participation could be either direct or through legitimate intermediate institutions or representatives. Representative democracy does not necessarily mean that the concerns of the most vulnerables shall be taken into consideration in decision making. Participation needs to be informed and organized. This means freedom of association and expression on the one hand and an organized civil society on the other hand.

2. Rule of law: Good governance prescribes for fair legal structural system that can be enforced impartially. It also assures full protection of human rights, particularly of those of minorities. Impartial enforcement of laws commends an independent judiciary and an impartial and incorruptible police force.

3. Transparency: Transparency means that decisions taken and their enforcement are done in a manner that follows rules and regulations. It also means that information is freely available and accessible to this affected by the decision and its enforcement. It also means that enough information is provided understandable forms of electronic media.

4. Responsiveness: Good governance stipulates all that institutions should serve all stakeholders within/under terms and condition laid down.

5. Consensus oriented: There are several actors and as many view points in a given society. Good governance requires mediation of the different interests in society to reach a broad consensus in society on what is in the best interest of the whole community and how this can be achieved. It also requires a broad and long-term perspective on what is needed for sustainable human development and how to achieve the goals of such development. This can only result from an understanding of the historical, cultural and social contexts of a given society or community.

6. Equity and inclusiveness: A society's well being depends on ensuring that all its members feel that they have a stake in it and do not feel excluded from the mainstream. This includes all groups, especially the most vulnerable, and will have opportunities to improve themselves in all aspects of their existence.

7. Effectiveness and efficiency: Good governance means that processes and institutions produce results that meet the needs of society while making the best use of resources at their disposal. The concept of efficiency in the context of good governance covers the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of the environment.

8. Accountability: Accountability is a key precondition of good governance. Not only of governmental institutions but also of the private sector and civil society organizations must be accountable to the public and to their institutional stakeholders. Who is accountable to whom varies depending upon whether decisions or actions taken are internal or external to an organization or institution. In general an organization or an institution is accountable to those who will be affected by its decisions or actions. Accountability cannot be enforced without transparency and the rule of law.

Essence of Democracy and E-Democracy

Democracy can be defined as,

“Government by the people; especially, rule of the majority; a government in which the Supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a System of representation usually involving periodically held free elections (Merriam-Webster, 2012)

E-Democracy

E-Democracy is a term to mean invocation of wide range of responses and relations. E-Democracy again would mean the appropriation of communication and information technologies and attend strategies within the conglomerated system of dispensations at all apparent levels of human life. This encases all that democratic, non-democratic and the globe as such. The “democratic sectors” include the following democratic actors: Governments, Elected officials, Media (and major online Portals), Political parties and interest groups, Civil society organizations, International governmental organizations, Citizens/voters etc.

E-Governance

There are the differences in as far as the representative institutions and elected officials use ICTs concerned administrative agencies and departments. The use of ICTs by parliaments, heads of State/government and local lags far behind the administrative-based e-government service in matter fact are exploring their e-democracy responsibilities more Both parlimentriees and administration have to work parallels since both to achieve the goals of democracy and service. E-governance enhances the democratic development.

ICT and Empowerment of Democracy

Communications technologies (ICTs) in development and cooperation, with a view to promoting economic development and vast poverty reduction. ICTs have the potential to contribute to economic development and democratization and also democratic prerequisites and poverty Reduction. Investment in traditional e-government service delivery is justified based on the provision of greater citizen convenience and the often-elusive goal of cost-savings. Another important aspect of it is becoming more and more relevant today is the use of mobile technology for broadened participation of civil society in decision-making process. Considered by governments and NGOs as a powerful means to engage citizens in political and social debates. According to the World Information Society Report 2007, jointly published by ITU and UNCTAD in May 2007, the number of mobile cellular subscribers around the world is growing rapidly. Thus, the number of mobile cellular subscribers rose from just 12 million in 1995 to over 1.15 billion in 2005. Low income countries are making important gains in mobile telephony with mobile phones outnumbering fixed lines by seven to one in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and by as much as nine to one in Sub-Saharan Africa. By the end of 2007 it is estimated that about half the world will have a mobile phone connection compared to about 300 million who have computers.

1. as a tool for bringing openness and effectiveness to local administration. Achieving its objects of uprooting corruption. This is crucial for countries like Nigeria, where corruption is still rampant. Efficient use of ICTs to fight corruption Kenya is the best example in the use Graft Management (EGM) project. The EGM project offered a

corruption reporting facility in six towns with existing Internet infrastructure.

2. to increase the pace of service delivery that too, at a cheaper and most efficient and farther manner, the governance based on e-service shall be more advantages and hence gainful to the citizenry and precipitatively enable the citizen to option information and to carry out transactions 24 hours a day. Goals for e-government in governance that promote democracy and effective governance Include:

1. Advanced government decisions
2. Increased citizen credibility in government
3. Enhancement of government accountability and transparency
4. Ability to accommodate the public will in the information-age
5. To effectively involve stakeholders, ranging from NGOs, business, and interested citizen in new Ways of handling public challenges.

Challenges before ICT for e-Governance

Many e-governance steps aiming to enhancing citizen participation and engagement have not fulfilled the promises offered by ICT technologies, and most of them have yet to spruce up towards improved information provision models of e-governance. This is mainly because of lack of institutional and legal e-readiness, and also of political will to fully exploit the potential offered by ICTs. Another important issue before ICT necessary infrastructure, creating conditions for capacity building and rising the level of knowhow and in defining a clear vision and strategic goals of e-governance and implementation. Lack of awareness among both the local population and policy-makers about the role ICTs play in enhancing good governance. The basic problem is that people simply do not see – in concrete, practical terms – how ICTs can make a difference to their lives, and how they can contribute to their development as individuals and as citizens of a country. People say away from knowing what ICT is all about its utility in the inclusive development.

Prospective consideration

A potential solution such as problems of connectivity and availability of technology could be to promote further implementation of Community Multimedia Centers (CMCs). CMCs offer

affordable or free computer and internet access, training, and possibilities to connect with more remote communities using of wide-ranging e-technology. .

Conclusion

It could be gleaned from the above study that good governance is an ideal supreme and difficult to achieve in its totality. Only countries and societies have come about to a successful level in terms of achieving objectives in its totality. However, to ensure sustainable human development, actions must be initiated towards this ideal being a reality. Both government and public should officially involve themselves to transcolate the opportunities. With wisdom intelligent use of ICT and democratic intent, we can build better sustainable world. With the intelligent and effective application of ICTs, combined with democratic intent, we can make governments more responsive, we can connect citizens to effectively meet public challenges, and ultimately, we can build a more sustainable future for the benefit of the whole of society and world in which we live.

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