



Good Governance Is An Effective Tool For Achieving Sustainable Development - Evaluating The Experience Of Arab Countries –

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the study was to reveal the real reasons that led the Arab States to know the extent to which good governance management is applied and whose success affects sustainable development in these countries. Through our review of the concepts of good governance and the importance of its effective application, especially in the Arab countries, in particular the countries of the Maghreb, and what is reflected in the development of these countries' economies. The study found that the level of application of the principles of good governance management in the Arab States remained weak, but their efforts were considerable, in order to achieve sustainable development.

The decline in investment and the lack of interest in vital sectors, as well as the political situation, instability, lack of effective application of the law and central decision-making, have led to a lack of rational governance by States. Overlapping powers are a major reason for the sector's lack of development progress and lack of responsibility and accountability, resulting in widespread administrative and financial corruption.

Keywords: Management, good governance, development, sustainable, Arab countries.

Introduction

Sustainable development is a process aimed at achieving a balance between economic growth, social justice, and environmental protection, ensuring that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It is based on the wise use of natural resources, poverty reduction, and promoting innovation to achieve lasting and inclusive well-being for society. Sustainable development relies on good governance that ensures the effective and transparent implementation of policies. Good governance enhances the ability to manage resources sustainably, achieve social justice, and ensure community participation in decision-making. Through mechanisms of accountability and transparency, corruption can be avoided, and efforts can be directed toward achieving sustainable development goals, such as eradicating poverty, promoting education, and protecting the environment. In short, good governance provides the foundation that makes sustainable development possible and sustainable in the long term.

First : the concept of governance:

Governance is defined, according to a report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, as “ the system that an organization uses in the process of supervising and controlling its operations. It also represents the system through which rights and responsibilities are distributed to various parties in the facility, including the board of directors, managers, and shareholders.” And other stakeholders.

Governance in the public sector is also defined as “one of the organizational and administrative methods that helps governments achieve their development goals by involving beneficiaries of public services in managing state affairs.”

Despite the differences in the definition of governance at the public and private sector levels, It shares its support for transparency and disclosure and its focus on applying the principle of accountability, responsibility, and the participation of all parties affected by decision-making.

Second: Goals Good governance

Goals are achieved Governance in countries to Establishing strong and fair governments due to their systems, legislation and oversight at the level of their administration, which makes them achieve their strategic vision. This increases citizens' confidence in these governments at the local level and the performance that reflects on them in the services provided and on economic clients and foreign investors within them.

The main objective of the actual application of governance in the government sector is:

Preserving public money, and this is what helps governments advance the pace of achieving the sustainable development goals and their dimensions stipulated by the United Nations.

The goal of corporate governance is:

-Protecting its assets and property and managing its investments efficiently in addition In addition to improving economic performance and increasing productivity, it also ensures the protection of the rights of shareholders, including investors, shareholders and owners, towards achieving an appropriate return on their investments while preserving their rights.

It is also the primary goal Governance encourages any sector to make better decisions to enhance the efficient use of resources.

Third : Importance Governance

Interest in the issue of governance has increased due to its importance in developing the economy of countries, so the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development was keen to study and analyze it, as well as the Bank for International Settlements (Basel) and the International Finance Corporation. Its importance in the public sector is due to the role played by internal audit units in the public and governmental sectors and the emphasis on their independence. and What is meant is that powers do not overlap and that they are not organizationally linked to departments Direct implementation, as is the practice in most countries.

Good governance is also an essential pillar for achieving the sustainable development goals, including the standards of transparency, equality, accountability and responsibility. This is what helps institutions in the public and private sectors to make optimal use of their resources, this is what encourages investors to work in a sound investment environment under stable governments, and this was confirmed in the forum. Governance in Cairo.

Fourth: World wide governance indicators (WGI) :

Setting indicators for measuring good governance, whether in the government sector or the private sector, is an essential element, so indicators for measuring it have been identified at the global level to enable governments and institutions to control the process. Systems Its administrations serve its interests according to a well-thought-out approach.

1- Control of corruption index

Eliminating corruption is one of the characteristics of good governance, in addition to Controlling corruption supports economic growth and economic development, and fighting corruption is one of the main goals of implementing the principle Governance compared to the traditional style of management according to (WGI), so the Corruption Control Index measures. .. To what extent can corruption be controlled in a country? This includes all types of corruption, whether political, economic, or administrative corruption. It also helps in knowing the extent of citizens' authority to hold government officials accountable for their mistakes and monitor the government's performance.

2 - Government effectiveness index

Serving citizens is the most important reason for the existence of the government, as it was established Governance in order to develop and raise the level of efficiency and effectiveness of government performance by providing high-quality services and applying high-quality laws to regulate government work. This indicator measures the comprehensive quality of services provided by the government in addition To the extent of the quality of the systems and regulations governing the work of the government and the extent of the state's commitment to these regulations.

3 - Political Stability index absent of violence (PS)

Many international experiences and studies have proven that political stability has a significant impact on the economic and human development and sustainable development of countries, and according to (WGI) The Political Stability Index measures the possibility of destabilizing the government or the occurrence of an illegitimate coup. Stability is an important indicator of good governance. The more politically stable a country is, the more it supports the effectiveness and efficiency of its executive and legislative authority.

4- Regulatory Quality Index of Legislation and its Implementation

The indicator of the quality of legislation and its implementation is considered to measure the extent of the government's ability to formulate and implement effective policies and regulations that help development in the private sector. It supports the private sector since this sector is a major component in the economic development of countries, as Reinhart and Rogoff see. High-quality government legislation and laws contribute to reducing economic and non-economic crises.

5 - Rule of law index

An element of human rights the basic principle is to make them equal before the law, which is an important element in good governance. The rule of law index measures the extent of customers' confidence in the application of laws by the government equally to all individuals and organizations, as well as confidence in the protection of property rights and the work of the courts. Likewise, a high rule of law index for any country increases. It helps in creating trust between government executive agencies, the private sector, and individuals, helps support investment, creates an investment environment, and works to support innovation and creativity by protecting intellectual property.

Voice and Accountability (VA)

6-Participation and accountability index

The Participation and Accountability Index measures the extent to which the citizens of a country are able to participate in electing their government, freedom of expression, and free media, meaning participation in decision-making, drawing up strategies, and applying the principles of democracy, which are among the goals adopted and supported by international organizations such as the United Nations, which allows citizens to hold their officials accountable for their actions. The results of their decisions, which affects economic and social development.

Despite the criticism directed at **the WGI regarding** its focus on the main indicators and its neglect of the sub-indicators, that He stressed in his response that dealing with indicators for measuring governance depends on the independence of each indicator separately, and should not be considered and dealt with on the basis of The six indicators are one indicator.

Finally, international studies and experiences of decision makers in the public or private sectors concluded that: (**WGI**) is one of the most comprehensive indicators for measuring the quality of governance (the level of good governance) due to its comprehensiveness in accuracy, credibility, and reliability. Also, any defect in one of the measurement indicators affects the effectiveness of the government in achieving its goals, and this negatively affects the development of countries.

The second axis: sustainable development, its concept and dimensions

1-The concept of sustainable development

The concept of sustainable development has received great attention from researchers because of its prominent position at the international level since the 1990s, as interest in the issue of sustainable development has become the preoccupation of all governments of countries. It is also considered a basic demand of the people when the United Nations is keen for every country to exploit its resources. Achieving equality and justice in the economic, social and environmental fields to serve the present generation without compromising the legacy of the future generation.

Definition of sustainable development: According to the 1987 Portland Report, it is development that meets the needs of the present without risking the resources of future generations.

1- From the previous definitions, we find that researchers focused on development, giving importance to the balance between the requirements of the present generation without depleting the resources of future generations.

2- The World Bank also defined sustainable development in the twenty-first century as a multidimensional process consisting of five components:

Monetary capital: represented by sound financial management and appropriate economic planning.

Physical capital: represented by the infrastructure and fixed assets such as roads, ports, and power generation stations.

Human capital : It includes good health and acceptable levels of education and training for individuals.

Social capital : It means the skills and abilities of individuals, as well as the institutions and relationships that determine the nature of these relationships

Natural capital : represented by the base of natural resources and natural services such as air quality and scenic beauty.

2-Dimensions of sustainable development

The concept of sustainable development includes various dimensions, such as management and natural resources, as well as the three agreed-upon dimensions of the economic, social, and environmental dimensions. One of the most important characteristics brought by the concept of sustainable development is the complete organic connection between its dimensions. The three Its goals that it is hoped to achieve, and the dimensions of sustainable development are as follows:

- **Economic:** Economic sustainability as a dimension enables the system to produce goods and services in a way that maintains economic balance, prevents imbalances from occurring, and achieves growth and equality in distributing the fruits of development from the available resources to those targeted by the development process.
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- **Environmental :** The environmental dimension as a sustainable system that maintains assets Constant use of natural resources, avoiding excessive depletion of renewable and non-renewable resources, and promoting basic activities to achieve comprehensive sustainable development
- **Social:** A socially sustainable system achieves societal justice in distributing available resources and delivering social services such as health and education to those targeted by the development process, equality, effective community participation, and full and best use of human resources.

Shape N 01: Dimensions of sustainable development



3-Sustainable development indicators: are measurement tools used to assess progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These indicators cover a wide range of areas, including:

- Poverty: proportion of the population living below the poverty line.
 - Education: children's enrolment in basic education and literacy level.
 - Health: child mortality rates and life expectancy.
 - Gender equality: proportion of women in the labour force and level of women's political empowerment.
 - Clean water and sanitation: proportion of the population with access to safe drinking water and sanitation.
 - Clean energy: ratio of use of renewable energy sources.
 - Decent work and economic growth: unemployment rate and income level.
 - Innovation and infrastructure: percentage of R&D expenditure, level of infrastructure.
 - Reducing inequality: income distribution and level of social inequality.
 - Sustainable cities and communities: proportion of the population living in decent housing, level of pollution in cities.
 - Sustainable production and consumption: recycling rate and use of natural resources.
 - Climate action: greenhouse gas emissions, level of adaptation to climate change.
 - Underwater life: proportion of marine protected areas, level of marine biodiversity.
 - Land life: proportion of forests, level of terrestrial biodiversity.
 - Peace and justice: crime rates and the level of the rule of law.
 - Partnerships to achieve the Goals: level of international cooperation and amount of funding for sustainable development.
- These indicators are used to guide public policies and prioritize action towards sustainable development at the national and global levels.

- The third axis: The relationship between the actual application of good governance and sustainable development

- Governance is considered the sound approach followed by institutions in their activities. If institutions do not rely on the actual application of good governance, this reduces their success and productivity, and vice versa, and this is what makes it greatly affect the achievement of sustainable development's goals. Good governance is considered a basic pillar of sustainable development.

- Studies conducted on the subject of the influential relationship between governance and its role in achieving economic development, which reflects positively in the short and long term, also concluded that Good governance plays an important role in sustainable development and planning for future generations in addition to that Good governance helps countries avoid economic crises through optimal exploitation of their resources and reduce the impact of economic problems, according to Ndulu. and Connell 1999 : Good governance contributes not only to supporting long-term growth, but also to predicting economic problems before they occur.

- Evaluating the experience of actual application of governance in Arab countries, focusing on the Maghreb countries:

The Gulf countries are considered among the countries that took the initiative in the actual application of governance, such as the State of Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia, and the State of Qatar comes at the forefront as an emerging model in its application of governance in the government and private sectors, which reflects positively on its economic growth by attracting foreign investments, which made it play an important role in the Middle East region. As part of its implementation of governance, it took new procedures, which led to... To create laws and legislation that are in line with developments and changes at the global level to achieve sustainable development in all sectors, despite the delay recorded in the field of innovation. And creativity to It has achieved major achievements at the Arab level, and this is what other Arab countries seek in their implementation of governance.

- The Maghreb countries occupy an excellent geographical location in terms of agricultural lands, climate and tourist attractions. They also have sources of renewable energy and a region ready for investments. It suffers from several shortcomings due to its political situation and its lack of effective implementation of good governance, which affects... A direct impact on its economic growth. This is what makes it lag behind in its development process It strives to make changes towards a better future through the initiative to eliminate corruption in governments, such as the following changes It was established by Algeria in order to direct it towards the direction that would advance it economically and socially, and it confirmed the reforms in the state of Tunisia by paying attention to including Good governance is part of its strategy in the government sector, which is undertaken by the National Anti-Corruption Commission, and these efforts come within the framework of achieving the sustainable development goals for the year 2030.

Suggestions :

- The main reason for the delay in the governments of Arab countries in achieving sustainable development in most sectors except Qatar and the UAE To the lack of actual application of the concept of good governance due to lack of awareness of its importance. Similar to the political crises that most countries are going through.
- It is mandatory for the community to participate in decision-making and move from the bottom to the top, that is, studying development projects at the local level and then developing strategies to implement them at the ministries level. This increases citizens' confidence by meeting their needs.
- Investing in an integrated economy for all Arab countries.
- Spreading a culture of accountability, disclosure and participation in all public and private institutions. This increases the effectiveness of their activities, which accelerates development at the sector level and thus raises the rate of sustainable development for these countries.
- Reconsidering some laws and legislation and respecting the rule of law is essential.
- Strengthening the role of banks in the Arab Maghreb countries.
- Reconsidering the activity of banks (financing - guarantees...) in order to stimulate the investment environment for the public and private sectors.
- Reporting cases of financial and administrative corruption in the public and private sectors with the aim of eliminating corruption.
- Reconsidering the real estate base and encouraging investment, and reconsidering the book of conditions for the economic sector in some Arab countries such as Algeria, because it stands as a barrier to local and foreign investors.

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