

**GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS OF  
ETHIOPIA: ITS MAJOR CHALLENGES IN THE CASE OF DIRE DAWA  
ADMINISTRATION**

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**April, 2020**

**Dire Dawa, Ethiopia**

### **Abstract**

*In pursuit of its goal of making Ethiopia a middle-income country by 2025, the government has been investing heavily in economic growth and development, social infrastructures, streamlining the public services, revamping the tax collection system, and supporting small and medium enterprises. Thus, the primary objective of the study is to assess Good governance and Socio-economic Development of Ethiopia: Its Major Challenges in the case of Dire Dawa Administration. In the study, the Primary Sources of Data were collected through Questionnaire, Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and Personal Unstructured Interview while the Secondary Sources of Data were consisting of different Journals, Articles, Government's National Policy and other written materials and Reports of the case by different concerned public officials in the study area. Accordingly, Questionnaires were distributed to One Hundred Fourty Nine (149) respondents. Then, the distributed questionnaire were filled and returned back by 143(95.98%), whereas it was not filled and returned back by 6(4.02%) of them. The Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on the issue under investigation was conducted with One Group consisting of Ten (10) participants and Personal unstructured interview were with the heads of each Office; Mayor of Dire Dawa Administration, Revenue Authority, Civil Service and Good Governance, Finance and Economic Development, and Justice are selected purposively as they are the key role players in the implementation of good governance and administrating public service delivery of the study area. The significance of the study is for Policy Makers, Dire Dawa Administration and other Researchers for further investigation of the case. In generally, according to the findings of the study, the major challenges of Good governance and Socio-economic Developments of the study area were includes lack of Accountability and Transparency, Poverty, Corruption, lack of building Legal, Strong Political and Economic Institutions, less Public Participation and Disrespect of Rule of Law. Therefore, in order to foster the socio-economic developments of the society in the study area, it needs to eliminate the major challenges of Good governance.*

**Key words:** *Good Governance, Socio-economic, Developments, Major, Challenges*

## 1. Background

Governance is the process by which governments are selected, monitored and replaced, the capacity of the government to effectively formulate and implement sound policies and earn the respect of the citizens and the state for the institutions that govern economic and social interactions among them. It can be also defined as the process of decision making and the process by which decisions are implemented or not implemented (Jean-Baptiste Habyarimana and Bertrand Dushimayezu, 2018, p. 5-7). Its concept is examined in the context of a broad vision of development and globalization and its facts include efficient functioning of the organs of the government, *i.e.*, the executive, legislature and judiciary. The existing expectation is that each of these organs should carry their individual tasks with dedication and integrity with the active participation of the citizens on the public policy making, planning, its implementation and monitoring. Good governance is a central to creating and sustaining an environment which fosters strong and equitable development and it is an essential complement to sound economic policies (Onichakwe, C.C., 2016, p. 178-179).

According to (Dhaoui, 2019, p. 2), the attention now a day is about good governance which refers widely to institutional issues, social justice and inclusiveness. In that regard, there are no perfect governing structures and institutions. But, they can be continuously improved. Good governance can be refers to “A set of qualitative characteristics relating to processes of rulemaking and their institutional foundations. It encapsulates the values such as enhanced participation, transparency, accountability, and public access to information. Good governance establishes the rule of law, enforces contracts and agreement between the individuals, maintains law and order, guarantees security to the people, economizes on cost and resources, protects the government and properly delivers services to the society (Sharma, Sadana and Kaur, 2013, p. 64). The objectives of good governance are to enhance transparency and accountability so that there is zero tolerance for corruption. Good governance initiatives will be supported by information technology and expansion of civic education. The public service delivery systems will be modernized made efficient, fair and transparent in their delivery. Some of the major objectives of good governance were includes promoting community confidence, encouraging elected members and council officers to be confident, leads to better decisions, helps local government to meet its legislative responsibilities and supports ethical decision making (Gizaw Yohannes, 2014, p. 13-15).

Despite the economic growth in the era of neoliberal globalization the first round of the neoliberal reforms failed to reduce global poverty and inequality, which led to economic and political instability. This approach did not recognize the challenges which such development policy creates in terms of sustainable economic results. High unemployment, poverty and inequality are explained by inefficient administration prone to corruption. In order to avoid failure of neoliberal agenda, the revised version of Washington Consensus has taken the leading role of development policy. According to post-Washington Consensus, the central place of the development policy is occupied with the model of good governance which has become the mantra of development policy. Good governance is the new approach that recognizes the role of the state in the economy where the joint participation of state and non-state actors, civil society and private sector, is essential in the process of public governance (Ilija S., Jovo A., R. Stevan S., 2016, p. 558). The concept of development has been seen by different scholars as synonymous with improvement in the living standard of the people in any society. Development is a continuous process of positive change in the quality of span of life of a person or group of persons by the reason of access to better living condition. The indicators of development includes: ability to feed, clothe and shelter oneself resulting from more income in one's occupation or means of livelihood; ability to live much longer life as a result of the provision of health and medical facilities, prevention of diseases through better sanitation; ability to read, write and understand forces surrounding one through the provision of formal and informal education; and ability to participate meaningfully in political activities and in the policy making process at the governmental level (Daniel Esem Gbreveble, 2014, p. 19).

Ethiopia has a long tradition of various governments, it has given little attention to good governance due to the orientation, attitude and work practices of the bureaucratic machinery established to carry out centralized and control oriented government. After the down fall of socialist government in 1991, the political, economic and social changes have taken place in Ethiopia since the establishment of the transitional government and later in the FDRE constitution (Jemal Abagissa, 2019, p. 10). Thus, the study was conducted to assess Good Governance and Socio-economic Developments of Ethiopia: Its major challenges in Dire Dawa Administration.

## **2. Research Design**

Research design can be considered as the structure of research that holds all of the elements in a research project together or, simply it is a plan of the proposed research work. Also, it can be described as the plan, structure and strategy and investigation concaved so as to obtain ensured to search question and control variance (Md. Inaam Akhtar, 2016, p. 68). In the study, as it illustrates the relationship between dependent and independent variables in addition to describing of the present state of affairs as it exist, the researcher employed Descriptive Research Design.

### **2.1 Research Methodology**

Research methodology is a method of systematically solving the research problem. As it facilitates the smooth sailing of various research operations thereby making research as efficient as possible to produce maximal information with minimal expenditure of effort, time and money, it is needed. Also, it helps the researchers to know the methodology or techniques (Kothari C.R, 2004, p. 32). Consequently, in the study, the researcher was indicated the procedures that should be followed to resolve the major challenges of Good governance and socio-economic developments of Ethiopia: The case of Dire Dawa Administration.

### **2.2 Sources of Data**

In order to achieve the objective of the study, the researcher were used both primary and secondary sources of data. Accordingly, the primary sources of data were questionnaire, Focus Group Discussion and interview whereas the secondary sources of data were consisting of different Journals, Articles, Government's National Policy and other written materials and Reports of the case by different concerned public officials in the study area.

### **2.3 Sample Size**

According to Kothari C, R.(2004, p.152), sampling is the selection of some part of an aggregate study population. In other words, it is the process of acquiring information about a whole population by investigating only a part of it. It is used to save time and money is less expensive than a census study can produces the outcomes at a relatively faster speed may enable more accurate measurements for a sample study is generally conducted by trained and experienced investigators. In the study, from the total existed Twenty Eight (28) Public Service Offices;

Finance and Economic Development, Civil Service and Good Governance, Dire Dawa Administration, Revenue Authority, Justice, Court, Civil Servants and Social Affairs, Trade and Market Development and, Micro and Small Enterprises were selected by probability sampling. As it is difficult to manage the total study population of Four Hundred Thirty Eight (438), the sample size were selected through Simple Random Sampling. Accordingly, the sample size of the study is one hundred forty nine (149).

## **2.4 Instruments of Data Collection**

Data collection plays a decisive role in the statistical analysis. In research, there are different methods that used to gather the necessary information, all of which fall into two categories, *i.e.*, primary and secondary data. The primary data is the data which is collected for the first time by the researcher directly, whereas the secondary data is the data which is already collected or produced by the others (Oluwatosin Victor, 2017, p. 2). Therefore, in the study, the researcher was employed questionnaire, Focus Group Discussion and interview to collect a valuable data from the respondents.

### **2.4.1 Questionnaire**

Questionnaire is the most important approach through which the primary data can be gathered from the respondents. It is quite popular and being adopted by the private individuals, research workers, private and public organizations and even by the governments. The questionnaire is comprise of a number of questions printed or typed in a definite order on a form or set of forms (Kothari, 2004, p.100). Hence, questionnaire was organized into open and close-ended structure. In order to minimize the difficulties which the respondents may feel in understanding of the questions, clarification was given to the respondents by the researcher. The questionnaire was distributed to One Hundred Forty Nine (149) respondents. Then, the distributed questionnaire were filled and returned back by 143(95.98%), whereas it was not filled and returned back by 6(4.02%) of them.

### **2.4.2 Focus Group Discussion (FGD)**

As cited by Meskerem 2014, Krueger (1994) point out that FGD provide a means of obtaining clear ideas and share feelings from group participants. It is helpful in understanding of how people regard a specific experience or event (Meskerem, 2014, P. 31). Hence, in this study, one

FGD constituting Ten (10) employees was carried out to assess Good Governance and Socio-economic Development of Ethiopia: Its major challenges in the study area.

### **2.4.3 Personal Unstructured Interview**

In the study, to select key informants, the researcher were employed non-probability sampling since it involves the identification of who are the major stakeholders; who are involved in designing, giving, receiving, or administering the program or public service being evaluated, who might otherwise be affected by it (Palys T., 2008, p. 697-8). Thus, unstructured personal interview was conducted with the Heads of each Office; Mayor of Dire Dawa Administration, Revenue Authority, Civil Service and Good Governance, Finance and Economic Development, and Justice are selected purposively as they are the key role players in the implementation of good governance and administrating public service delivery of the study area.

### **2.5 Data processing and Analysis**

In the study, both quantitative and qualitative approaches were simultaneously employed as its combination provides better understanding of the research problems than either approach alone. After its collection, data was edited, coded, classified and triangulated in order to reduce it in to a manageable proportion. To analyze and interpret the gathered data and draw standardized conclusion, in the study, the researcher was employed SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) version 20 Computer Software.

### **3. Ethical Considerations**

Before collecting the data, the researcher gave explanation to the respondents about the objective of the study and how the findings of the study would help themselves and the country at large. During the collection of data, there were some ethical issues that get considerations such as care for the confidentiality, avoidance of coercion, patience and respecting for the culture and personality of the respondents and writing their name is optional in order to save their privacy and this contributes for acquiring more accurate information as the respondents feel free while giving their opinions.

## **4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **4.1 Demographic Information of the Respondents**

In the study, 98(68.53%) of the respondents were Male, whereas 45(31.47%) are Female. Among the respondents, 60(41.96%), 50(34.97%) and 33(23.07%) are found in age category of

20-30, 30-40 and above Fourty (>40); respectively. Regarding their educational qualification, 7(4.9%), 94(65.73%) and 42(29.37%) were Masters Degree, Bachelor Degree and Diploma holders, respectively.

## **4.2 Major Challenges of Good Governance and Socio-Economic Developments of the Study Area**

### **4.2.1 Lack of Accountability and Transparency**

The concept of accountability is so crucial to development even at the group level and in the life of any nation to the extent that without it, society would perpetually remain underdeveloped. According to the public administration dictionary, accountability is a condition in which individuals who exercise power are constrained by external means and by internal norms. The constrains engendered by these external means and internal norms could be seen as a watchdog and protective devise, which helps to guide and modify the behavior of those saddled with the responsibilities to manage governmental agencies for the good of the people in a society. The FDRE Constitution, Article 12 incorporates transparency, accountability and responsiveness in the affairs of government. Accordingly, Article 12(1) states that, the conduct of affaires of government shall be transparent (Daniel E., Adeola I., Nchekwube. O., 2014, p. 82).

Besides to this, the findings of the study were illustrated that the existing accountability and transparency in the public offices in the study area were low. Most of the public officers and managers are not accountable and clear to the society in their doings and decisions. Even though the rule and regulations of the government direct the officers to be accountable and transparent to the people, in reveres to this, most of the time they are less responsible and transparent for the people they are serving at the office.

Accordingly, during the Focus Group Discussion, the respondents were said that; in the study area, there is no Good governance as most of the public officers are not accountable to the rule of law and hide the existing future plan and the past reports of what was done to the public there. In addition to this, in the study, my key informants were replied as there is less implementation of accountability and transparency and that is negatively contributing to the lack of Good governance and hindrance to socio-economic development. Therefore, based on



the findings of the study, it can be concluded that lack of accountability and transparency is the major challenge to practice Good governance which helps to enhance the society's socio-economic development in the study area.

#### **4.2.2 Poverty**

A cross-cutting primary reason for the persistence of poverty and food insecurity traps in Africa and Ethiopia is poor governance at both the macro and micro levels. A country can find itself in a high fertility trap with rapid population growth that adds to problems of poverty. Population pressures lead to a Malthusian trap, in which a society cannot escape from a subsistence economy because of lack of additional resources necessary to maintain larger population sizes. Ethiopia is the second-largest populated country in Africa; it has more than 90 Million people and is growing at an annual rate of 3% (Sisay Asefa and Wei-Chiao Huang , 2015, p. 10-11).

According to Dr.Ram Prasad Pal(2017, p. 17), there is strong evident that governance and institution matters in accelerating development and in reducing poverty in most developing countries, with regards to this, since the ends of the 1980s, the issue of good governance has been dominating the international discretion about development and international assistance to developing countries. As the result, good governance become a buzz word in this era and has swept public attention for the last decades. It has also become significant pillar in the consideration of a state's ability to confirm universally accept democratic standards and became one of the major challenge for the socio economic development in developing countries.

Also, as the findings of the study revealed that, poverty is one of the crucial challenge that hinder the implementation of socio economic development and good governance since the public office holders tried to insure their personal need than public need. As Focus Group Discussion participants responded that, the majority of the people are unable to meet their human basic needs because of the existing extreme poverty in the study area. And the public servants are a part of the society that shares the negative impact of poverty who was not meets their personal need. Therefore, to meet their human basic needs they used the office they secured for fulfilling their personal needs than serving the society as per the rule and regulation to ensure good governance that leads to promote socio economic development of the study area.

Accordingly, as my key informants, the socio economic background of the employee is a key challenge to implement good governance to ensure better socio-economic development in the country generally and in the study area particularly because most of the public servants come from economically disadvantaged group that couldn't meet its basic need and used the office as a good opportunity to fill the economic gap they have. Thus, as to the findings of the study, the existing extreme poverty in the study area is an obstacle to implement good governance which serves as a tool for the socio-economic development the study area.

### **4.2.3 Corruption**

Corrupt practices are not issues just beginning today in our society; its history is as old as the world. The issue of corruption remains a challenge in the development of any society and has been universally acknowledged as antithetical to any development that can be sustained. Institutions of governance once created take a life of their own. Therefore, deliberate attempts should be made to ensure that these institutions are built on sound ethical values and orientations, their operators should be made to go through and imbibe enduring moral training and virtues that can be passed on to future generations in order to guarantee rectitude, transparency and accountability in public service. These can redress the decadence in agencies and organs of government, especially watchdog institutions such as the judiciary, police and anti-graft bodies (Okeke, E. 2010).

As the findings of the study revealed that, corruption is the most challenge in practicing good governance and the development of the society as the public officials are highly engaging in looting the government and the society's asset and used for their own purpose. Again my key informants' response showed that, many public leaders are using the government and society capital for their personal interest by engaging themselves in corruption. At the same time, while the researcher conducted focus group discussion with top leaders, their response revealed that corruption is the one among these major challenges to implement good governance and enhancing societal socio-economic developments.

### **4.2.4 Lack of building Legal, Strong Political and Economic Institutions**

Effective and inclusive institutions provide "Rules of the political and economic game" of human interaction. They provide foundations of a market economy, including secured property

and land rights, contract enforcement, economic coordination, restriction of coercive or fraudulent behavior, and provision of access to opportunities for the broad participation of citizens. They do this by constraining the opportunist power of elites through the use of checks and balances. Successful governance includes managing conflict, providing social insurance, and fostering predictable macroeconomic stability. The conditions of well-functioning, inclusive market institutions for good governance include clear and secured property rights, effective laws and courts, freedom to establish business, stable currency, public supervision of natural monopolies to manage externalities, transparent provision of credible public information to citizens, stable monetary and fiscal policy instruments, and social safety nets for those on the street, such as the homeless and beggars (Sisay Asefa and Wei-Chiao Huang, 2015, p. 15).

As the finding of my study shows that, the respondents; key informants and Focus group discussion participants were strongly supportive that lack of legal and strong political and economic institutions for the implementation of good governance is a major challenge. It revealed that, there is law that is written on the paper which commands the public servants to administer the citizens by implementing a good governance for the wellbeing of the society, but the society is suffering from the absence of implementation of good governance because of lack of strong and legal political and economic institutions which can end the problem. Hence, with the accordance of the findings of the study, the absence of legal and strong political and economic institutions is the challenge of exercising good governance which serves as a vehicle to the socio-economic development of the study area.

#### **4.2.5 Less Public Participation**

Public participation is a process whereby stockholders and members of public provide input in to law making so as to influence the outcome of their decisions. However, in contemporary societies, public participation is yet to accomplish its target. The challenge in accomplishing its target can be traced to the inefficiency of participatory practices in relation to the mechanisms in facilitating citizens to participate (Jiman Chado and Foziah Bte Johar, 2015, p. 1).

The notion of public policy has emerged in the context of responding to a specific social struggle in relation to a number of social issues such as inequality, poverty, social justice, human rights and obligations of the state to ensure the welfare of citizens. The governments are

established in order to secure the rights of their citizens. It is stressed that the governments do not often act in accordance with the mandate of their citizenry. This is partly due to, amongst others, negligence of the core principles of democracy by adopting practices which are the opposite of what is required in terms of democratic values (Clarence Itumeleng, 2019, p. 14).

Besides, the findings of the study were indicates that the existing public participation during decision making by the public bodies in the study area is low. In most cases, the decisions are made alone by the officials without wide public participation on the public issues while Good governance is participatory in its nature. In addition to this, the participants of Focus Group Discussion were responded as they are not actively participating in decision making because of the existing inappropriate bureaucracy and in most of public offices, there is lack of invitation to be a part of decision making on the public issues, planning of the future short term and long term plans by the concerned officers. That is the reason why there is lack of Good governance and less accelerated socio-economic development of the people.

Accordingly, the key informants in the study were replied as there is less public participation on decision making because of lack of awareness and motivation of the society as it consumes time and costly. Also, even though the public officers invite the surrounding society during decision making, the society is not developed the culture of participating on decision making. Thus, based on the findings of the study, it can be deduced that the presence of less public participation in decision making is among the major challenges of the enforcement of Good governance that led to the low socio-economic development of the society in the study area.

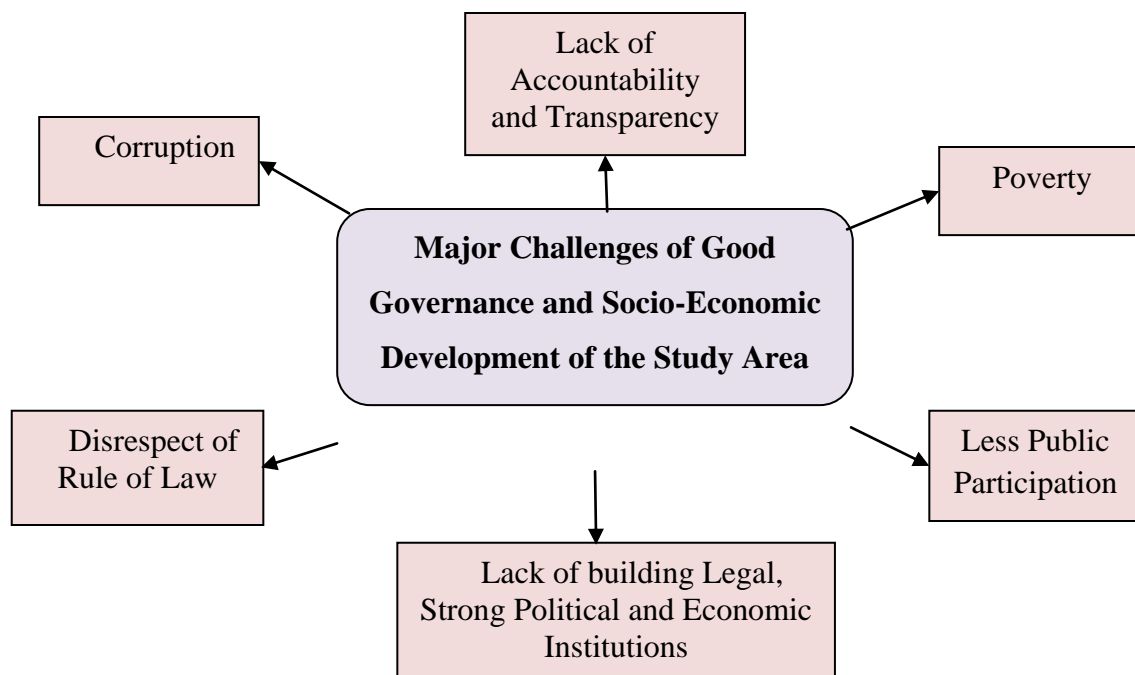
#### **4.2.6 Disrespect of Rule of Law**

As cited by Lubna Hasan (2010, p. 3), in Watson (2003) “Rule of law as a concept seeks to ensure that government power is limited and that individual rights are protected. The essence of the rule of law is the sovereignty or supremacy of law over people and governments. The rule insists that every person, regardless of position or status in society, will be subject to the law and will be dealt with equally. The rule of law is more than your regulation by law but a guarantee of freedoms, human rights and equal treatment before the law”. All the organs of state, the executive, legislature and judiciary have a shared responsibility for upholding the rule of law. The rule of law will only have real meaning in practical terms in a society in which all organs of the state are mindful of their obligations to respect it.” The judicial system in

developing countries faces problems of efficiency, transparency, accountability, independence and lack of human, financial and technical resources. Massive backlog, long delays and expensive litigation has diminished public trust in the justice system.

Hence, my respondents responded that the disrespect of rule of law by public officials as per the written rules and the inapplicability of the rules on the law breakers motivated the public servants not to think of the goodness good governance which in turn harm the socio economic development of the study area. In addition to that, my key informants confirmed that there is high disrespect of rule of law which challenged the prevalence of good governance and better socio economic development in the study area. Adding to that, the member of focus group discussion responded as there is significant negative impact of lack of rule of law on implementing good governance and good socio economic development of the study area. They insisted that, absence of rule of law and lack of enforcement of judiciary pave the way for public servants not to serve the society by implementing good governance and became a major significant challenge for better socio economic development in the study area.

**Figure 1:** Summary of the Major Challenges of Good Governance and Socio-Economic Development of the Study Area



**Source:** Researcher's Own Construction

## 5. CONCLUSION

Good governance plays a crucial role in the socio-economic development of both developed and developing countries of the World. In order to realize the county's socio-economic development, the government needs to give due attention towards the implementation of Good governance. Also, it helps to limit the impacts of poverty, corruption, economic inequality and maladministration within the society. In other words, Good governance is serving as a necessary tool for the acceleration of the aimed or planned socio-economic development of the country. Thus, recently, in Ethiopia, in order to enhance the socio-economic development of the country, the FDRE government has formulated and implemented ambitious and robust midterm plans since the mid-2000s, Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty from the year 2005/06 to 2009/10 which is followed by the First Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP I) that was implemented from 2010/11 to 2014/15. In addition, the Second Growth and transformation Plan (GTP II) is in its Fifth year of implementation with the major objectives like maintaining the strong growth averaged 11% achieved in the past, deepening economic transformation, and aiming to become a lower middle income and carbon neutral status by the year 2025. However, the implementation of Good governance and limitation of the hindrance of socio-economic development of the society, it is important to overcome these major challenges of Good governance. Thus, the study was conducted to assess Good governance and Socio-economic Developments of Ethiopia: Its major challenges in the case of Dire Dawa Administration. Hence, according to the findings of the study, these major challenges of Good governance and Socio-economic Developments in the study area were lack of Accountability and Transparency, Poverty, Corruption, Disrespect of Rule of Law and, lack of building Legal, Strong Political and Economic Institutions.

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