

Challenges of Good Governance in Afghanistan

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Abstract

The concept of good governance plays important role in the modern governmental system. Which mean security, justice, empowerment, employment and efficient delivery of services. Afghanistan is a multi-cultural, sect, ethnical and multi-lingual society; translating the concept of good governance in to reality in this type of society isn't easy. The concept of good governance has been used recent time in the Afghanistan. which has been facing a lot of challenges like; high level of corruption, instability, poverty, ethnic violence, nepotism, favoritism and some other challenges. we can find roots of these challenges in the strong centralize administrative and political power system in Afghanistan specially after Bohn Conference 2001.

This study based on descriptive-analytical methods and has intend to clear the impact of strong centralization system on the implementation principal of good governance in Afghanistan.

Key Words: Centralization, Afghanistan, Good Governance

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Interdiction:

Public administration in Afghanistan is very weak and suffering from lack of strong structure body, efficient public administrators and bureaucracy; With challenges of corruptions, instability, lack of professionalism, absence rule of law, lack of institutional strategic planning, ethnic discrimination..., but above all There were hopes for efficient government system after Bohn Conference among people of Afghanistan. But challenge of high level centralization system changed these hopes to fear, lack of good governance and collapsed of the government.

In spite efforts of western countries and U.S policy to building up a strong centralized government, government authority at the provincial and district levels has failed to take roots and remains ineffective. There are most blames to this failure like; corruption, insecurity or proxy troops but above all the challenges are deeper and related to centralization of government system. Because the practical implementation of any national policy depends on its effectiveness at local level. So sharing the power and giving the right of participation to local actors are necessary for implementation of national agenda, stability and good governance.

There are some literatures which I used in this study like; "Subnational State-Building in Afghanistan" work of Hamish Nixon, April2008. Nixon in his important report clear the process of building districts and provinces government system in Afghanistan after 2001. In addition, in the "Governance in Afghanistan" by Aarya Nijat, March2014 which is a prefect interdiction of government system in Afghanistan. Also, Shaheen Yusufzada and Zhiqiang Xia at common article on Scientific Research Journal mentioned the challenges of public administration in Afghanistan. But the main challenge of centralization administrative and political power wasn't very clear in these literatures.

In the necessity and purpose of this research, I am considering to decentralization of power which is the basic require for implementations of good governance principals even in currently regime. This research based on descriptive-analytical method, which seek to answer this important question; What is the main challenge for good governance in Afghanistan? The premise of this study is based on the fact that, one of the most important challenge for good governance is strong centralization of government system in the Afghanistan.

1. Concepts

1.1- Government and Good Governance

Government:

The concept of “government” is not new. It is as old as human civilization. It hasn’t an acceptable definition as like others social concepts. But there is some common definition which used in this study. Government is the action of ruling and continuous exercise of state authority over the population it governs. (Barfield, No,4:2010) or government is the political system by which a country or community administered and regulated.

Good Governance:

Recently the terms of governance and “good governance” are being increasingly used in development literature. Governance is the manner which communities regulate themselves to preserve social order and maintain their security (Barfield, No,4:2010).

Governance means: the process of decision-making are implemented or not implemented and government is one of the actors in governance (U N: ESC). According to United Nation Economic and Social Council “good governance” has 8 major characteristics there are:

- Participation
- Rule of Law
- Transparency
- Responsiveness
- Consensus oriented
- Equity and Inclusiveness
- Effectiveness and efficiency
- Accountability

2. Challenges of strong Centralization:

The decade’s conflict in Afghanistan has had a destructive impact upon the administrative, cultural, economic, social and political structures. Meanwhile, the social feature of life in Afghanistan is multi-ethnic and tribal divisions. Afghan people are loyal to their own tribe, village, ethnic group which is generally names

as Quwm and the could not make a strong nation until now. Traditionally, Afghanistan governed by the centralized government which were not stabile due to complex society and many ethnic classes problems. Centralization of power made dictatorship government in Afghanistan. They followed the same patter as Durriani or Rahman Khan predecessor's rules in Kabul and appointed governors (often their relative) to regional cities (Barfield:2011).

After the establishment of the new Afghanistan government, on January 2004 Afghan's Grand Council passed new constitution. New system created as a strong Executive Branch and the weak Judicial Branch, strong central government and weak local government; which reflecting the development trend of strengthening centralization rather than enhancing local decentralization (Yusufzada and Xia:2019).

This directly copy of the western administration system had not provide better delivery public services to Afghanistan people. Let's clear the challenge of performance of good governance in the centralized system; if a teacher in a district of Badkshshah want change place of his/her service he/she ought to come to Kabul and get order from ministry with lots of problems. like this people are facing more problems even in the current regime. Because as the republic government Taliban Regime are more centralized the administrative and power system. The authorities and responsibility of local government are organizing by the central government. Community governance in rural remains largely informal; they are actors individually or in a group like: Mullahs, Jirgas, Sharas, and so on. they play important governance roles. Therefore, the government is not capable to administer justice at local level. Which as before the make their council for solving their problems as medieval. (Nixon,9:2008)

Successful regimes in Afghanistan have recognized informal decisional making power to local communities which states do not have any intervene. In return local communities have recognized the sovereignty of Afghanistan National State and have not challenged its legitimacy and unsuccessful regimes take the opposite action (Barfield:2011). For this shameful political culture, Afghanistan have not a modern government system which performance good governance principals. Afghanistan has been divided to local units, but in a centralized government effective of local government are just for local officials. The

Independent Directorate of Local Government (IDLG) was established on 30 August 2007 for the main objective of development good governance in the subnational level of Afghanistan but because of political instability, corruption, party relationship, bribery, abuse of law and priority of personal interest on national interest failed (momand: SSRN-ID3895589)

Afghanistan had a unitary form of government based on the 2004 constitution. The central government extends its excess to provinces, districts and village through subnational units of administration. Which according to article 137 of 2004 constitution on delegation of authority, aim to serve as facilitating platforms from bottom-up people's participation in the decision making processes of public service. But this article of constitution as so many others never implement. There are some more challenges which related to centralize system in the 20 years of Afghanistan.

2.1- Instable Government:

Experience of instability during the 20 years clear that without an inclusive government, participation of local communities in the decision- making and sharing centralize power Afghanistan cannot achieve stable government which performance "good governance" principals. Because ethnics interest and discriminations rooted in the history of Afghanistan. The people have not enjoyed the equal rights. Centralized political set up in Afghanistan not only greatly intensifies that political competition but also increases the cost of holding the country together. (Safranchuk:2017).

The instability and ethnics interest after passed constitution changed to big problems. The Northern Alliance leader did not want a government unilaterally expect for some local score setting. (Barfield:2011)

In spite the best and historical opportunity to solve Afghanistan problems be making inclusive and pluralistic government at the form of federalism or holding local elections like; district election, provincial election or municipal election according to 2004 constitution. To never experience again shameful elections of 2014 or case of when Ashraf Ghani approved resign letter of Balkh province

governor Noor but he announced in the public media and held some conference by helping of people which the president has not authority of removing him.

2.2- High Level of Corruption:

Shameful high level of corruption was the biggest treat for government. Large scale corruption and bad decision making are the inevitable by products of a system in which a govern knows his/her time of service will be short at that he/she owner no responsibility to people. Provincial governors were appointed by the president and report to central government without any accountability to people. Nepotism and favoritism spread more widely to government sectors and institutions and made more corruption among government administration. There is necessary the distribution of power between high-level and low-level manage is a prerequisite for good governance and it can ensure the efficiency and innovation of public management. (Yusufzada and Xia:2019)

The district government consist a district governor and some number of district officers of central ministries which as provincial governor they only serve for their selves. Because they were send from other provinces and some of them had not interest to help people and did lot of corruption.

3. Conclusion:

Good governance is the new concept with the most challenge of political and administrative system cannot implement in the Afghanistan. Lack of responsibility, lack of familiarity with information technology, ethnic and gender discrimination, nepotism, lack of participation in the and decision-making matters consider the most challenges for performance good governance principals in Afghanistan. Meanwhile, for performance good governance principals firstly, there is need for inclusive and pluralistic government with localize administration system. secondly, held the local elections according to article 137 constitution of 2004 in order to accelerate and improve economic, social as well as culture matters and foster people participation in the developing national life which could remove corruption and have stable government.

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