

## **Toward Sustainable Good Governance in Society: The hope for humanity in the Age of Globalization**

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### **Abstract**

This study explores the hope for humanity through sustainable good governance in society. An exploratory qualitative research design was adopted. Data were collected from documents, and content analysis was conducted. Three themes emerged from the study, indicating that society's hope for humanity through good governance lies in the synergy between good governance, sustainable development, and holistic education. The study concludes that fostering societal hope for humanity necessitates integrated strategies that advance ethical governance, environmental and social well-being, and education for comprehensive individual development. The conclusion implies the need for synergy-driven initiatives.

**Keywords:** Good Governance; Sustainability; Hope of Humanity; Society

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### **1.0 Introduction**

Good governance is the responsibility of both the political elite class and members of the general public (Dowding & Taflaga, 2024). The general public does their part by fulfilling their civic duties as determined by the laws (paying taxes and respecting and obeying the law) and living a productive life in economic, social, and political contexts. The political elite class, on the other hand, ensures through the instrumentality of government that 1. the wealth and resources of the state are not diverted for personal use; 2. resources of the state are primarily deployed in meeting the hierarchical needs of society, recognizing security, protection, and justice as a top priority, followed by infrastructure for health and education, and policy initiatives to make life generally easy and better for all members of the society. Good governance is, therefore, determined by the commitments and selfless service of the political elites and citizens to the state in their various capacities (Hendar, Yusdiansyah, Ruhaeni, & Iskandar, 2023). Governance is regarded as 'good' when the political elite class meets expectations and is considered the opposite (as 'bad') when they do the contrary. Thus, negligent and irresponsible governance prevails when the political elite class in power becomes self-centered, diverting public resources for personal use, ignoring the needs of society, and enslaving them (Omeje & Omeje, 2021). There is hardly any society without the experience of good and bad governance at one point and the consequent effects that each bears (Rockman & Hahm, 2011). Therefore, no society has a guarantee

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of good governance. The existence of good or bad governance in society depends on the political orientation, value disposition, educational and religious background of the political elite class; their sincerity of purpose; and their value disposition regarding God's existence.

Society hopes for a better future by believing that good governance, which follows fair laws, protects human rights, holds everyone accountable (including leaders), is transparent in decisions and resource use, responds to people's needs, and is efficient and fair, will create a supportive environment for human development that values humanity. The striving for humanity through good governance is a continuous process, always greeted with recurrent challenges. Some of the challenges reported included citizens' limited understanding of their rights, corrupt practices, low-level accountability, weak civil society, and ineffective implementation of laws. The issues of weak institutions, political instability, conflicts, inequality, and exclusion are prevalent. This study aims to identify emerging conceptions of sustainable good governance that generate hope for humanity in the information age. The goal is to find out how society can have hope for humanity by looking at good governance as a way to support human efforts for a better society and how it connects to the Sustainable Development Goals. See Fig. 1.

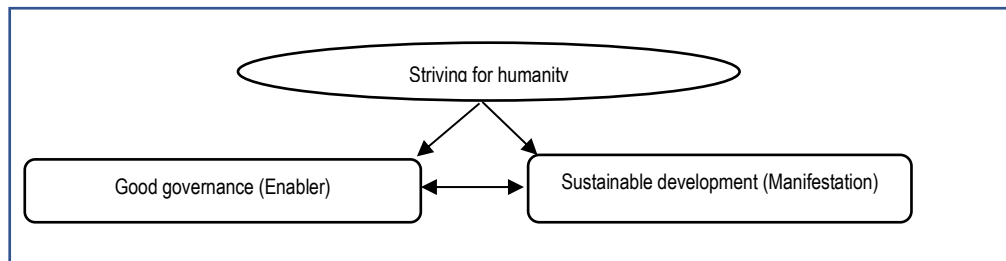


Fig. 1: The Conceptual Framework  
(Source: From the Authors, 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2025)

The framework is based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Striving for humanity is conceptualized in the framework as the driving force for good governance (considered a crucial enabler) for achieving sustainable development, and both are fundamentally driven by the striving of human society for a more just, equitable, and ultimately, more humane world. This interconnectedness is a central theme in contemporary global development and ethical governance. The study investigates two research questions:

1. How is good governance perceived and determined in the age of information and globalization?
2. What is society's hope for humanity through sustainable good governance?

## 2.0 Literature Review

Although specific studies directly investigating "hope for humanity through good governance" are limited in their explicit phrasing, a significant body of research explores the strong positive correlation between good governance and various factors that contribute to or underpin hope for the well-being of all. Numerous studies across different countries and periods consistently demonstrate a strong and significant positive relationship between good governance and higher levels of life satisfaction and overall well-being among citizens (Layard & De Neve, 2023). Good governance is reported as central to sustainable human development, acting as a key to unlocking improvements in various aspects of human life. It fosters transparency, productivity, and a stable legal framework, enabling the effective use of human and financial capital for equitable and long-term development. On the contrary, poor governance, characterized by corruption, instability, and weak rule of law, is associated with lower levels of well-being, economic stagnation, and social unrest, potentially diminishing hope for a better future (Bodea & Elbadawi, 2008).

The reported findings of related studies suggest that good governance fosters an environment where individuals are more likely to experience security, justice, access to essential services, and opportunities for a better life. These tangible improvements increased trust, participation, and contribution to a greater hope for humanity. While "hope" itself might be a subjective and complex emotion to measure directly, the consistent positive correlations between good governance and its various positive outcomes strongly imply that effective and ethical governance structures are crucial for nurturing and sustaining hope for a better future for individuals and societies worldwide (Dowdin & Talfaga, 2024).

While we understand intuitively that good governance likely fosters hope, rigorous empirical studies specifically focusing on this relationship are still relatively limited. Much research examines the impact of good governance on well-being, development, and stability, but the direct link to the feeling of hope needs more focused attention. Hope is not just a passive emotion. It's a powerful motivator for individual and collective action. Understanding how good governance cultivates hope can inform strategies for promoting civic engagement, resilience in the face of challenges, and a positive outlook on the future. Studies can help pinpoint which aspects of good governance have the most significant impact on fostering hope.

## 3.0 Methodology

An exploratory qualitative research design was adopted, leveraging secondary data from the literature.

### 3.1 Document Search and Selection Procedure

To address the research questions raised for the study, we used the SciSpace Generative Artificial Intelligence to search for published documents with related information. Table 1 reports the number of papers identified and selected for the study.

	The search	Generated Documents	Initial Selection
1	Attributes of good governance	80	53
2	The hope of the society	12	12
	Total	92	65

(Source: From the Authors, June 2024)

Two searches yielded 92 documents, of which 65 underwent initial selection. The initial selection was based on the document title, publication date, and the 'Scispace' AI-generated insight on the document. A sample of the documents' insight generated using the Scispace AI (see Fig. 1). The selected documents (65) were downloaded and subjected to a second screening.

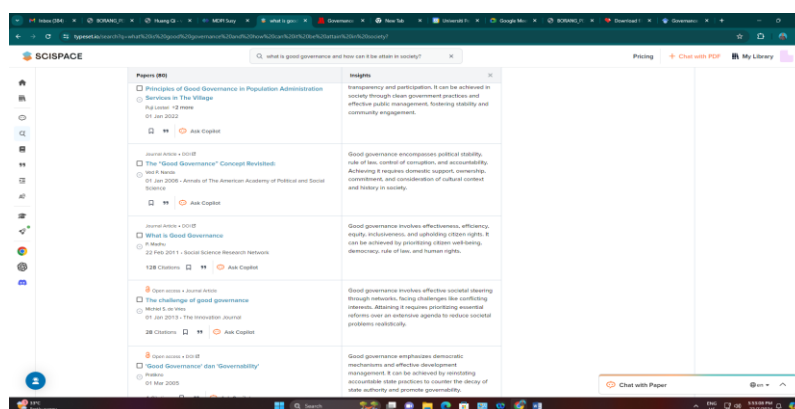


Fig. 2: Scispace AI Generated Articles Insight

(Source: Autogenerated by the Authors from Scispace Open Source, May 2024)

The second screening was based on the documents' abstracts. The researchers carefully examined all the abstracts, compared the notes, and classified the selected documents as "relevant" and "most relevant" based on the intercoder rating. The researchers selected the 'most relevant' (32) and eliminated the 33 articles classified as 'relevant' (see Table 2).

	The Search	Initially selected	Result of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Screening	Final Selection
1	Attributes of good governance	53	32 = 'R' and 21 = 'MR'	21
2	The hope of the Society	12	1 = 'R' and 11 = 'MR'	11
	Total	65	33 = 'R' and 32 = 'MR'	32

(Source: From the Authors, June 2024)

### 3.2 Document Analysis

The first stage of the analysis involved the development of the coding scheme. To familiarize themselves with the data, the research team read all the articles individually and compared their initial thoughts with the content. The initial impression derived from the articles is presented in Table 3.

The data set	Initial impression derived from the raw data
1 Conceptualization of good governance	Good governance means empowering institutions with the needed resources and a credible, responsible civil service guided by ethical values, patriotism, and nationalism to address sustainable development issues driven by a society-centered political culture.
2 The hope for humanity through Good governance	The hope for humanity through good governance is for the education industry to provide citizens with the knowledge, values, and skills necessary for public and private sector efficiency to drive sustainable development.

(Source: From the Authors, June 2024)

The research team applied the coding scheme after familiarizing itself with the data. Each article in each data set underwent a thorough individual review, adhering to the established coding rules. Words, phrases, and sentences considered relevant were identified and coded. Intercoder rating was used to assess the reliability and consistency of the coding. The coding results presented by individual team members were examined, deliberated upon, and compared. See Table 4 for the number of codes identified at the initial coding stage for each data set.

Table 4. Number of Codes Verified and Reviewed—Intercode Rating

	Data Set	Initial Codes Identified	Verified After Intercode Rating	After review of the Intercode Result
1	Conceptualization of good governance	75	68	65
2	The hope of society for humanity	70	58	42
	Total	145	126	107

(Source: From the Authors, June 2024)

145 codes were identified across the two data sets, and 126 codes were verified as consistent using the intercode rating. Thus, 19 codes were eliminated for a low level of consistency; 19 codes with the same meaning as others were further eliminated while reviewing the verified codes, leaving only 107 codes for further analysis. We further analyzed the verified codes for each cluster, using the degree of association between codes as the basis for categorization. A few samples of the codes categorized for the two sets of data collected are presented in Tables 5-8.

Table 5. Categorization of Coded Data on Conceptualization of Good Governance

	Associated Codes	Categorization
1	1. 'Rule of Law', 2. 'Control of Corruption', 3. 'Fair enforcement of the law', 4. 'Fair legal system', 5. 'Clear separation of public and private boundaries', and 6. 'Human Rights Act' (6 Associated Codes Identified).	1. Legal Mechanism and Attributes of Good Governance
2	1. 'Accountability', 2. 'Responsibility', 3. 'Introspection', 4. 'Public interest', 5. 'Training and capacity building', and 6. 'Special education reforms' (6 Associated Codes identified).	2. Institutional Reforms for Efficiency

(Source: From the Author, June 2024)

Seven patterns of associations were identified between the 64 codes categorized, giving two major perspectives as initial themes/patterns for research question one:

1. Good governance is a process that starts with institutional reforms and the use of ethical standards supported by an efficient legal system in establishing a society-centered, transparent, responsible, and accountable administration with a strategic economic plan for sustainable development.
2. The presence or absence of poverty, high quality and standard of life, justice and equity, and socio-economic security of citizens determines good or bad governance in society.

Fourteen patterns of associations between 43 verified codes for the data collected on the hope of the society for humanity through sustainable good governance were identified and categorized. The impression that emerged as a theme after the initial categorization of the 43 codes is shown in Table 6. The research team decided to review the data further by examining how the 14 categories of coded data are associated within and between. The review reveals two broad patterns of association between the 14 categories as emerging themes. The identified association pattern indicated two broad educational goals directed toward fostering good governance as two additional theses.

The 33 confirmed codes found in the group of articles about the challenges of achieving sustainable development show two patterns, highlighting two main viewpoints. This suggests that factors that encourage corruption and its impacts make it hard for many societies worldwide to achieve sustainable good governance. The 6 emerging themes were merged into 3 during a review of the emerging themes.

## 4.0 The Findings

Table 6 presents the study's findings.

Table 6. Summary of the Findings

	The investigation	Emerging Themes
1	Contemporary Conceptualization of Good Governance in Society.	1. The contemporary conceptualization of good governance in society focuses on transforming citizens and institutions to improve efficiency, transparency, and accountability in public service.
		2. The progress toward sustainable development goals is the yardstick that measures good governance in society.
2	The hope of society for sustainable good governance	3. The hope of society is for the Education Industry to produce informed, patriotic, and responsible citizens with the needed knowledge, values, and skills to drive sustainable socio-political and economic transformation for humanity;
Total	2Investigations	3 Findings

(Source: From the Authors, June 2024)

The next section discusses the findings presented in Table 6 based on the titles of the three investigations conducted in the study.

## 5.0 Discussion

### 5.1 Conceptualization of Good Governance and Hope of the Society

The findings suggest a three-stage process for good governance, beginning with the transformation of citizens and institutional reforms to enhance efficiency. Next, we must adopt practical and functional sustainability strategies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The institutional reforms should be directed toward creating a credible public service (Heraud, Nguyen-Van, & Pham, 2023) that has to be innovative and goal-driven, based on a realistic institutional Key Performance Index (Nguyen, Nguyen, Vo, & Tuan, 2023). It

also implies institutional capacity building (Herianto, Ibrahim, & Ahmad, 2023), adequate funding, and effective institutional resource management (Adejumo-Ayibiowu, 2023). Public service institutions require competent manpower for management (Salam, 2021). The manpower should have a culture of transparency and accountability, driven by integrity and innovative work leveraging technology to achieve institutional targets (Li, 2024).

To achieve institutional goals, the transformation of citizens should focus on developing skills for teamwork, collaboration, critical thinking, and reflective reasoning. Building the capacity of citizens and institutions is a key aspect of good governance. However, more is needed to ensure that the established productivity of citizens is continuously driven by integrity, responsibility, transparency, and accountability in managing the efficiency of both public and private sector institutions (Modise & Modise, 2023). Ensuring that a befitting remuneration that can guarantee economic and social security is given to citizens serving in the public sector is essential to sustain their loyalty and commitment (Ahmad, Lyu, Stazyk, & Higgs, 2024). Providing a meaningful social welfare package to meet the basic needs of the unemployed, the vulnerable, and disadvantaged citizens should be part of the reform. Such an action is necessary to create a balance between the employed and the unemployed citizens, thus creating a just and egalitarian society capable of striving for sustainable development.

The second dimension of good governance is ensuring that society is focused on addressing issues of sustainable development and leveraging institutional efficiency and citizens' competence. To achieve this, an effective legal system is required to ensure the rule of law, control of corruption, fair enforcement of the law, and precise separation of public and private boundaries (Durguti, Alidemaj, & Krivins, 2024; Kuwali, 2024). This endeavor should be followed by state investment in policy initiatives for sustainable development (Massey, 2022; Denters, Ginther, & de Waart, (Eds.) 2023). Achieving the SDGs means creating a society where inequality and poverty are significantly reduced or nearly eliminated; everyone has access to affordable food; there is a reliable supply of clean water; social justice, safety, and human rights are protected along with support for social development; and there is an inclusive community that provides quality, affordable education and empowers youth with safety and social protection. Sustaining a society's achievements in these areas presents another critical challenge for good governance.

To sustain the progress a society is making in this direction much is needed such as: ensuring effective public service with citizens' welfare as a priority in government expenditure (Ojasalo, & Kauppinen, 2024); building a framework for fair business opportunity and level ground for healthy business competition in the private sector (Dixon, 2023); political stability, responding to rising expectations of citizens, ethical distribution of resources and ensuring impartial administration (Karunia, Darmawansyah, Dewi, & Prasetyo, 2023); creating synergy between institutions and diverse authority (that of corporate, civil and government) (Ofori, Asongu, & Tchamyou, 2021); carrying the citizens along in policy initiation and decision making processes while considering cultural context and history in the process; decentralizing power, addressing conflicts and reducing societal problems while being gender sensitive; then, addressing the market crisis and monopoly while partnering with other stakeholders in the private sector on win-win situation between parties involved. Therefore, a society's progress in planning and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals determines its good governance.

The society hopes for education to prepare citizens for employment, leadership, followership, and statesmanship through intellectual training, skills development, and value orientations at different stages of learning. It is considered a duty of the education industry to instill the desired culture of transparency, honesty, sincerity, and accountability in the hearts of the young generation attending school. Through the school system, the child as a young citizen is expected to learn how to live a healthy lifestyle and acquire the skills of objective analysis and reasoning, thus creating a foundation for the culture of fairness and justice in society, knowledge of governance, how society works, and global awareness as a means of preparing the young citizens for political participation as adult citizens; imbibe the culture of integrity to inspire the spirit of law-abiding citizenship and lay the foundation for a fight against corruption while promoting the concept of rule of law in society.

### *5.2 Implications of the study*

The findings illuminate a hopeful pathway for humanity, suggesting that societal aspirations for a better future are deeply intertwined with the synergistic power of good governance, sustainable development, and holistic education. This implies that cultivating hope necessitates a conscious and integrated effort to strengthen each of these pillars. Good governance provides the bedrock of trust and accountability essential for enacting sustainable development policies that ensure intergenerational well-being. Simultaneously, holistic education empowers individuals with the knowledge, values, and critical thinking skills to become active participants in both upholding good governance and driving sustainable practices. Ultimately, the convergence of these three themes offers a compelling vision: a society where ethical leadership fosters a sustainable world, nurtured by educated and engaged citizens, thereby solidifying the hope for a flourishing future for all of humanity.

## **6.0 Conclusion and Recommendations**

In conclusion, this study underscores the critical interdependence of good governance, sustainable development, and holistic education as cornerstones for realizing societal hope in humanity's future. The convergence of these three themes reveals that progress in one area significantly amplifies the positive impacts in the others. Effective and ethical governance provides the necessary framework for implementing sustainable practices and fostering an environment where holistic education can cultivate responsible and engaged citizens. In the end, the results show that trying to tackle these areas separately won't work, and only by working together across these

fields can societies create the right conditions for a successful and fair future, supporting the original idea that their combined efforts can bring hope.

Based on these findings, it is recommended that policymakers prioritize the creation of integrated strategies that simultaneously advance good governance, sustainable development, and holistic education. This includes fostering transparent and accountable institutions, investing in long-term sustainable solutions that address environmental and social challenges, and reforming education systems to emphasize critical thinking, ethical values, and an understanding of sustainability principles from an early age.

### 6.1 Limitation of the Study

One of the study's weaknesses is that it drew conclusions from only one source, secondary data (documents). Because of this weakness, triangulation between data sources was not possible. Restricting the study to the two research questions is another limitation of the study in terms of scope.

### 6.2 Direction for Further Research

Further research should explore the mechanisms and contextual factors that either facilitate or hinder the effective integration of good governance, sustainable development, and holistic education in diverse societal settings, building upon the established synergy between these three domains. Comparative studies across different cultural, economic, and political contexts could illuminate best practices and identify context-specific challenges in fostering this interconnectedness.

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## Paper Contribution to Related Field of Study

This study contributes to political science, sustainability studies, and education by empirically highlighting the crucial interconnectedness of good governance, sustainable development, and holistic education as fundamental pillars for societal progress and hope for humanity. By showing how these areas are connected, the research supports the creation and application of policies that work together to improve ethical leadership, enhance environmental and social health, and provide people with well-rounded education.

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