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GOVERNANCE: THE EVOLUTION AND THE BANGLADESH EPISODE

Kazi S.M. Khasrul Alam Quddusi*

The evolution of governance in terms of state functioning as well as an academic discourse is quite picturesque. Even the contemporary developments of the phenomenon are quite phenomenal, let alone its journey since time immemorial. In a democratic society, a concern for democratic values should take precedence over all other considerations. Without denigrating the values of efficiency and productivity, cardinal values such as democracy, community, and the public interest, thus, should be placed in the larger context. In this paper an attempt has been made to collate the growth of the broader concept of governance that embodies the relevant developments culminating in good enough governance which places things in rather peculiar yet pragmatic frame of reference. A sketch of the Bangladesh scenario of overall governance has also been provided drawing on the Worldwide Governance Indicators.

Keywords

Government, Governance, Good Governance, Good Enough Governance

Introduction

Government is the protector and promoter of citizens' rights. In exchange for the services from the government, the citizens are to express allegiance to the government. This is loyalty in exchange for rationality. Government is not a business firm that would be engaged in mere profiteering. However, making free with public money in the name of public service is to be done away with. Governance is the way the government transacts with its constituents; this is the way the government treats its citizens. Thus, there should be sincere efforts on the part of the government to be honest and responsive towards the citizens. A government to have modicum of governance needs to be at least up and doing, if not always successful, in trying to safeguard people's basic rights.

Government and Governance

Both government and governance have the same root word ($\chi\upsilon\ \beta\epsilon\rho\nu\acute{\alpha}\nu$) from the Greek language, which means "to steer". However, governance is indeed more than just government. It is a complex yet universal phenomenon and force that exists in all societies. People use governance in their daily lives to manage human relationships, just as corporations and countries do to manage their interactions and activities (Cheema and Maguire 2002). Considering its existence as well as meaning in the Greek language, governance can be referred to as steering a ship. Steering a ship, in fact, is not only a matter of keeping the ship afloat and in forward, backward, or sideways motion. It also entails the knowledge of the future direction and the assurance that the ship is constantly on course in the right direction (Misuraca 2007).

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DOES INSTITUTION MATTER? EVIDENCE FROM SELECTED SOUTH ASIAN ECONOMIES

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South Asia has experienced rapid growth in the last two decades having grown at an annual average rate of around 6 per cent and have exceeded the growth rates of all regions except East Asia. South Asia's experience seems a development puzzle, because good development outcomes have occurred despite weak institutions. We try to investigate the proximate determinants of economic growth in selected economies of South Asia for the period 1996-2010. The study is conducted in a panel data framework with special emphasis on the role of institutions in conjunction with physical capital investment, human capital stock, and openness as major predictor variables. Moreover, we also try to ascertain the direct and indirect effects of corruption on the economies of the region and hence estimate the effects of the various constraints which could possibly put a brake on the high growth in the region in near future. Determinants of economic growth in a panel study framework in South Asia under the purview of the New Growth Theory are very few. The present study differs from earlier studies in respect of inclusion of variables, approach and methodology. Physical capital, human capital and openness are found to play a vital role. The impact of corruption on economies of South Asia is subject to the institutional quality of the countries. Weak institutions are found to exacerbate the ill effects of corruption. The institutional framework needs substantial reform if the accelerated growth rates are to be sustained in future also. Our findings highlight that both economic policy and institutions matter for sustaining economic growth in South Asia.

Keywords

Growth, Physical Capital, Human Capital, Openness, Institutions, Panel Data

Introduction

South Asia experienced a vibrant 9.1 percent growth rate in 2010, buoyed by very strong growth in India, which represents 80 percent of regional GDP, though South Asia's real GDP growth decelerated to an estimated 6.6 percent in 2011. Nevertheless, growth is estimated to have exceeded the long-term average of 6 per cent (1998-2007), led by above average performance of Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka. However, unlike a number of studies on East Asian growth miracle, research on South Asia's growth performance has been very limited. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries are low and middle income countries which also share many similarities related to their geography. The region suffers from relatively poor endowment of natural resources along with

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UNDERSTANDING GOVERNANCE: IS RESISTANCE A MODE OF GOVERNANCE?

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This paper discusses select theoretical perspectives concerning governance in the discipline of political science in general and public policy analysis in particular. The aim is to understand the ways in which scholars cutting across various perspectives have attempted to theorize the idea of governance. The objective is to foreground recently emerging trends in governance studies and their possible usage in alternative conceptualizations of ideas such as resistance. The paper addresses the question concerning resistance as a mode of governance. The paper consists of two sections. The first section discusses core assumptions of select theoretical perspectives on governance involving ideas of collective self-coercion, institutions as social actors, capitalist mechanism of regulation, tradition, social construction etc. The second section foregrounds some issues that remain central to these perspectives.

Keywords

Governance, Resistance, Collective Self-coercion, Social Actors, Capitalist Mechanism, Social Construction

Unpacking Governance

In the discipline of political science, one can understand and explain governance from various sub-disciplinary perspectives such as comparative politics, public administration and public policy, international relations etc. (Kjaer2004). Governance is often associated, more as a signifier of change in the nature of the state and less as a pattern of rule, with the changed nature of the state in the context of the public sector reforms of the 1980s and 1990s in the American and the European democracies(Mark Bevir 2007). As such, it is viewed as broader than government in nature and scope.

From a broader perspective, governance can be referred to as contingent practices of human agency relating to social organization involving resistance, where resistance itself can be treated as a mode of governance with decentered power as its core and public policy as an outcome of it. Such a mode of governance consists of decentralized decision-making and bottom up approach to policy making involving civil society actors and thereby points to actors' beliefs that are inherited and modified in different contexts in the form of different traditions (Mark Bevir2009).

Governance is also viewed by some as a measurable variable in terms of qualitative and quantitative indicators concerning low/high level of orderly rule; as such, governance is identified by its paradoxical attribute of visibility: visible in its absence rather than in presence (Subrata K. Mitra 2006). Additionally, one can refer to governance as the setting, the application, and the enforcement of rules relating

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LEADERSHIP, FOLLOWERSHIP AND STATE DYSFUNCTIONALITY IN CONTEMPORARY NIGERIA: AN EXAMINATION OF CONSEQUENCES AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS.

Dhikru Adewale Yagboyaju*

In most recent studies, particularly since the late 1980s, where Nigeria is either classified with finality as a "failed state" or fragile and weak state"; the latter, in anticipation that its ineffective public institutions and policies are capable of being rejuvenated under purposeful government, focus is essentially always on some key aspects of the country's public life. These include governance related issues such as strong and effective political institutions, civil society, democracy, rule of law, accountability, transparency and conflict management among several others. While the primacy of these factors, especially the existence of strong institutions, cannot be underestimated, this paper attempts to draw necessary attention to the role of leaders who are also often called "strongmen", particularly in the context of contemporary African politics. Also, in line with the traditional reciprocal exchanges that are supposed to exist between leaders and followers, the paper critically examines the role of the generality of the followers in Nigeria, particularly in respect of some fundamental happenings in the country. These, for instance, include the paradox of relatively less corrupt leaders and administrators staying in office for shorter periods, while the obviously more corrupt ones stayed longer with ineffective and occasional unorganized actions from the followers. The research is literature-based and, therefore, descriptive but also analytical. The framework of analysis, which combines some of the prominent explanations on state fragility, collapse, failure and capture among others, is essentially eclectic. Possible solutions that will be drawn from examples of global best practices that will also form part of the analysis in the paper will be suggested at the end of the study.

Keywords

Leadership, Followership, State, Dysfunctionality Leadership, Followership and State Dysfunctionality in Contemporary Nigeria: An Examination of Consequences and Possible Solutions

Introduction

Corruption, militant ethnicity and religious fanaticism are not the only threats to the Nigerian nation. In fact, these may not be the greatest dangers. The greatest danger to the country's well-being and national security interest may actually be the combination of evil, docility, indifference, fatalism and the personalization of the rule of law (Sabella Abidde, *The Punch* newspaper, Wednesday, February, 26, 2014, p. 80).

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GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION THROUGH MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME: REVIEW AND REFLECTIONS

Tattwamasi Paltasingh*

India has the largest elementary education system including the school lunch programme in the world. The Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Program introduced in the schools of India aims to protect children from classroom hunger, improve school enrolment and attendance. This paper is an outcome of the survey conducted covering different aspects of MDM Scheme (MDMS) in selected schools in three districts of Gujarat. The first section of the paper focuses on the initiatives of both Central & State Governments in implementing the scheme. Subsequently there has been discussion on the physical Infrastructure covering kitchen facility, fuel used for cooking, serving dishes, water facility, cooking utensils, safety & hygiene maintained in the school. The other areas of discussion pertain to human resources including MDM staff, community participation and MDM monitoring & supervision. In view of these findings some suggestions and recommendations are mentioned. Inadequate physical infrastructure including unavailability of separate place for serving meals, lack of food grain storage space and irregular supervision by government officials are found to be some of the major challenges for the implementation of the scheme in the visited districts of Gujarat. On the whole the paper has focused on both initiatives as well as the implementation of the scheme in the selected districts of Gujarat.

Keywords

Mid-Day Meal, Government Intervention, Infrastructure, Human Resources, Gujarat

Introduction

In India the number of malnourished children is the highest in the world. There are 46 per cent of underweight children who are below 5 years of age (Gragnotati et al, 2005). In the Global hunger Index India occupies 25th position (State of World Children, 2008). The National Policy on Children (1974) had declared child as its supreme human resource and it enjoined the state to ensure full physical and mental development of children. Primary school children (6-14 years) constitute 20 per cent of the total population in India. Provision of free and compulsory education to these children is Government of India's constitutional commitment. Three States viz. Gujarat, Kerala and Tamilnadu and the UT of Pondicherry had universalized the cooked Mid-Day Meal Programme for their children with their own resources and international assistance by mid-1980s. The Mid-Day Meal Program was initially started during 1960s by the Government of India and was extended to nationwide in 1997, to cover all primary-school children. The Government of India has launched the National Programme of Nutritional Support

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A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF CONTRACTING OUT LOCAL PARKING SERVICES IN CHANDIGARH: A CASE STUDY

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Contracting out for urban service delivery has been considered as important mechanism for provision of quality services in cost effective manner. However, the present study analyzes and evaluates the practice of privatizing parking services being carried out by two separate entities i.e. local government and market committees. With the help of primary and secondary data the study found that the services being provided by market committees is yielding better results than the services provided by Municipal Corporation Chandigarh. Further, the comparative analysis brings forth the lacunae in carrying out the contracting process. Finally the study attempts to give suggestions which will help in making contracting out local parking services a success.

Keywords

Contracting Out, Urban Service Delivery, Local Government, Market Committees, Local Parking Services

Introduction

The escalating trend of urbanization and poor performance of public sector led to contracting out which is considered as efficient approach of urban service delivery. The emergence of "New Governance" is hot as Stoker (1998) proposes that this latest emerging view has emerged in response to the general blurring boundaries between public and private sectors, requiring "mechanisms which do not rest on recourse to the authority and sanctions of government." Salamon (2002) therefore argues that the new shift is required due to three main causes: public struggles have become too multifaceted for public agencies to handle on their own; there is a lack of concurrence on the proper ends of public action; and government lacks the authority to put into practice its will on the new classification of actors¹. The emergence of private players is perceived differently by scholars, the proponents are of view that local governments are not efficient (Huque, 2005)² and privatization of local public services is expected to lower the cost through the competition ((Prokopenko, 1995, Amagoh, 2009). Contracting out is conceived as best possible, innovative and efficient way of service delivery (Ferris and Grady 1986, 332; Savas 2000, 70) When contracting out is carried out with precision it promotes efficiency by stimulating cost saving (Shields 1988, 70). Contracting is also suitable if there is potential competition among private players (Hodge, 1999; Huque, 2005; Johnston & Seidenstat, 2007; Dijkgraaf & Gradus, 2003)

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1 Jooste F. S 2009, A New Public Sector in Developing Countries, Working Paper, Collaboratory for Research on Global Projects, 2009, Stanford, California.

2 Huque, A. 2005. Contracting out and trust in the public sector: Cases of management from Hong Kong. Public Organization Review, 5(1): 69-84

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE: A CASE STUDY OF SANAND REGION IN AHMEDABAD DISTRICT OF GUJARAT

Sunny Wadhvaniya* and Pranjali Dighe**

One of the fundamental aspects of modern democratic governance is Gender equality wherein both men and women should have an equal rights and opportunities to participate fully in all the endeavors and especially at political process, with respect to decision making capacity. There is a growing momentum among the government and civil society to foster and ensure women's participation, leadership and empowerment in the political arena specifically with local governance structures. In the recent report of the United Nations Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) 2013 there is a list of 93 countries and they are ranked according to their women empowerment level in the country, surprisingly there is no place for India in the list of those 93 countries which clearly shows that the level of women empowerment in the country is not much remarkable compared to the other countries of the world. Therefore there is a growing demand for increasing women empowerment and presence of women in political decision making, thus women needs to be 'empowered' in the realm of political decision making so as to facilitate their 'holistic' empowerment. Women empowerment essentially involves building up of a society wherein the women can breathe without the fear of oppression, exploitation, apprehension, discrimination and the general feeling of oppression which goes with being a woman in a traditionally male dominated structure. In order to ensure 'holistic' women empowerment most of the women empowerment advocates argue that the empowerment of women should be through legislation for ensuring participation and decision making in political process.

The present paper attempts to look the dynamism of the system whereby women empowerment is achieved through women participation in the local governance structures and in addition to that there is also an attempt to explore the status of women's participation and how their participation in local governance structures leads to women empowerment. The paper is based on the primary evidences collected from women Sarpanch in various villages of Sanand region of Ahmedabad district of Gujarat (as per 2012 panchayat elections) and will attempt to analysis whether the political participation of women does in fact translate into political concrete women empowerment. The study largely reveals that increased political participation of women in village Panchayat does have a significant bearing on women empowerment for, by and large, elected women representatives are successful in seeking redressal to women specific issues. However looking at the broader view of India there are serious gaps in the gender balancing both in terms of women reservation policy and reform agenda. Therefore the question of women participation at this level is crucial and deserves special attention and therefore there should be measures to increase the quantity of women representation accompanied by measures to improve the quality of women participation.*

Keywords

Gender Equality, Women Empowerment, Local Governance, Gender Balancing

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INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY UNDER PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Simi Mehta*

Having been elected to power with a thumping victory and assuming charge as the fourteenth Prime Minister of Republic of India, Narendra Damodar Modi has held a reputation as an economic performer and an assertive nationalist; thus pointing towards an era of economic interdependence and realism as the hallmarks of Indian foreign policy. A realist foreign policy places national interests and security above ideology, ethics and morality vis-à-vis the idealist school that posits foreign policy to be reflective of the ethical, moral and philosophical values of the country.

The election manifesto released by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on April 7, 2014 had expressly stated core objectives of India's Foreign Policy if the Modi-led government came to power: that it would develop "web of allies" to further India's interests; that there would be a "zero tolerance" on terrorism. Its pledge to reconsider the nuclear doctrine of "no first use" is indicative of the realist foreign policy designs, premeditated to deal with geostrategic threats in its neighbourhood. Mr. Modi who is a very successful statesman has earned the credentials of being the longest serving Chief Minister of Gujarat and has successfully promoted economic diplomacy in his role as the chief executive of the state.

Modi is known to have an eastern bias, and this world view draws him closer to Japan and Singapore, Vietnam and Indonesia with whose leaders he has struck up a similar rapport. Modi has forged a special relationship with Japan and built a personal rapport with its Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, so much so, noted strategic commentator Brahma Chellaney referred to the former as 'India's Shinzo Abe'. Like Abe, Modi is expected to focus on reviving India's economic fortunes while simultaneously augmenting and strengthening its strategic partnerships with like minded states, thereby promoting regional stability. The Look and 'Act' East Policy of India is thus expected to be greatly pushed forward vigorously thereby strengthening economic and strategic cooperation with countries of East and Southeast Asia.

Keywords

Economic Interdependence, National Interests, Economic Diplomacy, Economic Fortunes, Strategic Partnerships, Economic and Strategic Cooperation

Challenge to protect the National Interests

Given that the foreign policy of an entire country cannot be exclusively directed by economic concerns, the geo-political challenges that India faces, Mr. Modi's foreign policy will be a seemingly difficult task, especially when dealing with its neighbours.

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COMPETITIVENESS AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP - THE AGENDA FOR INDIA

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Countries amidst global competition, traditionally attained the status of leadership owing to ownership of 'natural resources' or 'factor advantage'. In the last century the rise of Japan and Germany without ownership of 'natural resources' and the failure of Africa and India to prosper despite owning 'natural resources', brought to the fore, the idea of 'Competitive Advantage' in distinction to 'factor advantage'. Competitive advantages combines the advantages of natural resources, human resources, creativity, productivity, culture and policy. World Economic Forum brings out every year the Competitiveness Index that ranks countries across the world in terms of their relative Competitiveness. The Competitiveness Index has become a globally used tool and base for National Policy making. India needs to leverage the concept of Competitiveness not only for policy making at National level but also for enhancing Competitiveness of its Industry, Non-Profits, Craft Communities and Professional service community. India also needs to develop an Indigenous Competitiveness Index for itself as a Nation and also a basket of Competitiveness Indices for use for Industry, Craft Communities, Non-Profits and Professional service communities. Competitiveness can anchor a National and comprehensive movement to global leadership, an agenda we must have in the present time of our history.

Keywords

Competitiveness, Policy, Competitiveness Index, India, Development

Historically countries which controlled natural resources were the richest since business meant sale of these resources without much value addition. Countries and Companies then with access to natural resources were said to have a 'comparative advantage' or a 'factor advantage'. Such countries and companies were used to be leaders. Japan's rise after second world-war was a break from history in the sense that it had no 'natural resources' and so no 'comparative advantage' and yet it accomplished an ascent to global business leadership.

The rise of Japan brought to the fore the concept of 'Competitive Advantage'. It was increasingly being demonstrated in a globalizing world that 'value addition' and 'affordability' depended as much on Human Resource productivity, creativity, management culture and government policy as on resource access. 'Management', 'Human Resource Productivity' and 'Government Policy' thus emerged as key determinants of competitiveness and over time major determinants of leadership. Global business leadership is now based upon 'Competitive Advantage' of which 'Comparative Advantage' is a small part and at times no part at all.

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