

Impact of Good Governance on Development in Kenya, the Case of Garissa County

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Abstract

Good governance is regarded as significant when it's making progress towards achieving objective. Good governance cannot be underrated since it plays a vital role for a healthy, independent, robust economy and culture. Economy consists of three types that include economic, political and administrative. The government of the day is sole responsible in nurturing these types of economy. Economy is a backbone for any developing country and contributes a lot to the development of country's infrastructure, for this purpose the government should promote accountability of resource through proper allocation and eliminating corruption. Therefore the strength of good governance depends on economic welfare, reduced corruption, resisting political instability and unrest and enhancing basic need for the nation through effective administration. The aim of this article is to examine the concept of good governance and the impact on economic development in Kenya. The population of the study constituted of staff employed by national and county government. Both primary and secondary data was employed in the study. The study has found that though good governance indicators had reflected in parts of the government sectors, still some potential pillars are missing hence compromising development. Moreover, in order to strengthen good governance both tiers of government should nurture element good governance in order to stimulate economic growth since good governance is backbone to economic development.

Keywords

good governance; political accountability and transparency; economic development



I. Introduction

Good governance enable government to work for the citizens with zeal and hard work to ensure maximum satisfaction of essential service such as increased and robust economy, access to fresh and clean water, health and infrastructure.

Proponents of elements good governance includes effective and efficient service delivery, accountability, transparency, rule of law, Integrity and democracy. Political accountability is linked to human development because it's necessary conditions for democracy.

Proper good governance is more in action where it's free from all discrimination irrespective of gender, political affiliation, race, regionalism, culture and diverse religious affiliation. Good governance is an indicator of economic growth and development however it's the role of government to promote, inculcate and nurture good governance among state and non state actors with special emphasize to the arms of government, pressure groups and civil servants.

II. Review of Literature

Good governance requires fair legal frames that are enforced impartially. It also require full protection of human rights especially those of minorities. Rules and regulation should be well defined and clear to enhance nation to follow the implied laws of country. Promoting culture of good governance calls for equal treatment of individuals regardless of social class and respect of rule of law which implies existing law should be objective rather than subjective.

According to world bank(2009) stated that good governance is the capacity of management and institutional reforms conducted by state policy that improve coordination and delivery of effective public service, accountability of political actors and individual citizens driving on development policy.

Proponents of good governance had suggested that pertinent reforms on good governance are aimed at increasing economic growth thus promoting development. Mushtaq Khan (2004) expounded on reforms to accelerate good governance in order to enhance economic growth. Therefore this implies that increasing existing or non-existing reforms in good governance doubles economic development thus making countries to develop.

The quest for good governance has been advocated as a political response to the challenges facing the societies such as conflicts, inequalities, economic stagnation, corruption and inefficient use of public resources. Recent research (Dent, Kimenyi and Meagher, 2004) had suggested that for devolution to be effective, the criteria of subsidiary and consensus needed to be observed.

Studies indicated that devolution impact on governance. The most common theoretical argument for devolved governance was that it promoted resource allocation. Decentralized level of government improved the provision of goods and service whose level of consumption was limited to their own jurisdiction. By tailoring output of such goods and services to the particular preferences and circumstances of the constituencies, decentralized provision increase economic opportunities thus resulting an essential service under the central provisions. (Oates, 1999). This means that the county government had the capacity to provide effective services and govern their areas of jurisdiction thus increasing efficiency in service delivery.

Devolution as a form of decentralization may not necessarily improve governance and guarantee economic performance. For example, devolution was likely to reduce the ability of the central government to redistribute resource and assist the less developed sub-national unit. If the system was not designed well the likelihood of local politicians using the public resource in order to promote political patronage was very high.

Following several works of neo-institutionalism economists on the relationship between economic growth and good governance theories of state failure in developing countries emerged. Economically the proper functioning of market is correlated to the proper functioning of institutions through efficient practice of state governance commonly known as good governance.

Dary Rodrik (2010) postulated that concerns the position of the state to implement social change and pursue a voluntary policy of economic development. The transition of developing countries towards a capitalist system comparable to that of developed cannot operate without the establishment of efficient institution in relation to distribution of political power in such countries. Conversely such countries would face state failure as a result of a mismatch between institutions and an economic policy of development.

Empirically the results of devolution indicated a mixed argument and therefore one cannot just reach conclusion. For instance study of the federal state of India suggested that devolution enhanced government responsiveness through local participation and service delivery especially if the media was very active at the local level (Besley and Burgess, 2002).

Calamei (2009) indicated that devolution in Italy exacerbated regional disparities in public spending and economic outcomes. The study exposed the limitation of devolution by promoting regional imbalance rather than granting holistic development in the regions. Similarly, Winkler and Rounds (1996) mentioned that decentralization created inequities in school expenditure in Chile, though undesirable, inequity appears difficult to avoid in genuine decentralization reforms. The major issue here was whether local initiative and equalization transferred improved welfare as compared to the status quo.

Local officials were limited in accessing vital information thus limiting participation. Asfar et al., (2001) pointed out local officials had limited authority to influence service delivery while citizens influenced at the local level; therefore, this resulted in compromising devolution goals.

Shackleton et al., (2002) suggested that arguments forming devolution in relation to natural resources management typically amounted little than rhetoric. There were abundant natural resources that need to be utilized. It was important to note that mere political condition cannot be an indicator of success or failure of devolution. In reference to Treisman (2007), it was difficult to identify specific political conditions that resulted in positive or negative effects.

The key element of devolution falls under fiscal decentralization. It had been difficult to realize devolution if there was no proper budgeting. Rao and Singh (2006) suggested that it was paramount to ask questions like how do the center and devolved units relate to each other when it comes to money? On what basis were revenues shared between the center and the devolved units, and between the units themselves?

III. Research Method

3.1 Sampling

Kothari, (2004:152) defined sampling as the process of taking a sample from an entire population. Therefore, to investigate the research problem and the research question related to impact of good governance to development in Garissa County. Factors such as position at the departmental level, experience, gender, age and educational level were the significant consideration in the sampling selection.

3.2 Sources of Data Collection

a. Primary Sources

Data was collected directly from both staffs of national and county government that were responsible for implementation of good governance at the respective department that included well-structured questionnaires.

b. Secondary Sources

This entailed existing literature, published articles and journals that articulated good governance.

3.3 Tools and Techniques for Data Collection

Questionnaires, interviews and observation were the important tools for collecting data. Books, reports, journals and articles that were relevant to the study were reviewed and studied.

a. Plan of Analysis

Data was well tabulated and corresponding percentage given. Table and graph were used to get accurate information. Inappropriate and biased responses were discarded.

IV. Result and Discussion

4.1 Concept of Good Governance

What is your perception regarding on concept of good governance in both national and county government?

Table 1. concept of good governance

Response	Percent
Strongly disagree	1.6%
Disagree	12.4%
Neither agree nor disagree	14.6%
Agree	41.9%
Strongly agree	29.5%
Total	100

(Source: Author's own Survey, July 2021)

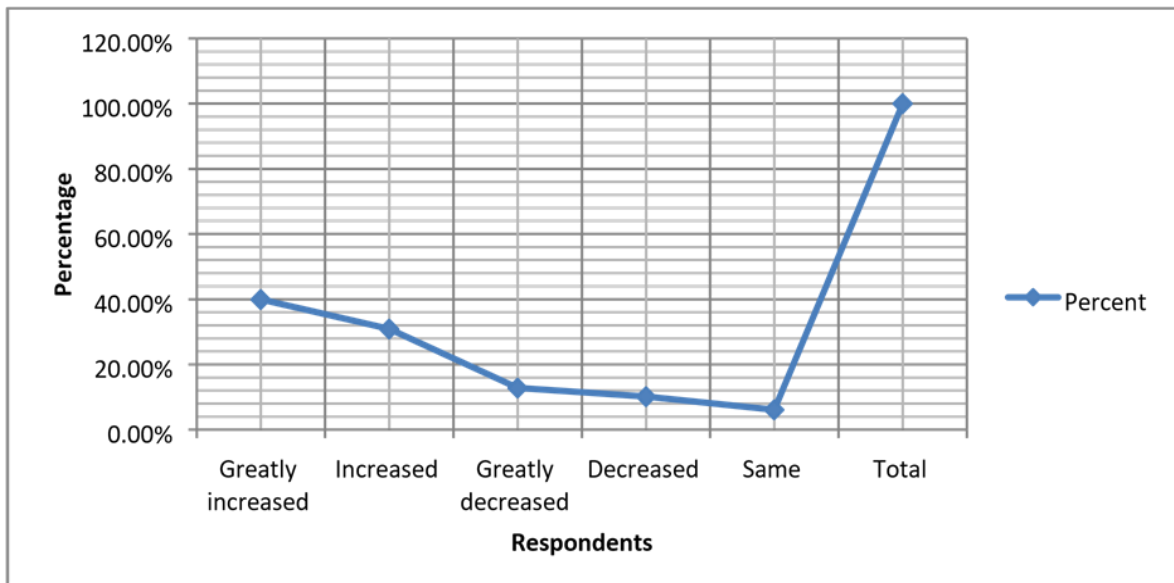
a. Analysis

71.4% of the respondent agree that most of staff are well acquainted with the concept of good governance in both tiers of government, while 14.0% of the respondents interviewed had disagree on the idea that staff are well versed with concepts of governance. On the other hand, 14.6% of the respondents neither agree nor disagree that staff are aware of the concept of governance.

Interpretation

This implies that most of the respondent were well conversant with concept of governance that comprise of the pillars and elements of good governance that includes effective and efficient service delivery, respect of rule of law, accountability and transparency, democracy, an environment free of corruption and rent seeking. Moreover, these staffs have been inducted as shown in the table above through conference, workshop, and seminars and undertook refreshment course on good governance. Conversely some respondent interviewed did not agree on the concept of good governance at both governments while other respondent had no idea on good governance and these calls for the stakeholders both in two level of government consolidate their effort to organize for trainings and workshop to impart knowledge and skills on good governance.

B. How does legislation on good governance affect development in Garissa County?



(Source: Based on researcher conducted July, 2021)

Figure 1. legislation on good governance

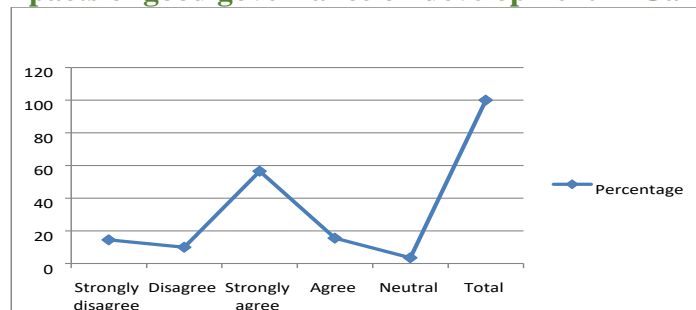
b. Analysis

70.9% of the respondent accentuated that legislation enacted both at the national assembly and county assembly have greatly increased on the development, 23% of responded interviewed suggested legislation decreased development while a minimum percentage of 6.1% of the respondent did not know whether they affect or not.

Interpretation

The above tabulation depicts that enactment of legislation on good governance in both houses have strongly affected development in the two tiers of government including infrustral development, ease of business and effective service delivery that accelerated good governance. However both levels of government should emphasize on strategies of promoting good governance so that staff are well conversant with the values of good governance. There is no doubt that good governance is an essential pillar of development in any country thus act as a backbone for industrialization.

c. What are the impacts of good governance on development in Garissa County?



(Source: field survey conducted July, 2021)

Figure 2. Impacts of good governance on development

In the above graph, 72% of the respondent suggested that good governance has indeed impacted development, 24.5% of the respondent had of the view that good governance did not impacted development while a dismal percentage of 3.5% of the respondent interviewed were not aware whether good governance impacted development or not.

Interpretation

In the above graph it implies that good governance impacted highly on development and this is indicated by the presence of flourishing economy, ease of doing business within the county, reduce tariff, auxiliary services such as latrines and water in the market centers, roads are well maintained, effective and efficient service delivery to the residents

V. Conclusion

In the literature review it explicitly showed in the past two decades had been seen the practice of devolving state function in many countries including Kenya. Indeed there were a lot of pressures from the local level to have control and autonomy in response to dismissal performance of the centralized states. However questions might arise whether these trends reflect prevailing opinion of the citizen at the local level rather than the interest of certain local elites who tend to perceive political opportunities for themselves.

Devolution has been seen as a strategy for resource mobilization and maintaining regional balance. the study found out that the main objective of devolution were the transfer of responsibility from the central to the county government to enhance local control of administrative, managerial and political in order to improve effective service delivery and accountability. Moreover devolution promoted the capacity of counties to manage, plan and finance the delivery of services to their constituents.

On challenges of devolution of public services, the study found that devolution was faced with myriad challenges both internal and external. However the latter challenges included funding from the central government, research found that Garissa County was inadequately funded to streamline operation and achieve the objective of devolution; high ethnicity and nepotism were the challenges facing devolution. On the other side, the county officials wanted to use these internal challenges to reward their supporters through patronage appointment. The efficiency in county government had not been fully realized since most respondents were satisfied but not fully satisfied with services offered by county government. Being new in Kenya for it has been there for only four years. The impact of county government was yet to reach many residents. This was because not all essential services have been devolved fully. The services of county government continue to improve as days go by.

The perceived interference by national government has been occasioned by improper communication from both level of government and natural resistance to change. Change was a good thing though people try as much to defy change. This in turn caused the challenges of implementation of change.

Practice of devolution of public service, the study indicated that devolution has been on course since a number of services had been devolved and their effectiveness were felt by the citizens strong political will from various actors have been observed in strengthening devolution as specified in the constitution of 2010, this implied that devolution was irreversible.

Research found that training of staff helped in promoting implementation of good governance, training of staffs through sponsorship, conference or job training.

Legislation of relevant laws in Garissa County has been established by the research. In that, the county assembly has successfully enacted, parking laws, environmental protection law, and business licensing hence an indication of successful development that enhance good governance.

a. Recommendations

The research recommends the following;

1. Both tiers of government need to constitute directorate for promoting good governance at the national and county level. This enhances inculcating values and element of good governance thereby increasing development of the country
2. Capacity building for staff is a key requirement for successful implementation of good governance. Therefore this calls for both level of government to allocate budget for promoting good governance since it's the backbone of development. This includes organizing for good governance conference, workshop and symposiums.
3. both tier of government should come up modalities for motivating and appraising staff for delivery service related to their day to day operations such as "the best public servant, discipline staff among others.
4. Further study needed to be done on the role of good governance in promoting public sector to understand opportunities and challenges.

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