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**EMAIL : beitelafkar@gmail.com**



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## الدِيَاجَة

لقد أصبح موضوع الحكم الراشد او الحكومة وموضوع حقوق الانسان من القضايا الكبرى والهامة على المستويين الوطني والدولي ومحل نقاشات على الساحة العلمية والعملية ومحل اهتمام الكثير من الباحثين والأكاديميين والقانونيين والسياسيين لأهمية الموضوعين وارتباطهما الوطيد.

وأصبح مفهوم الحكومة او الحكم الراشد حضور قوي في الكيانات المعاصرة وتقارير الدول والمنظمات الدولية، حيث تتدخل في مفهوم الحكم الراشد عدة عناصر نظرية وعملية تبلورت بتطور الأيديولوجيات المختلفة واختلاف ابعاده من الناحية السياسية والاقتصادية والقانونية والإنسانية وغيرها، الامر الذي جعل الباحثين يهتمون بمفهومه ومعاييره وأبعاده والجذور التاريخية لظهوره وثاره على عدة مجالات من بينها حقوق الانسان والحربيات الأساسية.

خاصة أن مصطلح الحكم الراشد أصبح يستعمل في المحافل الدولية والملتقيات الدولية وفي المحادثات والمناقشات والخطب سواء منها السياسية أو القانونية أو الاقتصادية أو المالية أو الادارية.

كما أن هذا المصطلح أصبح له عدة مرادفات في الأونة الأخيرة مثل الحكامة، الحكمانية، الحكومة، إدارة الحكم، الحكم الراشد وغيرها من المصطلحات، وتعریف الحكم الراشد يختلف بين الدول والهيئات والمنظمات والوكالات والاتفاقيات والبرامج الدولية والإقليمية فكل واحد يعرفه انطلاقاً من منظوره الخاص ومن الأهداف الذي يسعى إليها.

ومعايير الحكم الراشد اتفق أغلبية الفقهاء والمفكرون عليهما مثل الشفافية والمساءلة والمحاسبة ودولة القانون ومكافحة الفساد... الخ، وهذه المعايير متعددة وتختلف من دولة إلى أخرى باختلاف أولوية التطبيق من بلد إلى آخر.

وبالمقابل قضية حقوق الانسان تعد من أهم القضايا المطروحة في الوقت الحالي ليس على الصعيد السياسي أو الاجتماعي بل حتى على مستوى الدراسات والأبحاث الأكademie، وهذا من أجل توسيع مجال نشر ثقافة حقوق الانسان لدى جميع الناس على اختلاف تخصصاتهم واهتماماتهم ومستواهم الثقافي، وعملية التثقيف في مجال حقوق الانسان عملية ضرورية ولا تعتمد فقط على تقديم المعلومات وإنما كذلك على العمل على بث روح حقوق الانسان في نفوس الناس.

ولا يمكننا إنكار تطور الدول في هذا المجال من خلال التشريعات الوطنية والمعاهدات والمواثيق والعبود الدولية والمؤسسات الوطنية والدولية في تعزيز حقوق الانسان والحربيات الأساسية وضمانه في إطار مقتضيات الحكم الراشد وتحول نظرة العالم على الانسان من كونه شخصية وطنية الى كونه شخصية دولية وعليه لابد من توافر جميع الاليات الوطنية والدولية لحمايته وتوفير ما يضمن كرامته ورقمه في ظل الحكم الراشد.

## إشكالية الكتاب الجماعي

تتمثل إشكالية الكتاب الجماعي في : كيف يمكن تفعيل وتكرис دور الحكم الراشد في ظل الأطر القانونية والمؤسسية لتعزيز وحماية حقوق الانسان والحربيات الأساسية ؟

## أهداف الكتاب الجماعي

- ❖ تحديد المفاهيم المتعلقة بحقوق الانسان والحربيات الأساسية في التشريعات الوطنية والدولية.
- ❖ تحديد مفهوم الحكم الراشد على المستويين الوطني والدولي.
- ❖ تبيان العلاقة بين الحكم الراشد وحقوق الانسان والحربيات الأساسية.
- ❖ تبيان دور الحكم الراشد في تعزيز حقوق الانسان والحربيات الأساسية.

## محاور الكتاب الجماعي

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المحور الثالث : علاقة الحكم الراشد بحقوق الانسان والحربيات الأساسية.

المحور الرابع : الجهود الوطنية لتعزيز حقوق الانسان والحربيات الأساسية في ظل الحكم الراشد.

المحور الخامس : الجهود الدولية لتعزيز حقوق الانسان والحربيات الأساسية في ظل الحكم الراشد.

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# Good Governance and Human Rights: A Study of the Legal and Institutional Framework for Promoting Fundamental Freedoms

## الحكم الرشيد وحقوق الإنسان: دراسة الأطر القانوني والمؤسسي لتعزيز الحريات الأساسية

**Dr. Abdelghani Hadjab,**

Mohamed Boudiaf University-  
M'sila (Algeria)  
abdelghani.hadjab@univ-msila.dz

**Pr. Mohamed Tahar Adila,**

Mohamed Boudiaf University -  
M'sila (Algeria)  
mohamedtahar.adila@univ-msila.dz

### Abstract:

This article comprehensively examines the intricate and symbiotic relationship between good governance and the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It delves into the conceptual frameworks of both good governance and human rights, tracing their historical evolution and delineating their multifaceted dimensions—political, economic, legal, and human. The study investigates how the principles inherent in good governance, such as transparency, accountability, the rule of law, and participation, serve as indispensable foundations for the effective realization and safeguarding of human rights. Furthermore, the article explores the various national and international efforts undertaken to integrate these concepts, analyzing the roles of constitutional provisions, national human rights institutions, the judiciary, parliamentary oversight, civil society, international organizations, and financial institutions. The analysis highlights the profound positive impacts of robust governance mechanisms on human development outcomes while also acknowledging persistent challenges and implementation gaps. Ultimately, the paper argues that the activation and entrenchment of good governance within legal and institutional frameworks are paramount for fostering an environment conducive to the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

**Keywords:** Good Governance, Human Rights, Fundamental Freedoms, Legal Frameworks, Institutional Frameworks.

**ملخص:** يتناول هذا المقال بالفحص الشامل العلاقة المعقّدة والتراصدية بين الحكم الرشيد وتعزيز وحماية حقوق الإنسان والحرّيات الأساسية. ويستكشف الأطر المفاهيمية لكل من الحكم الرشيد وحقوق الإنسان، متبعاً التطور التاريخي لهما وراسماً أبعادهما المتعددة: السياسية والاقتصادية والقانونية والإنسانية. تبحث الدراسة كيف أن المبادئ الكامنة في الحكم الرشيد، مثل الشفافية والمساءلة وسيادة القانون والمشاركة، تشكل أساساً لا غنى عنها لتحقيق وحماية حقوق الإنسان بشكل فعال. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، يستكشف المقال الجهود الوطنية والدولية المختلفة المبذولة لدمج هذه المفاهيم، محللاً أدوار النصوص الدستورية والمؤسسات الوطنية لحقوق الإنسان والقضاء والرقابة البرلمانية والمجتمع المدني والمنظمات الدولية والمؤسسات المالية. يسلط التحليل الضوء على التأثيرات الإيجابية العميقية لآليات الحكم القوية

على نتائج التنمية البشرية، مع الاعتراف بالتحديات المستمرة وفجوات التنفيذ. في النهاية، يجادل المقال بأن تفعيل وتوطيد الحكم الرشيد في الأطر القانونية والمؤسسية يعد أمراً بالغ الأهمية لتعزيز بيئة مواتية للتمتع الكامل بحقوق الإنسان والحريات الأساسية.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** الحكم الرشيد، حقوق الإنسان، الحريات الأساسية، الأطر القانونية، الأطر المؤسسية.

## Introduction

The contemporary global landscape is increasingly defined by the intertwined discourses of good governance and human rights, recognized as pivotal for national stability and international cooperation. These concepts are not merely theoretical constructs but are central to scientific, practical, academic, legal, and political discussions. The pervasive influence of these two domains has led to their prominence in global policy agendas and scholarly inquiry.

Concurrently, the issue of human rights stands as one of the most paramount concerns in the current era. Its significance extends beyond traditional political and social spheres, permeating academic research with the aim of broadly disseminating a culture of human rights. This educational process is deemed vital, not merely for the transfer of information, but for instilling the very spirit of human rights within individuals. States worldwide have demonstrated considerable progress in this domain through the enactment of national legislation, adherence to international treaties and covenants, and the establishment of national and international institutions. These efforts collectively aim to reinforce and guarantee human rights and fundamental freedoms within the overarching framework of good governance. A notable transformation in the global perspective on individuals has occurred, shifting from viewing them primarily as national personalities to recognizing them as international personalities. This evolution necessitates the availability of robust national and international mechanisms to protect human dignity and facilitate human advancement under the aegis of good governance.

### 1.Importance of the Topic

The symbiotic relationship between good governance and human rights is critical for achieving sustainable development, peace, and stability globally. Good governance provides the necessary enabling environment for the realization of human rights, while human rights principles offer a normative framework and performance standards for governments and other actors. This mutual reinforcement creates a dynamic where the strength of one directly contributes to the flourishing of the other.

The emphasis on the "strong interlinkage" and "vital necessity" of good governance and human rights is reinforced by scholarly evidence indicating that good governance is a "prerequisite for sustained increases in living standards" and "essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger". When good governance mechanisms are in place, they foster stability, predictability, and efficient resource management within a society. This creates the foundational conditions, such as peace, adherence to the rule of law, and transparency, that are indispensable for human rights to flourish. Conversely, when human rights are respected—manifesting through principles like participation and non-discrimination—it enhances the legitimacy and effectiveness of governance. This, in turn, leads to improved development outcomes and greater public trust. This interrelationship forms a virtuous cycle where each concept reinforces the other, making their joint study not just important but imperative for a comprehensive understanding of societal progress and global stability.

## **2. Research Problem and Questions**

The central problem addressed in this study is: How can good governance be activated and enshrined within legal and institutional frameworks to enhance and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms?

To address this overarching problem, the research will seek to answer the following specific questions:

- What are the core concepts of human rights and fundamental freedoms as defined in national and international legal frameworks?
- How is good governance conceptualized and defined at both national and international levels, and what are its key characteristics and dimensions?

### **Research Objectives**

Based on the research problem and questions, this study aims to achieve the following objectives:

- To define the concepts related to human rights and fundamental freedoms in national and international legislation.
- To clarify the relationship between good governance and human rights and fundamental freedoms.

### **Structure of the Study**

The article is structured into six main sections, following the specified axes in the user query, to provide a comprehensive and coherent analysis:

- **Conceptual Framework of Good Governance:** This section defines good governance, explores its historical evolution, and details its key principles and multi-dimensional aspects.
- **Relationship between Good Governance and Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms:** This section elucidates the reciprocal reinforcement between the two concepts, focusing on the rule of law, transparency, accountability, participation, anti-corruption, and rights-based approaches.
- **Impacts of Good Governance on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms:** The final analytical section discusses the positive outcomes, persistent challenges, empirical evidence, and future directions for enhancing human rights protection through good governance.

### **Conceptual Framework of Good Governance**

#### **1. Defining Good Governance**

Good governance is a multifaceted concept broadly understood as the process by which public institutions conduct public affairs, manage public resources, and guarantee the realization of human rights in a manner essentially free of abuse and corruption, with due regard for the rule of law. It represents the way governments meet the overall needs of their citizens, irrespective of affiliations, social statuses, or groups, ensuring that governmental accountability and responsibilities are satisfactorily met<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Adamel K. Lukman, Governance and Good Governance: Concepts and Principles, *The Review of Contemporary Scientific and Academic Studies*, Vol. 2, N. 6, 2022.

The concept of governance itself refers to the process of decision-making and the subsequent implementation or non-implementation of those decisions. This process can apply across various levels, including corporate, international, national, or local governance, as well as the interactions among different sectors of society. Good governance, in this context, emerges as a model for comparing and improving the effectiveness of economies or political bodies, centering on the responsibility of governments to meet the needs of the broader populace rather than select groups. The concept of "good governance" gained significant prominence in the development discourse, notably introduced by the World Bank in its seminal 1992 report titled "Governance and Development". This report posited that good governance is an essential complement to sound economic policies and is central to creating and sustaining an environment that fosters strong and equitable development. For the World Bank, good governance encompasses key components such as capacity and efficiency in public sector management, accountability, a robust legal framework for development, and information and transparency. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) similarly declared in 1996 that "promoting good governance in all its aspects, including by ensuring the rule of law, improving the efficiency and accountability of the public sector, and tackling corruption, as essential elements of a framework within which economies can prosper. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), exploring the concept concurrently with the World Bank, embraced its political and democratic aspects to a much greater degree<sup>1</sup>.

UNDP's initial definition of governance notably encompassed human development, asserting in the mid-1990s that "Governance and human development are indivisible". This perspective highlights the inherent connection between effective governance and the advancement of human well-being. Good governance is characterized by several core principles that are widely agreed upon by scholars and organizations such as the UN, World Bank, and IMF<sup>2</sup>. These principles collectively form the bedrock of effective and legitimate governance:

● **Participation:** These principal mandates that people should have the opportunity to voice their opinions, either directly or through legitimate intermediate organizations or representatives. Effective participation requires informed and organized engagement, implying the importance of freedom of association and expression, and an organized civil society. Equitable participation by both men and women is considered a key cornerstone of good governance<sup>3</sup>.

● **Rule of Law:** Good governance necessitates fair legal frameworks that are enforced impartially, with particular emphasis on human rights laws. This requires an independent judiciary and an impartial and

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<https://doi.org/10.55454/rcsas.2.6.2022.006>

1-International Monetary Fund, The Role of the Fund in Governance Issues, *Review of the Guidance Note*, IMF eLibrary, Vol. 2017, N. 5, p. 111.

<https://doi.org/10.5089/9781498346481.007>

2-Keser, Ahmet, GÖKMEN, Yunus. Governance and Human Development: The Impacts of Governance Indicators on Human Development. *Journal of Public Administration and Governance*, Vol. 8, N. 1, 2018, p. 26-39.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.5296/jpag.v8i1.12336>

3-Mandal, Chhanda, and Anita Chattopadhyay Gupta. Dimensions of Good Governance: An Empirical Study. *Handbook of Research on Globalization, Investment, and Growth-Implications of Confidence and Governance*, edited by Ramesh Chandra Das, IGI Global Scientific Publishing, 2015, p. 176-190. <https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-4666-8274-0.ch009>

incorruptible police force to defend and uphold the legal system. The rule of law ensures non-arbitrary governance, contrasting with systems based on the whims of absolute rulers<sup>1</sup>.

● **Consensus Oriented:** Good governance mediates differing interests within society to reach a broad consensus on what serves the best interests of the entire community. This requires a broad and long-term perspective on what is needed for sustainable human development, taking into account the historical, cultural, and social contexts of a given society<sup>2</sup>.

● **Equity and Inclusiveness:** This principle ensures that all people, particularly the poor and minorities, have opportunities to improve or maintain their well-being and feel a genuine stake in society. It emphasizes that a society's well-being depends on fostering inclusiveness among its members<sup>3</sup>.

● **Effectiveness and Efficiency:** Good governance means that processes and institutions produce results that meet the needs of their community while making the best use of available resources. The concept of efficiency in this context also extends to the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of the environment<sup>4</sup>.

● **Accountability:** Governmental institutions, private sectors, and civil society organizations should be held accountable to the public and institutional stakeholders. Accountability is a key requirement and cannot be effectively enforced without transparency and the rule of law<sup>5</sup>.

● **Transparency:** This principle dictates that information should be accessible to the public and easily understandable and monitored. Decisions should be taken based on consensus and within established legal and structural frameworks, with information freely available and directly accessible to those who will be affected<sup>6</sup>.

● **Responsiveness:** Good governance requires that institutions and processes strive to serve all stakeholders within a reasonable timeframe. This includes the government's ability to respond to complaints and address environmental changes in a timely manner<sup>7</sup>.

● **Anti-Corruption:** Minimizing corruption is an inherent aspect of good governance, with a strong focus on administrative integrity and combating corrupt practices. The IMF explicitly includes tackling corruption as an essential element.

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1-Nik Mahmud, N. A. K. Good governance and the rule of law. *UUM Journal of Legal Studies*, Vol. 4, 2013, p. 1-31.  
<https://doi.org/10.32890/uumjls.4.2013.4559>

2-Akinyi Chepkirui, Principles of Good Governance, *IDOSR Journals of Arts and Humanities*, Vol. 6, N. 1, 2021, p. 43-50, accessed August 16, 2025,

<https://www.idosr.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/IDOSR-JAH-61-43-50-2021..pdf>

3-Mandal, Chhanda, et al., Op.cit, p. 176-190.

4-Ibid,

5-Akinyi Chepkirui, Op.cit, p. 43-50.

6 Mandal, Chhanda, et al., Op.cit, p. 176-190.

7 Ade Risna Sari, The Impact of Good Governance on the Quality of Public Management Decision Making, *Journal of Contemporary Administration and Management (ADMAN)*, Vol. 1 No. 2, 2023, <https://doi.org/10.61100/adman.v1i2.21>

● **Strategic Vision:** Leaders and the public should possess a broad and long-term perspective on good governance and human development, coupled with a clear sense of what is needed for such development.

● **Impartiality:** A key characteristic of good governance, according to some scholars, is the impartiality of government institutions, where bureaucrats perform their tasks following the public interest rather than particularistic agendas.

**Table 2.1: Key Principles/Characteristics of Good Governance**

Principle/Characteristic	Brief Definition
<b>Participation</b>	Citizens and stakeholders voice opinions and engage in decision-making, directly or through representatives.
<b>Rule of Law</b>	Fair legal frameworks are enforced impartially, protecting human rights, with an independent judiciary.
<b>Consensus Oriented</b>	Mediation of differing interests to achieve broad societal agreement on community's best interests.
<b>Equity and Inclusiveness</b>	All individuals, especially vulnerable groups, have opportunities to improve well-being and feel a stake in society.
<b>Effectiveness and Efficiency</b>	Processes and institutions produce desired results, meet needs, and make optimal use of resources sustainably.
<b>Accountability</b>	Governmental, private, and civil society organizations are held responsible for their decisions and actions to the public.
<b>Transparency</b>	Information is accessible, understandable, and freely disseminated; decisions are open to scrutiny.
<b>Responsiveness</b>	Institutions and processes serve stakeholders promptly, addressing needs, complaints, and changes.
<b>Anti-Corruption</b>	Minimization of corruption and promotion of administrative integrity.
<b>Strategic Vision</b>	Leaders and public hold a broad, long-term perspective on human development.
<b>Impartiality</b>	Bureaucrats perform duties based on public interest, free from bias.

**Source (Principal):** Ade Risna Sari, Op.cit

## **2. Dimensions of Good Governance (Political, Economic, Legal, Human/Social)**

Good governance is not a monolithic concept but rather encompasses several interconnected dimensions that reflect its broad impact on society. These dimensions illustrate how governance principles permeate various aspects of national life, contributing to overall societal well-being and the protection of human rights.

### **2.1. Political Dimensions**

The political dimension of good governance encompasses the fundamental mechanisms through which a country is governed and how power is exercised. It includes the processes for electing, holding accountable, and replacing the government, ensuring respect for citizens' rights, and enhancing the government's capacity for effective policy formulation and implementation. This dimension involves managing public affairs in a transparent, accountable, participatory, and equitable manner. Key political aspects include ensuring broad participation in decision-making, upholding the rule of law, fostering transparency in governmental operations, ensuring responsiveness to public needs, striving for consensus-oriented policies, promoting equity among citizens, and maintaining effectiveness and efficiency in public administration. A crucial element is also the strategic vision that guides leaders and the public towards long-term human development goals. Good governance in the political sphere is a complex, outward-looking activity that significantly interacts with the social and political environment, fostering government agility and intelligence, and enhancing interaction with the global community<sup>1</sup>.

### **2.2. Economic Dimensions**

The economic dimension of good governance is critical for fostering sustainable development and improving living standards. Good governance positively impacts economic development by promoting efficiency, transparency, and accountability, which in turn attract investment, stimulate job creation, and contribute to poverty alleviation. It involves the judicious management of a country's economic and social resources for development. This includes maintaining macroeconomic stability, investing in core public services, and actively protecting vulnerable groups within society. The concept of efficiency within good governance also extends to the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of the environment, recognizing their long-term economic implications. Ultimately, good governance is a prerequisite for sustained increases in living standards, as it creates a predictable and stable environment conducive to economic growth and prosperity<sup>2</sup>.

### **2.3. Legal Dimensions**

The legal dimension of good governance is primarily centered on the **Rule of Law**, which demands that all government activities are conducted in strict accordance with applicable laws and rules. This principle is crucial for creating legal certainty, preventing the abuse of power, and fostering a stable and predictable

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<sup>1</sup> Rezazadeh Taloukolaei, F., Zameni, F., & Enayati, T. Identifying the Dimensions and Components of Good Governance and Organizational Development at Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences. *Iranian Journal of Educational Sociology*, Vol. 7, N. 1, 2022, p. 113-123. <https://doi.org/10.61838/kman.ijes.7.1.11>

<sup>2</sup> Dellepiane-Avellaneda, Sebastian. Good Governance, Institutions and Economic Development: Beyond the Conventional Wisdom. *British Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 40, N. 1, 2010, p. 195-224. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123409990287>

environment for both citizens and institutions. It requires fair legal frameworks that are enforced impartially, supported by an independent judiciary and an incorruptible police force. Beyond the rule of law, accountability and transparency also carry significant legal implications. They necessitate that government officials and state institutions are held responsible for their actions and decisions, including the use of budgets, implementation of programs, and outcomes of policies. In instances of violations or corruption, officials can face prosecution and sanctions in accordance with relevant legislation. The concept of good governance as "reflexive governance" further acknowledges the inherent imperfection and normative ambiguity within legal systems. This perspective suggests that good governance involves the installation and functioning of institutional arrangements designed to deal with these complexities, emphasizing public irony, spirit, and vigilance in the continuous process of governance improvement<sup>1</sup>.

#### 2.4. Human/Social Dimensions

The human and social dimension of good governance focuses on how governments effectively meet the needs of their citizens, irrespective of their affiliations, ensuring that governmental accountability and responsibilities are fulfilled. It emphasizes the realization of human rights as central to sustainable human development, highlighting that good governance and human development are inextricably linked. This dimension is concerned with ensuring that all members of society feel they have a stake in it and are not excluded from the mainstream, particularly by providing opportunities for vulnerable groups to improve or maintain their well-being. Good governance directly impacts people's satisfaction with administrative services through improved accessibility, streamlined administrative procedures, enhanced ethics and capacity of civil servants, and greater responsiveness to public feedback and recommendations. This human-centric approach underscores that the ultimate aim of good governance is to enhance the quality of life for all citizens<sup>2</sup>.

**Table 2.2: Multi-Dimensional Aspects of Good Governance**

Dimension	Key Characteristics/Aspects	Brief Explanation
<b>Political</b>	Election/replacement of government, respect for citizens' rights, policy formulation/implementation capacity, interaction with political environment, participation, responsiveness, strategic vision.	Focuses on legitimate power exercise, democratic processes, and the state's ability to steer society effectively and equitably.
<b>Economic</b>	Macroeconomic stability, efficient public service provision, resource management, investment attraction, poverty alleviation,	Relates to the state's role in fostering a stable and prosperous economic

1 Trommel, W. Good Governance as Reflexive Governance: In Praise of Good Colleagueship. *Public Integrity*, Vol. 22, N. 3, 2020, p. 227–235.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/10999922.2020.1723356>

2 Ibid, p. 227–235.

	sustainable resource use, environmental protection.	environment that benefits all citizens and ensures long-term sustainability.
<b>Legal</b>	Rule of Law (fair, impartial enforcement), legal certainty, prevention of abuse of power, independent judiciary, accountability for actions, transparency in legal processes.	Underpins the predictability and fairness of the legal system, ensuring that all actions are within established legal frameworks and that justice is accessible.
<b>Human /Social</b>	Meeting citizens' needs, human rights realization, inclusiveness, equity, public service satisfaction, civil servants' ethics/capacity, responsiveness to feedback.	Addresses the direct impact of governance on people's lives, focusing on well-being, dignity, access to services, and the quality of interaction between citizens and the state.

**Source (Principal):** Dellepiane-Avellaneda, Sebastian. Op.cit, p. 195–224.

### **Relationship between Good Governance and Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms**

The relationship between good governance and human rights is profoundly interdependent and mutually reinforcing. One cannot be fully realized or sustained without the other, creating a dynamic synergy essential for societal progress and stability.

#### **1. Reciprocal Reinforcement**

Good governance and human rights are intrinsic to each other, making it difficult to conceptualize one without the other. Good governance promotes human rights, while human rights serve as a source and guide for good governance<sup>1</sup>. Human rights principles provide a set of values to guide the work of governments and other political and social actors, offering performance standards against which these actors can be held accountable. Conversely, without good governance, human rights cannot be respected and protected in a sustainable manner<sup>2</sup>.

This reciprocal relationship means that good governance reforms, when led by human rights values, create avenues for public participation in policymaking, establish mechanisms for the inclusion of multiple social groups in decision-making processes, and encourage civil society to formulate and express their positions on important issues<sup>3</sup>.

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1 Kumar, Pradeep. *Human rights protection and good governance*. Regal Publication, Delhi-India, 2018, accessed August 16, 2025, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/323279147\\_HUMAN\\_RIGHTS\\_PROTECTION\\_AND\\_GOOD\\_GOVERNANCE](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/323279147_HUMAN_RIGHTS_PROTECTION_AND_GOOD_GOVERNANCE)

2 Angela E. Obidimma, The Impact of Human Rights on Good Governance and Sustainable Development in Nigeria, *Global Journal of Politics and Law Research (GJPLR)*, Vol.8, No.2, 2020, p.11-29, <https://doi.org/10.37745/gjplr.2013>

3 Office of The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Good governance practices for the protection of human rights*, United Nations Publication, New-York & Geneva, 2007, p. 1-77.

In turn, the effective exercise of human rights, such as freedom of expression and association, strengthens civil society and enables citizens to hold their governments accountable, thereby fostering better governance. This creates a virtuous cycle where increased respect for human rights leads to more legitimate and effective governance, which then further enhances the protection and promotion of human rights.

## **2. Rule of Law as a Nexus**

The rule of law is a central pillar connecting good governance and human rights. Good governance explicitly requires fair legal frameworks that are enforced impartially, particularly concerning human rights laws. When the rule of law is strong, people uphold the law not out of fear but because they have a stake in its effectiveness, recognizing that it protects public interests and prevents state abuse. This principle ensures that government activities are conducted in accordance with applicable laws and rules, creating legal certainty and preventing the arbitrary exercise of power<sup>1</sup>.

The European Court of Human Rights has affirmed that the European Convention on Human Rights "draws its inspiration" from the rule of law, implying that a state infringing human rights cannot be regarded as acting within the rule of law<sup>2</sup> This highlights that the rule of law is not merely about having laws, but about having laws that are just, applied equally to everyone without discrimination, and protect fundamental rights. An independent judiciary and an impartial police force are essential for the impartial enforcement of laws and the full protection of human rights, especially those of minorities. Without a robust rule of law, the formal existence of human rights can become meaningless, as there would be no effective mechanism to enforce them or hold duty-bearers accountable<sup>3</sup>.

## **3. Transparency and Accountability**

Transparency and accountability are fundamental characteristics of good governance that directly enhance human rights protection. Transparency implies that information is freely available and directly accessible to those affected by decisions, and that governmental processes are open to scrutiny. This openness helps prevent corrupt practices, enables public participation in decision-making, and increases the accountability of government institutions. For transparency to be effective, officials must make information available, and citizens and groups must have reasons and opportunities to use that information<sup>4</sup>.

Accountability, a key requirement of good governance, means that governmental institutions, private sectors, and civil society organizations are held responsible to the public and institutional stakeholders for their decisions and actions. It is intrinsically linked to transparency and the rule of law, as accountability

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1 Ade Risna Sari, Op.cit.

2 Elena Katselli, Colin Murray. & Ole W. Pedersen, *Examining Critical Perspectives on Human Rights*, Cambridge University Press, 2012, pp. 52–131. accessed August 16, 2025,

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/examining-critical-perspectives-on-human-rights/rule-of-law-and-the-role-of-human-rights-in-contemporary-international-law/033EF7C883F8C6FFEE75AE0E718165BB>

3 Fahed Abul-Ethem, *The Role of the Judiciary in the Protection of Human Rights and Development: A Middle Eastern Perspective*, 26 Fordham Int'l L.J. 761, 2002. accessed August 16, 2025,

<https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/ilj/vol26/iss3/8>

4 Michael Johnston, *Good Governance: Rule of Law, Transparency and Accountability*, Etico, p. 1-32. accessed August 16, 2025, <https://etico.iiep.unesco.org/sites/default/files/2017-09/unpan010193.pdf>

cannot be enforced without them. The principle of accountability places a core emphasis on the relationship between duty-bearers (states) and rights-holders (citizens), outlining their corresponding rights and obligations under international human rights law. This empowers individuals and collective rights-holders to hold states accountable for acts or omissions that violate recognized human rights<sup>1</sup>.

When governments are transparent and accountable, it fosters public trust and legitimacy, leading to better quality policies and programs that support sustainable development and improve citizens' quality of life.

#### **4. Participation and Inclusivity**

Participation is a key cornerstone of good governance, directly linked to the realization of human rights. It ensures that people can voice their opinions through legitimate organizations or representatives, and that decisions are informed and organized. This includes equitable participation by both men and women, and ensuring that the concerns of the most vulnerable in society are taken into consideration in decision-making. Active participation of citizens in decision-making processes allows their aspirations and interests to be heard and accommodated, ensuring that policies reflect the needs and expectations of the people<sup>2</sup>

Inclusivity means ensuring that all members of society feel they have a stake and are not excluded from the mainstream. This is particularly vital for marginalized groups, who must have opportunities to improve or maintain their well-being. The involvement of affected people in law-making processes expands the knowledge base, increases legitimacy, transparency, and efficiency, and promotes social justice by theoretically sharing power with socially marginalized groups<sup>3</sup>. This direct link between participation, inclusivity, and human rights protection underscores that good governance is not just about efficient administration, but about ensuring that all voices are heard and all rights are respected in the governance process.

#### **5. Anti-Corruption**

Corruption is a pervasive deterrent to development and a potent violator of human rights, particularly economic and social rights. It undermines the rule of law, distorts the development process, inhibits poverty eradication efforts, and contributes directly to inequalities in income, status, and opportunities. Therefore, combating corruption is an inherent and critical aspect of good governance. Good governance, with its emphasis on transparency, accountability, and the rule of law, plays a central role in the fight against corruption. By promoting transparent and accountable institutions, good governance prevents irresponsibility and deviation from plans, thereby removing obstacles to development programs and

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1 De Man, A. Strengthening the Fight Against Corruption through the Principle of Accountability. *Potchefstroom Electronic Law Journal*, Vol. 25, N. 8, 2022, p. 1-30.

<https://doi.org/10.17159/1727-3781/2022/v25i0a8341>

2 Ade Risna Sari, Op.cit.

3 Hämäläinen, H., & Salminen, J. Inclusive participation in law-making: good governance or a constitutional obligation? *The Theory and Practice of Legislation*, Vol. 13, N. 2, 2025, p. 213–235. <https://doi.org/10.1080/20508840.2025.2513176>

enhancing the protection of human rights<sup>1</sup>. The recognition of a "right to corruption-free constitutional governance" has the potential to bring the problem of corruption to the center of political discourse, empowering the judiciary to integrate anti-corruption and human rights efforts, and galvanizing social consciousness against bribery and other forms of corruption<sup>2</sup>.

This demonstrates a direct causal linkage: effective anti-corruption measures, a hallmark of good governance, are essential for the full enjoyment and realization of human rights.

## **6. Rights-Based Approach to Governance**

A rights-based approach to governance views the realization of human rights as the primary objective of development cooperation, policies, and technical assistance. This approach regards human rights principles as the guiding framework for all development processes, shaping how programs are conducted and influencing the selection of monitoring indicators<sup>3</sup>. The UN Commission on Human Rights has explicitly linked good governance to an enabling environment conducive to the enjoyment of human rights and the promotion of growth and sustainable human development.

This framework emphasizes that good governance and human rights are mutually reinforcing, with human rights principles providing values and performance standards for governments. It suggests that good governance reforms of democratic institutions, when guided by human rights values, create avenues for public participation and mechanisms for the inclusion of multiple social groups in decision-making processes. Furthermore, in the realm of state service delivery, human rights-sensitive good governance initiatives improve the state's capacity to fulfill its responsibility to provide public goods essential for rights such as education, health, and food<sup>4</sup>. This approach underscores that effective governance is not merely about administrative efficiency but fundamentally about upholding human dignity and ensuring the full enjoyment of all human rights.

### **Impacts of Good Governance on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms**

The implementation of good governance principles has profound and multifaceted impacts on the realization and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. These impacts are largely positive, though challenges persist in achieving universal and consistent application.

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1 Anahita Seifi, Najmeh Razmkhah &Dmitri Pletnev, Economic dimension of the right to sustainable development: good governance and human security, *Ural Environmental Science Forum Sustainable Development of Industrial Region*, Vol. 258, 2021, p.1-6.

<https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/202125805012>

2 Madhvi Bhayani, Challenges of Corruption and Good Governance: A Human Rights Perspective, *Academia*, Vol. 71, N. 6, 2014, p. 24-27. <https://doi.org/10.7763/IPEDR>

3 Ysaline Reid, The Principle of Accountability in Human Rights-Based Approaches to Development: Towards a New Understanding, *Journal of Human Rights Practice*, Vol. 16, N. 2,

2024, p. 533–553, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jhuman/huad068>

4 Office of The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Op.cit, p. 1-77.

## 1. Positive Impacts

The application of good governance principles brings numerous benefits that directly enhance human rights and fundamental freedoms. These include:

● **Increased Transparency and Accountability:** Good governance leads to greater transparency in government operations and increased accountability of officials and institutions. This openness helps prevent corrupt practices, ensures that decisions are made within established legal frameworks, and allows information to be freely available to those affected. When governments are transparent and accountable, it fosters public trust and legitimacy<sup>1</sup>.

● **Strengthened Public Participation:** Good governance encourages active participation of citizens in decision-making processes, ensuring that public aspirations and interests are heard and accommodated. This strengthens the democratic fabric and ensures that policies are responsive to the needs and expectations of the people<sup>2</sup>.

● **Improved Quality of Public Services and Bureaucratic Efficiency:** Good governance enhances the caliber of public services and increases bureaucratic efficiency. This means that processes and institutions produce results that meet societal needs while making the best use of resources, leading to more effective and responsive public services<sup>3</sup>.

● **Reduced Corruption:** A core objective and outcome of good governance is the minimization of corruption and the promotion of administrative integrity. Combating corruption plays a central role in promoting and protecting human rights, as corruption directly contributes to inequalities and undermines development efforts<sup>4</sup>.

● **Encouraging Economic Growth and Sustainable Development:** The presence of openness and accountability in governmental operations instills confidence among investors, fostering an environment conducive to increased investment, economic expansion, job creation, and poverty alleviation. Good governance is essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development, and the eradication of poverty and hunger. It prioritizes long-term implications and the sustainability of policies, aiming to mitigate adverse environmental and social effects<sup>5</sup>.

● **Creation of Social Peace and Stability:** By ensuring fairness, equity, and the rule of law, good governance contributes to social peace and stability. It ensures that all members of society feel they have a

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1 Ade Risna Sari, Op.cit.

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

4 Human Rights Council, *The role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights*, United Nations, 6 October 2020, accessed August 16, 2025,

<https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/RES/45/9>

5 Ade Risna Sari, Op.cit.

stake and are not excluded, particularly the most vulnerable<sup>1</sup>.

● **Enhanced Human Development:** Good governance has a significant positive impact on human development levels. Indicators such as government effectiveness, regulatory quality, and the rule of law are strongly correlated with better human development outcomes. It is considered a major means for promoting sustainable development, reducing poverty, and maintaining peace, directly affecting both sustainable income growth and non-income indicators of human development. The UNDP explicitly states that "a sustainable human development cannot be achieved without good governance and/or governance cannot be sound unless it sustains human development"<sup>2</sup>.

## 2. Challenges and Limitations

Despite the clear positive impacts, the implementation of good governance for human rights protection faces several significant challenges and limitations:

● **State Capacity and Willingness:** Frail and failed states often lack the basic capacities—bureaucratic, infrastructural, and coercive—to protect or implement human rights, even if they desire to do so. While some argue that violations stem from a lack of state willingness, the ability to translate treaty commitments into practice is a crucial dimension of compliance. Strengthening state capacity might even do more harm than good if it results in autocratic and repressive statehood<sup>3</sup>.

● **Political Resistance and Collective Action Obstacles:** Reforms based on transparency and accountability can face obstacles such as political resistance and collective action problems. Powerful actors may resist changes that threaten their interests or control over information<sup>4</sup>.

● **Ambiguities in Implementation:** There is a growing understanding of the ambiguities in the relationship between increases in transparency and other desirable outcomes like greater accountability or less corruption. The effectiveness of administrative procedures, for instance, may still need significant improvement even with good governance initiatives<sup>5</sup>.

● **Sovereignty and Accountability Deficits:** In a world without a global state, it is challenging to insist that global institutions be accountable to all those subject to their decisions while representatives simultaneously remain accountable to their own citizens. This difficulty is compounded by a state-centric conception of human rights, where states bear primary responsibility, yet often fail to protect citizens from

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1 Mandal, Chhanda, et al., Op.cit, p. 176-190.

2 Keser, Ahmet, Op.cit, p. 26-39.

3 Börzel, T.A. and Risse, T. Human Rights, Rule of Law, and Democracy, *Areas of Limited Statehood*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021, p. 181-214.

4 Stephen Kosack & Archon Fung, Does Transparency Improve Governance?, *Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol. 17, 2014. p. 65-87.

<https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-polisci-032210-144356>

5 Chien, Nguyen Ba, & Nguyen Nghi Thanh. The Impact of Good Governance on the People's Satisfaction with Public Administrative Services in Vietnam, *Administrative Sciences*, Vol. 12, N. 1, 2020, p. 35. <https://doi.org/10.3390/admsci12010035>

violations stemming from transnational regulations or perpetrated by non-state actors<sup>1</sup>.

● **Lack of Consensus on Measurement:** The absence of a generally accepted agreement regarding how to measure transparency and good governance, especially in non-profit organizations, represents a challenge, leading to different institutions developing their own indicator lists<sup>2</sup>. This can hinder consistent evaluation and comparison of governance performance.

● **Digital Divide and Access to Information:** While information and communications technology can foster greater participation and promote human rights principles and good governance, there is a concern that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a detrimental effect on public access to reliable information. Many countries need support in expanding infrastructure and capacity-building to bridge the digital divide and ensure accessible and affordable internet access for all, especially the poor and socially excluded<sup>3</sup>. These challenges highlight that while the principles of good governance offer a robust framework for human rights protection, their effective implementation requires sustained effort, political will, capacity-building, and continuous adaptation to evolving global and national contexts.

### 3. Empirical Evidence

Empirical studies provide important insights into the actual impacts of good governance on human rights. Research using panel data regression models has concluded that governance indicators such as Government Effectiveness, Regulatory Quality, and Rule of Law have significant positive coefficients, indicating that better governance performance for any country provides better performance in its Human Development Level (HDL). This suggests that improved governance mechanisms are a "sine qua non necessity" for a high human development level<sup>4</sup>.

Studies focusing on specific aspects of good governance also show tangible impacts. For instance, empirical results strongly support a significant positive relationship between citizen participation and quality of life in municipalities. Financial accountability, particularly when measured by cash surplus indicators, also shows a positive relationship with quality of life, indicating that sound financial management under good governance contributes to better living conditions<sup>5</sup>.

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1 Cristina Lafont, Accountability and global governance: challenging the state-centric conception of human rights. *Ethics & Global Politics*, Vol. 3, N. 3, 2010, p. 193–215.

<https://doi.org/10.3402/egp.v3i3.5507>

2 Moreno-Albarracín, Antonio Luis, Ana Licerán-Gutierrez, Cristina Ortega-Rodríguez, Álvaro Labella, and Rosa M. Rodríguez. Measuring What Is Not Seen—Transparency and Good Governance Nonprofit Indicators to Overcome the Limitations of Accounting Models, *Sustainability*, Vol. 12, N. 18, 2020, p. 72-75.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/su12187275>

3 Human Rights Council, Op.cit.

4 Keser, Ahmet, Op.cit, p. 26-39.

5 Cárcaba, Ana, Eduardo González, Juan Ventura, and Rubén Arrondo. 2017. How Does Good Governance Relate to Quality of Life? *Sustainability*, Vol. 9, No. 4, p. 631.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/su9040631>

In the context of public administrative services, studies have shown that human dimensions of good governance, such as civil servants' ethics and capacity, administrative procedures, and accessibility, have a positive and significant impact on people's satisfaction. Civil servants' ethics and capacity, in particular, were found to have the highest impact on satisfaction, highlighting the importance of policies that prevent corruption and ensure publicity and transparency among public officials. However, the effectiveness of procedure handling and responsiveness to public feedback were noted as areas needing significant improvement in some contexts, suggesting an implementation gap between policy and practical outcomes<sup>1</sup>.

While some early studies on international human rights treaties suggested ineffectiveness, more nuanced analyses now ask when nations obey. These studies indicate that the effect of both human rights treaties and constitutional rights is often small and contingent on specific legal and political environments<sup>2</sup>. Compliance problems sometimes reflect basic structural issues, such as limitations on the capacity of parties to carry out their undertakings, rather than deliberate violations. However, when governments are held accountable via periodic elections or independent courts, they are more likely to honor their human rights treaty obligations<sup>3</sup>. This body of evidence underscores that while good governance principles are theoretically sound, their real-world impact is contingent on robust institutionalization and consistent political will.

#### 4. Future Directions

The ongoing evolution of good governance and human rights necessitates continuous research and adaptive policy approaches. Future efforts should focus on:

- **Strengthening Implementation Mechanisms:** Given the identified "implementation gap" and limitations in state capacity, future research should explore more effective strategies for translating human rights commitments and good governance principles into concrete, measurable outcomes at the national and local levels. This includes studying the role of informal constraints and human learning in institutional development<sup>4</sup>.
- **Addressing New Challenges:** The emergence of "fourth-generation rights" linked to technological advancements calls for new frameworks to protect human dignity in the digital age<sup>5</sup>. Research is needed on how good governance principles can be applied to regulate digital technologies, artificial intelligence, and data governance to prevent human rights violations.
- **Enhancing Accountability Beyond States:** The limitations of human rights law in addressing massive

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1 Chien, Nguyen Ba. Et al., Op.cit, p. 35.

2 Cope, KL, Creamer, CD & Versteeg, M, Empirical Studies of Human Rights Law, *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*, vol. 15, 2019, pp. 155-182. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-lawsocsci-101317-031123>

3 Cole WM. Mind the Gap: State Capacity and the Implementation of Human Rights Treaties. *International Organization*. Vol. 69, N.2, p. 405-441.

<https://doi.org/10.1017/S002081831400040X>

4 Dellepiane-Avellaneda, Sebastian. Op.cit, p. 195-224.

5 Marco Sutto, Human Rights evolution, a brief history. *The Coespu Magazine*, N. 3, 2019, p. 18. <https://doi.org/10.32048/Coespumagazine3.19.3>

violations by non-state actors or in weak/failed states require further investigation<sup>1</sup>. Future directions should explore how accountability mechanisms can be extended to encompass a broader range of actors responsible for human rights abuses.

● **Contextualized Approaches:** Recognizing that good governance standards may be contested due to cultural differences, future research should focus on developing context-specific approaches to good governance that respect local realities while upholding universal human rights norms. This involves decomposing abstract values into "contextualized" elements that fit specific fields of public service and changing economic, social, and moral standards<sup>2</sup>.

● **Measuring Impact More Effectively:** The challenge of measuring transparency and good governance consistently<sup>3</sup>. indicates a need for more robust and standardized empirical models that can accurately assess the impact of governance reforms on human rights outcomes. This includes developing better indicators and methodologies for evaluating the effectiveness of interventions.

● **Promoting Reflexive Governance:** Embracing the concept of "reflexive governance," which acknowledges imperfection and normative ambiguity, can lead to more resilient and adaptable governance systems. Future efforts should focus on organizing "public irony," "public spirit," and "public vigilance" within governance systems to foster continuous learning and problem reformulation<sup>4</sup>. These future directions underscore the dynamic nature of the good governance and human rights nexus, emphasizing the need for continuous adaptation, innovation, and a commitment to addressing emerging challenges to ensure the full realization of human dignity globally.

## Conclusions

The comprehensive analysis undertaken in this report unequivocally demonstrates that good governance and human rights are two intrinsically linked and mutually reinforcing concepts, indispensable for national stability, international cooperation, and the advancement of human dignity. Good governance, defined by principles such as transparency, accountability, the rule of law, participation, effectiveness, and responsiveness, provides the essential enabling environment for the realization and protection of human rights. Conversely, the adherence to human rights principles—including universality, indivisibility, and interdependence—serves as a normative compass and a set of performance standards for effective and legitimate governance.

The historical evolution of human rights, from ancient philosophical roots to the comprehensive international legal framework established post-World War II, reveals a profound shift from a state-centric view to a global recognition of inherent human dignity as the foundation of international order. This transformation implies that how a government treats its citizens is no longer solely a domestic affair but a matter of legitimate international concern, necessitating robust national and international mechanisms for human rights protection. The emergence of "generations of rights" further illustrates a continuous

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1 Cristina Lafont, Op.cit, p. 193–215.

2 Trommel, W. Op.cit, p. 227–235.

3 Moreno-Albarracín, et al. Op.cit, p. 72-75.

4 Trommel, W. Op.cit, p. 227–235.

expansion of understanding, encompassing civil, political, economic, social, cultural, and even technology-related rights, all of which demand an adaptive and responsive governance framework.

The positive correlation between good governance and human rights is broadly acknowledged; it also identifies persistent challenges in their practical implementation and the measurement of effective human rights protection. The study critically assesses the effectiveness of international treaties and the limitations imposed by state capacity in upholding human rights obligations. This critical perspective highlights the complexities involved in translating normative commitments into tangible improvements in people's lives.

Good governance is a "sine qua non necessity" for human development and the effective realization of human rights. This foundational understanding underpins much of the contemporary discourse in international development and public administration.

The study has extensively explored various dimensions of good governance, including its political, economic, legal, and social aspects, and their profound impact on public administration and overall development outcomes.

In conclusion, the problem of how good governance can be activated and enshrined within legal and institutional frameworks to enhance and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms is addressed by recognizing their symbiotic relationship. Effective governance, characterized by its core principles and multi-dimensional aspects, creates the necessary conditions for human rights to flourish. The continuous pursuit of transparency, accountability, the rule of law, and participatory mechanisms within governance structures directly translates into improved public services, reduced corruption, increased trust, and ultimately, a higher quality of life and greater enjoyment of fundamental freedoms for all individuals.

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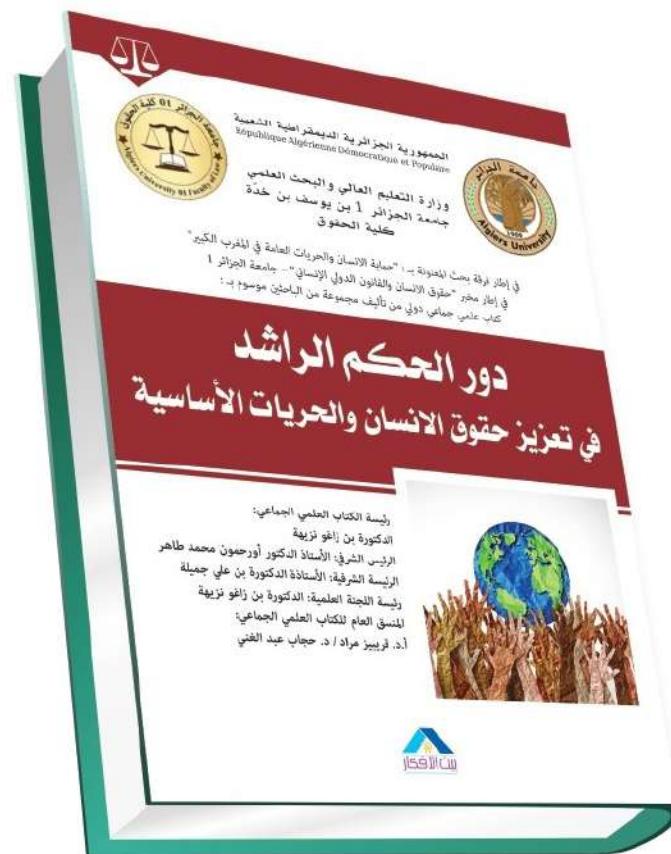
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هاتف / فاكس: 023 74 80 02

النقال: 0559 13 24 01 - 0554 96 95 20

البريد الإلكتروني: beitelafkar@gmail.com

