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## The Impact of Local Governance on Poverty Reduction in Somalia

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### Abstract

After 1991, Somalia became a prime example of economic collapse and state failure, clearly illustrating the pernicious effects of lack of development and poor local governance on establishing and sustaining central authority. Currently poverty in Somalia becomes a prominent and continuing affair. People in Somalia, have acclimatized to the consequence of poverty. Approximately, 43% of Somalia's population lives below the poverty line. Poverty in Somalia is more pronounced in the local areas than in the national areas and there is no a reduction plan from the central government of Somalia. The objective of this paper is to examine the effects of local governance on poverty reduction in Somalia in general and the local governance performance in Mogadishu. The article also analyses the relationship between local governance and poverty reduction based on three dimensions of local governance which are; accountability, responsive and community participation. Data was collected from university lecturers and Mogadishu municipality workers through cross-sectional survey. The study shows that there are positive direct relationship between local governance and poverty reduction. Therefore, if effective poverty reduction policies are set by local government then poverty can be eliminated.

**Key words:** *Governance, Local Governance, Poverty Reduction, Somalia*

### 1. Introduction

According to researcher's knowledge local governance and poverty reduction are two concepts that are intricately related as the attainment of prosperity and development is hard to come by without self-governance which has gained global prominence over the past three decades. Local governance is a critical policy requirement for a successful poverty reduction strategy and human development progress of any country. While poverty is defined as lack of capability to do things and development as 'freedom' (Santos, 2018). Where governance is poor it is difficult to imagine how equitable development can take place and where there is inequity the chances that some sections of the society will be left to live in poverty and misery are high.

Globally in 1995, the World Social Summit held in Copenhagen identified poverty as a major threat to the future of humankind. Also poverty was seen as a phenomenon in both developed and developing countries alike, its presence and rapid growth in developing countries was more alarming. In spite of years of progress by the WHO to eliminate communicable diseases such as typhoid, cholera and tuberculosis (TB), they were poverty increasing in developing countries towards the end of the twentieth century.

It was also in developing countries, particularly Africa, where more children died before they were five, about 50% of the population could not afford a proper meal in a day and fresh drinking water necessary in the fight against communicable diseases was inaccessible to many poor people. Yet, elsewhere, in the developed world, governments buy cereals from farmers and destroy them so as to ensure good prices to the farmers. Lack of fresh drinking water is rare experience and education is guaranteed to every child. Many years ago, these societies were as poor as their counterparts in developing countries today, but they have managed, over the years, to overcome the debilitating effects of poverty (Nyong'o, 2001).

Different case studies submitted that, in developing a policy structure for improving local governance through decentralization, it is important to take into account the fact that the implementation of these structures will result in both benefits and potential costs or threats towards poverty (UN, 1996). In Africa around 4 billion people that are known to be poor in the world today, Africa has more than her fair share, and the number of the poor, as percentage of the total African population, has been steadily increasing since independence. While the state played an extremely important role in financing social welfare during the first decade after the independence of most African countries, this role has declined with time. Malnutrition, high child mortality, lack of access to basic education, homelessness, and various types of social indignity has been dominant features of the decline of human development standards in Africa.

Yet Africa has the resources and the potential to overcome these indignities if only public revenues were used responsibly and accountably, resources developed productively for satisfying human goals and public authorities put priority on meeting basic human needs and not excessive human wants (Nyong'o, 2001).

Local governance improves opportunities for citizen-state engagement in countries with rich histories of citizen involvement, such as South Africa, and potentially better addresses issues close to the hearts of the urban people. But local government research experiences in most developed countries indicate it hasn't been unproblematic. Its implementation was limited in sub-Saharan Africa, and its record on poverty reduction remains very patchy (Koomiman & Vliet, 1993).

Researcher adapted local governance is critical to developing a framework for local governance that is responsive (doing the right thing, delivering services that are consistent with citizens' preferences or are citizen focused); community participation of local governance (requires that civil society has the opportunity to participate during the formulation of development strategies and that directly affected communities); and accountable (to citizens, through a rights-based approach) (Shah, 2006).

In this study, local governance will consider three aspects such as responsive, accountability, and community participation (Antonio, 2001). In the context, Somalia became a prime example of economic collapse and state failure, clearly illustrating the pernicious effects of lack of development and poor local governance on establishing and sustaining central authority. Prior to its rapid descent into a state of anarchy, the central government in Mogadishu had not been able to maintain a largely peaceful equilibrium by establishing the decentralization of power to the local governance that had always dominated policies by the central government in Somalia. In this critical time if Somalia does not get local governance or self-governance it can cause many problems such as poverty, conflicts, violence, lack of development, it cannot be ensured prosperity and development of the country (Darussen, 2005).

There is no effective local governance according to my best understanding so this study is investigating the impacts of local governance on poverty reduction in Somalia.

## 2. Statement of the Problem

Local governance is a critical policy requirement for a successful poverty reduction strategy and human development progress of any country (Sebudubudu, 2010). Local Governance is attentions being focused on decentralization perceived as a gradual process that is expected to enhance the opportunities for participation by placing more power and resources at a closer, more familiar and more easily-influenced level of government (Forum, 2002) and Poverty fundamentally entails lack of access to income, employment opportunities, and normal internal entitlements by the citizens to such things as freely determined consumption of goods and services, shelter and other basic needs of life (Forum, 2002).

Despite progress made after the approval by world leaders at the UN in September 2000 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), human suffering remains widespread in some parts of the world. Over the past three decades, the number of extreme poor has fallen by 650 million, a degree of change which humanity has never seen. Yet there are already more than one billion people living in extreme poverty. Human deprivations are still widespread despite globalized change and growth (UNDP, 2013).

Currently poverty in Somalia becomes a prominent and continuing affair. People in Somalia, have acclimatized to the consequence of poverty. Approximately, 43% of Somalia's population lives below the poverty line. Poverty in Somalia is more pronounced in the local areas than in the national areas and there is no a reduction plan from the central government of Somalia (Finance Paper, 2015).

So that the series of progress reports of poverty reduction still shows that poverty exist in Somalia, so researcher was investigated the relevance of local governance to addressing the challenge of poverty alleviation reduction in Mogadishu.

## 3. Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to find out the impact of local governance on poverty reduction in Mogadishu by using survey as data collection method.

### 3.1 The Specific Research Objectives

The study was guided by the following specific objectives:

- i. To describe the impact of responsive on the improvement of poverty reduction in Mogadishu.
- ii. To explore the role of accountability on poverty reduction in Mogadishu.
- iii. To investigate the significance of community participation on poverty reduction in Mogadishu.

## 4. Review of Literature

### 4.1 Characteristics of Local Governance

#### **4.1.1 Accountability**

Accountability is a cornerstone for the functioning of states and therefore not only shapes the work of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) but also the work of general government and the citizens' trust in governmental compliance.

Because of their control function, SAIs at the same time act as partners and agents of parliaments, ensuring that money entrusted to those in government is being spent in keeping with the requirements of economy, efficiency and effectiveness, regularity and compliance, as well as in the interest and for the benefit of the citizens at large. All in all, national parliaments are only as strong as their control function; the more accountability and transparency, the more credibility. Thus, as a pillar of every democracy, SAIs play a fundamental role in upholding the principles of Good Governance, transparency and accountability, and public sector efficiency (Moser, 2013).

#### **4.1.2 Community Participation**

Local governance requires that society has the opportunity to participate during the formulation of development strategies and that directly affected communities and groups should be able to participate in the design and implementation of programmes and projects. Even where projects have a secondary impact on particular localities or population groups, there should be a consultation process that takes their views into account. This aspect of governance is an essential element in securing commitment and support for projects and enhancing the quality of their implementation (IFAD, 1999).

#### **4.1.3 Responsiveness**

Local governance requires that institutions and processes should serve all stakeholders within a reasonable duration. The government's immediate response and solution to problems faced by the public is one of the most important characteristics of local governance (Kandhro, 2011).

#### **4.2. Characteristics of Poverty Reduction**

World Bank define, three elements of poverty reduction, deprivation, vulnerability and powerlessness - should be considered when defining poverty (Tostensen and Kessy, 2008). noted "being poor means being deprived of basic needs such as food, shelter, education, and health. living at the margin also makes the poor particularly vulnerable to adverse shocks, both natural disasters and human-made calamities. A third dimension of being poor is powerlessness: the poor are ill equipped to alter the social relations that made them poor in the first instance" (Kessy, 2008).

#### **4.3 Linkage between Local Governance and Poverty Reduction**

Local governance has been recognized over the past three decades as a major policy consideration that makes a difference to development. A democratic government is more responsive to the needs of the population such as in providing opportunities in education, health and social welfare, better housing, equitable distribution of development projects including roads and other infrastructural development. Such physical projects taken to local communities and different regions usually provide some employment opportunities even though some may be temporary and business opportunities which enhance people's quality of life. Local governance is one of the essential preconditions for development and poverty reduction. For instance, countries such as Botswana, Mauritius and Namibia, which follow local governance will normally device pro-poor policies and programmes and target programmes to educate children of the poor and disadvantaged groups (Sebudubudu, 2010).

An investigation about the topic of local governance for poverty reduction in Africa and objective of the paper was looking the conceptual challenges that shall face participants to the AGF-V meeting. Poverty is singled out as constituting such challenges and an attempt is made to define and contextualize it within the African realm and the method was the interview and later the paper concluded that has raised a number of issues that deserve the attention of the fifth African Governance Forum (AGF-V) meeting in Maputo. While the Paper has covered a much wider field in the area of local governance, this concluding section, based on the discussion thus far, highlights the more pertinent challenges in five areas (Forum, 2002).

In his study, Anyang' Nyong'o observed that the state played an extremely important role in financing social welfare during the first decade after the independence of most African countries, this role has declined with time. Malnutrition, high child mortality, lack of access to basic education, homelessness, and various types of social indignity have been dominant features of the decline of human development standards in Africa while this researcher uses to collect data interview with questionnaire and the result was the principal indicators of poverty reduction need to begin by looking at improvements of the standards of living of the people given the above human needs fundamentals (Nyong'o, 2001).

In the reference of authors Jo Beall, Owen Crankshaw and Susan Parnell discussed the study titled the Local government, poverty reduction and inequality in Johannesburg and this paper discusses the difficulties facing the post-apartheid metropolitan government of Johannesburg as it reforms itself, seeking to better respond to the needs of all its citizens, while also attracting new investment and the method of data collection was survey also the paper ends with a discussion of how the principal challenges

facing Johannesburg are also challenges for contemporary urban governance in many other cities (Beall, Crankshaw, & Parnell, 2000).

In the study made by Thomas M. Mogale which titled local governance and poverty reduction in South Africa and the objective was local government in South Africa is undergoing a process of transformation from apartheid's highly unequal, racially classified local administrative apparatus towards a more integrated, developmental, equitable and sustainable sphere of government and the data collection method was interview and questionnaire and the result concluded after more than a decade of democracy, the country still holds the odious distinction of having one of the highest income disparities in the world, second only to Brazil (Mogale, 2005).

In the reference with the author Anwar Shah wrote the research titled the new vision of local governance and the evolving roles of local governments his objective was, it encompasses the direct and indirect roles of formal institutions of local government and government hierarchies, as well as the roles of informal norms, networks, community organizations, and neighborhood associations in pursuing collective action by defining the framework for citizen-citizen and citizen-state interactions, collective decision making, and delivery of local public services and the data method was survey and the result was in developing countries, such citizen empowerment may be the only way to reform public sector governance when governments are either unwilling or unable to reform themselves (Shah & Shah, 2000).

In the study made by the researcher called Dele Olowu discussed the research titled towards the local governance and poverty reduction programme at the african development bank and its objective of the paper sets out the rationale for the interest of a regional development bank, the Africa Development Bank -- in engaging its Regional Member Countries (RMCs) more systematically in the area of decentralized governance as a part of overall governance reform which it supports and the data collection method was interview or survey and the result was the essence of the program discussed in this paper is to move governance from its monocentric preoccupations to a polycentric one in which the state remains an important but not the sole actor (Olowu, 2006).

With the reference of author Robert H. Wilson discussed the research titled understanding local governance: an international perspective and objective of paper was enormous change and innovation in governmental practices are occurring throughout the world. Local governance, in particular, has become a concern in many countries while the method of data collection was interview and the result was this paper will first explore the emergence of governance as a prominent question. A political dimension of governance could be addressed through a focus on the process by which authority is exercised and on capacity of institutions (Wilson, 2000).

Finally the above mentioned studies showed that there are direct relationship between local governance and poverty reduction, where local governance has great positive effect on the poverty reduction when the system is good if the governance system becomes bad one it also has negative effect on poverty reduction programmes. The aim of the study is to measure local governance and its role in poverty reduction. The researcher found that local governance is necessary for poverty reduction, without local governance poverty reduction plan cannot be successful.

The scholars who discussed about the same topic as this research although they look at local governance through different prospective for example some of them looked at poverty reduction through the prospective of accountability, some others looked at poverty reduction through prospective of transparency while others looked discussed about the topic through prospective of rule of law but their results were same in the side of this topic, all of them argued that the system of governance has impact good or bad on poverty reduction they different in the prospective they use. Words such as accountability, transparency, community participation, rule of law are measurements of local governance used by all scholars.

## 5. Research Methodology

The paper investigated the role of local governance in poverty reduction. The study establish causal relationship between variables so researcher was attempted explanatory research design to emphasis on studying a situation or a problem in order to explain the relationships between the local governance and poverty reduction in Mogadishu. Also the descriptive research design was considered appropriate for this study as it allowed description of a phenomena as well as collection of data from a sizable population.

The main purpose of survey is to show the exact relationship between the independent and dependent variable by using cross-sectional survey to get quantifiable data to identify the research objectives.

The target populations for this study were University lecturers and Mogadishu local government workers. There is no fact list information of number of the target population so the researcher used literature as guide to get sample size. Sample size of this study was 80 respondents. The sample size of this study was adopted from (Kandhro, 2011); the researcher examined the role of e-government in enhancing good governance of public sector organizations in Pakistan.

The researcher was used non-probability sampling, especially purposive sampling procedure. The researcher were used this procedure to get more informant respondents about relationship between local governance and poverty reduction in Somalia. Therefore purposive sampling enables the researches to decide who to include the sample. And it uses to collect the focus information.

The data collected was organized, collated, and summarized, statistically treat and draft in using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 16. The research team used Descriptive statistics at this stage.

## 6. Research Findings and Data Analysis

This study was applied quantitative methods especially correlation design for analyzing relationship between the variable; regression analysis was utilized for hypothesis test. An item analysis was illustrated the strength and weaknesses based on the indicators in term of mean, standard deviation and rank. From these strengths and weaknesses, the recommendations were derived. The mean range of this study will explain below:

**Table 1 Mean standard**

No	Mean Range	Interpretation
1	1.00 up to 1.80	Strongly Disagree
2	1.80 up to 2.60	Disagree
3	2.60 up to 3.40	Neutral
4	3.40 up to 4.20	Agree
5	4.20 up to 5.00	Strongly Agree

### 6.1 Data Analysis

The researcher went ahead to present the descriptive analysis from the opinions of the participants. The researcher selected based on municipalities and university lecturers, the result from this sample can be generalizing to all local governance institutions.

**Table 2 Descriptive Statistics for Local Governance Items**

No.	Items	Mean	St. Deviation	Interpretation
<b>Accountability</b>				
1	Local governance directly contributes to reduce poverty in Somalia.	3.70	1.48	<b>Agree</b>
2	Local governance is major contributor of economic Growth and development in Somalia.	3.49	1.26	<b>Agree</b>
3	Local governance improves the standard of living of the society.	3.41	1.35	<b>Agree</b>
<b>Mean index</b>		<b>3.43</b>	<b>1.36</b>	<b>Agree</b>
<b>Responsive</b>				
1	To respond local needs of society can decrease the poverty of the country.	3.60	1.50	<b>Agree</b>
2	Local governance as whole contributes to social wealth by creating new jobs and training opportunities for people in need.	3.50	1.35	<b>Agree</b>
3	Local governance allows people to reduce the poverty in local areas.	3.56	1.33	<b>Agree</b>
<b>Mean index</b>		<b>3.55</b>	<b>1.39</b>	<b>Agree</b>
<b>Community participation</b>				
1	Local community participation reduces poverty in Somalia.	3.75	1.35	<b>Agree</b>
2	Community participation increases equal opportunities of all society.	3.59	1.29	<b>Agree</b>
3	Community participation causes prosperity in Mogadishu Somalia.	3.48	1.35	<b>Agree</b>
<b>Mean index</b>		<b>3.60</b>	<b>1.33</b>	<b>Agree</b>

The above table 2 presented the mean index, Standard deviation, and interpretation of the result for the all question asked for the respondent with the independent variable (IV), researcher was analysis here the interpretation of the respondent's responses. So far, the first question has mean index 3.70 and Standard deviation 1.48 which shows that respondents denoted that they are agree in this question. The second question obtained mean 3.49, standard deviation of 1.26 and interpretation of this question was agreed. The third question has 3.41 mean index and standard deviation 1.35 for interpreting that they agree for this question. The mean index for the fourth question was 3.60; standard deviation of 1.50 and the respondents denotes agree in this question. The 5th question was scored mean 3.50 and standard deviation of 1.35 in according of the interpretation respondents denotes agree. The 6<sup>th</sup> question obtained mean 3.56, standard deviation of 1.33 and interpretation of this question ware agree. The 7<sup>th</sup> question has 3.75 mean index and standard deviation 1.35 for interpreting that they response for agree in this question. The mean index for 8<sup>th</sup> question was 3.59; standard deviation of 1.29 and the respondents denotes agree in this question. The 9<sup>th</sup> question was scored mean 3.48 and standard deviation of 1.35 in according of the interpretation respondents denotes agree.

The final Average means index of the all questions was **3.5644**, Standard deviation was **1.3622** and respondents were **agree** for their average responses.

**Table 3 Descriptive for Poverty Reduction Items**

No.	Items	Mean	St. Deviation	Interpretation
<b>Powerlessness</b>				
1	The poverty reduction programmes improves the standard of living of people in local areas.	3.61	1.42	<b>Agree</b>
2	The one way that can reduce poverty is local governance contributions	3.72	1.27	<b>Agree</b>
3	Poverty is powerlessness and lack of basic needs of local people.	3.46	1.35	<b>Agree</b>
4	Poverty is dangerous circle of poor health reduced working capacity	3.72	1.30	<b>Agree</b>
<b>Vulnerability</b>				
1	Poverty results the psychological problems and lack of hope.	3.79	1.34	<b>Agree</b>
2	Due to absence of community employment and capacity building may result poverty on local people.	3.57	1.17	<b>Agree</b>
3	The best way to reduce poverty is to encourage and support the development of strong local governance.	3.81	1.29	<b>Agree</b>
<b>Mean Index</b>		<b>3.72</b>	<b>1.26</b>	<b>Agree</b>
<b>Mean index</b>		<b>3.62</b>	<b>1.01</b>	<b>Agree</b>

The above table 3 presented the mean index, Standard deviation, and interpretation of the result with the all question asked for the respondent for the dependent variable (DV), and researcher, was analysis here the interpretation of the respondent's answers. So that, the first question has mean index 3.61and Stander deviation 1.42 which shows that respondents denoted that they are Agree in this question. The second question obtained mean 3.72, standard deviation of 1.27 and interpretation of this question was Agree. The third question has 3.46 mean index and standard deviation 1.35 for interpreting that they agree for this question. The mean index for 4th question was 3.72; standard deviation of 1.30 and the respondents denotes agree in this question. The 5th question was scored mean 3.79 and standard deviation of 1.34 in according of the interpretation respondents denotes agrees. The 6<sup>th</sup> question obtained mean 3.57, standard deviation of 1.17 and interpretation of this question was agreed. The 7<sup>th</sup> question has 3.81 mean index and standard deviation 1.29 for interpreting that they response for agree in this question.

Therefore the final Average means index of the all questions was **3.668**, Stander deviation was **1.305** and respondents was **agree** for their average answers.

## 6.2 Research Findings

The first objective of this study was to describe the impact of accountability on the improvement of poverty reduction in Somalia. To achieve this objective, respondents were subject to a number of questions to provide answers to research questions mentioned.

The accountability of local governance is generally agreed and this indicated by the overall mean (Overage mean= **3.43**), this implies that if the local governance institutions in Somalia; provide accountability it will be facilitate on poverty reduction.

The second objective of this study also was to explore the role of responsive on poverty reduction in Somalia. To accomplish this objective, participants were conduct to number of questions to provide answers to research questions mentioned.

In the context, result showed that the responsive of local governance is generally agreed and this indicated by the overall mean (Overage Mean=3.55), this explains that the local governance institutions in Somalia can actively take part in poverty reduction situation by providing responsive to the public at large.

The third objective of this research was to investigate the significance of community participation on poverty reduction in Somalia. To accomplish this objective, participants were conduct to number of questions to provide answers to research questions mentioned.

The community participation of local governance is generally agreed and this indicated by the overall mean (Overage mean=3.60), this implies that if the local governance institutions in Somalia; provide community participation it will be facilitate on poverty reduction.

However, the grand mean index two indicators of independent variables i.e. accountability, responsive and community participation showed that generally agreed and indicated data gathered (3.5644) and indicates very good level. On the other hand, the grand mean index of dependent variable i.e. poverty reduction resulted that also generally agreed and data showed (3.668) and indicated very good level.

## 7. Discussion of Key Findings

This study was intended to know that the relationship between local governance and poverty reduction in Somalia. The researcher believes that if local governance is constructed fully it will be result to reach poverty reduction in whole country well. Therefore, the researchers found the following:-

- i. When the local governance institutions want to reduce poverty, accountability is necessary in order to achieve this action.
- ii. When the local governance wants to overcome poverty problems to the local people responsive is necessary in order to reach poverty alleviation.
- iii. Also community participation increased the efficiency of poverty reduction that means when local governance institutions try to take part poverty reduction the citizen must involve the action.

## 8. Research Hypotheses

The hypothesis for this study was to find out that whether there is a positive impact for accountability, responsive and community participation on poverty reduction. So that, the result showed that strong positive relationship between community and poverty reduction 68.0% increase or decrease of a level of community participation causes a change for the poverty reduction in Somalia. Researcher accepted the null hypotheses. Also the result showed that a positive relationship between responsive and poverty reduction 27.9% increase or decrease of a level of responsive causes a change for the poverty reduction in Somalia. Researchers accepted the null hypothesis. In addition, researcher found that there is no relationship accountability of local governance on poverty reduction as the context shows.

However, the result of the study defined clearly that responsive, community participation can improve and directly positive relation with the poverty reduction in Somalia, while the accountability cannot be promote to achieve poverty reduction in the context local institutions.

Also there a lot of studies which concludes like this study such researches include: the study made by the authors Anwar Shah, David and Thomas all of them they mentioned their studies that accountability, responsive and community participation from local governance can reduce the level of the poverty of local people.

## 9. Conclusion

The goal of this study was to investigate the relationship between the local governance and poverty reduction in Somalia. An empirical investigation was undertaken, using the simple correlation analytical technique, specially the Pearson product movement correlation coefficient (PPMC).

Finally, the aim of the study is to measure local governance and its role in poverty reduction. The researcher found that local governance is necessary for poverty reduction, without local governance poverty reduction plan cannot be successful.

The study showed that there are direct relationship between local governance and poverty reduction, where local governance is good the level of poverty is low which illustrate the local governance has great positive effect on the poverty reduction. Where the system of local governance is bad the level of poverty is high which showed that it also has negative effect on poverty reduction programmes.

However, words such as accountability, transparency, community participation, rule of law, etc. are measurements of local governance used by all researchers. Nevertheless, all reviewed articles here showed same result of that local governance has positive impact on the poverty reduction while national governance has bad impact on the poverty reduction.

#### 10. Recommendations

Based on the study findings and the conclusion, the researcher suggested the following recommendations:

- i. Local governance should allow citizens to participate in the government's actions to reduce poverty in the country.
- ii. Local governance should be responsible to overcome poverty problems to the local people in order to reach poverty elimination targets.
- iii. Local governance institutions should be accountable to reduce poverty.
- iv. Also community participation increased the efficiency of poverty reduction that means when local governance institutions try to take part poverty reduction the citizen must involve the action.
- v. To improve awareness of local community towards poverty reduction.
- vi. To provide local governance a full power to tackle the poverty problems existing in local areas.

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