

## Good governance as perceived by Dabawenyos

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### ABSTRACT

The debate on good governance had shaped public policies of many governments. This study was conducted to obtain latent perspectives of good governance. A survey was conducted using two-stage cluster sampling in the first congressional district of Davao City involving 351 respondents. Findings reveal that the notion of good governance of Dabawenyos is primarily a government to implement the rule of law; peace and order is a necessity to facilitate market efficiency. Also, it was found that political leadership creates notions of good governance; public bestowed power to its political leaders as a matter of trust. On the other hand, leaders incorporate soft and hard forms of power in delegating powers without losing control, causing a widespread and significant impact on the formation and development of Davao's perspectives of good governance. This is the rubber band effect of good governance leadership.

**Keywords:** *Regression, Trust, Good, Governance, Davao.*

### INTRODUCTION

The conceptual debate on governance had made serious impact on public policy (Weiss, 2000); relating good governance with efficiency of systems and government legitimatization (Aguilera & Cuervo-Cazurra, 2004), which Esty (2006) draw connection of domestic and international politics. The political structure and structured international cooperation for legitimization of supranational governance was theorized to ensure that it could promote social welfare, rule of law, checks and balances, structured deliberation and institutional design for administrative law. The governance debate hence, carries an important implication on development initiatives of a country (Grindle, 2007). Initiatives are expected to bear impact on reducing poverty (Grindle, 2004), the rebuilding of effective states through international aid support. Also there is also administrative capacity concerns of governments (Drechsler, 2004) and the roles played by the elites and the poor in developing countries (Fritz & Menocal, 2007).

Tracing back its roots, the good governance principle stem from the objectives of the nations of the world to achieve economic and social development with equity (Marshall, 2008) and social welfare (Roemer, 2006). Thus, the World Bank crafted the formula that combined market friendly interventions, good governance (Kiely, 1989) and support to improve human capital and social protection (World Bank, 2007; Nunberg, 2007).

One good indicator of the quality of governance, to make it good, is the ability of the government to exercise power to determine quality of life enjoyed by its citizens (Huther & Shah, 1998). This would need the necessary institutional ingredients to bring the government nearer to the people. In response, people's participation tends to increase with poor people exercise in the new mode of inclusion, consultation and mobilization in influencing the institutions (Gaventa, 2004).

While some debates on governance are intensively theoretical and others are reflective and even prescriptive (United Nations, 2001) the good governance agenda is seen as becoming hugely inapplicable over time. Grindle (2004) is swathed with impression that there is little guidance on the reforms that must be implemented in developing countries. On the other hand, the developing agencies focused and eventually overestimated economic impacts while underestimating time effect

and political efforts (Goldsmith, 2007). As a result, good governance model is more of a description of a developed country rather than a possible strategy for developing countries to attain growth. The governance model became hard to be replicated (Andrews, 2008) while governments are influenced to follow a “one-size-fits-all” approach to achieve it (Andrews, 2010). This causes the governance agenda nebulous because governments of different countries differ and the notions of good governance are unique to the place (Uzzaman, 2010). Thus, this study was conducted to determine the perception of good governance, their experiences and the sources of the principles of quality governance they believe in.

## METHOD

The study used survey method of research to extract latent understanding of the Dabawenyos of the notions of good governance. The information on good governance for this study is a snapshot of the state of affairs of the population (Janes, 2001). Further, to minimize systematic error which usually yield incorrect inference (Richey, 2013), a two-stage cluster sampling technique was employed. Scott & Holt (1982) reveal that the sampling technique yields better coefficient vector of the ordinary least square estimation. The cluster was first employed by determining the sub-districts of the District 1 of Davao then the barangays were grouped as another cluster.

Using a 5% margin of error and a 95% confidence interval, a total of 351 household respondents were systematically chosen from the first congressional district of Davao City. Regression analysis using ordinary least squares estimation was used to determine factors that determine good governance orientation.

## RESULTS AND FINDINGS

### Profile of the respondents

Table 1 presents the demographic profile of the respondents. Again, it must be noted that the samples were randomly chosen from the population to create generalizable capability of the sample to the target population (Humphreys & Weisner, 2000). It was found that respondents are in their most productive age, 27-42 comprising 52%. Of these, significant majority are parents (89%), and small margin are sons and daughters (10%) and most are also females (65%).

Table 1 Demographic profile			Table 2 Socio-economic profile		
Age bracket	<i>f</i>	%	Income level	<i>f</i>	%
18-21	26	7	below 3k	253	72
22-26	50	14	4k to 5k	48	14
27-35	107	30	6-8k	23	7
36-42	76	22	9k to 15k	5	1
43-49	45	13	16k to 19k	8	2
50-60	31	9	20k and above	2	1
61 and above	14	4	Not indicated	12	3
Not indicated	2	99	Total	351	100
Total	351	1	Household size	<i>f</i>	%
Position	<i>f</i>	%	1-3	155	44
parents	312	89	4-6	165	47

sons/daughter	36	10	7-9	25	7
aunt/uncle	1	0.3	10-12	2	1
grandparents	2	1	Missing	4	1
Total	351	100	Total	351	100
Sex	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Members above 18</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
female	228	65	1-3	225	64
male	120	34	4-6	73	21
Not indicated	3	1	7-9	16	5
Total	351	100	10-15	2	1
			Missing	35	10
			Total	351	100

Table 2 presents the socio-economic profile of the respondents. It was found that a large majority are earning a monthly income below Php3000 or living by a hundred pesos by the day; a small number are earning middle to upper income class with a combined percentage equal to 4%. The households in district 1 maintain a small (1-3 members) to medium (4-6 members) family size of which household members above 18 are generally small, 1-3 members, constitute a large majority.

#### *Notions and perception on good governance*

To an ordinary Dabawenyo, good governance is a sustained peace and order (mean=3.28), followed by development of the city (mean=3.26) and support to businesses (mean=3.16), while relatively least for effective health support (mean=2.97) and responsible use of public funds (mean=2.99).

Table 3 Notions of good governance of the Dabawenyos.

Notion	Mean	Description
Responsible use of public funds	2.99	Ordinary practice
Development of the city	3.26	Excellent practice
Adequate support to education	3.00	Ordinary practice
Effective health support	2.97	Ordinary practice
Care for the poor	3.05	Ordinary practice
Effective management of State's resources	3.00	Ordinary practice
Support to businesses (for employment)	3.16	Ordinary practice
Peace and order	3.28	Excellent practice
Protection of life and dignity of person	3.19	Ordinary practice
Mean	3.1	Ordinary practice

The notion of good governance seemed to describe the need for a government to create an effective and efficient market founded on competition which will spawn to economic development. But characteristically, the primacy of peace and order which is a by-product of rule of law is a semblance of international echo that rule of law is the solid foundation of peace (US FedNews Service, 2013). As a result, good governance can be thoroughly be felt under conditions of rule of law, maintaining peace, and social cohesion (The Statesman, 2002). Without rule of law, the State is made weak and would fail in ensuring human security (Rotberg, 2002).

There is a good claim to peace and order as indication of good governance. Haggard, MacIntyre & Tiede (2008) described the causal relationship of security and property rights and business activity. Property rights encourage investment and trade which are fundamentals of growth. However, effective governance is not independent of the forms of politics which can generate, sustain and protect it (Leftwich, 1994) which political structure is self-sustaining in Davao.

Further, one interesting finding of notion of good governance is the health support which received lowest impression. This perhaps is a similar perspective that Farag et al., (2013) found in their review of health care spending. Most of the citizens of developing countries understand health services as caring than curing. To them, there is no observed noticeable impact in the curing effect of health services. Perhaps, the Dabawenyos are taking health services as an ordinary caring institution that signified a low, negligible curing role.

*Leadership and good governance*

As Leftwich (1994) defined that a competent, open and fair administration is a fundamental ingredient to development by continuously promoting good governance, the Dabawenyos were also asked of the various government and private leadership functionaries that stimulate good governance. Table 4 reveals that there are only few leaders who profess it. Surprisingly, political leadership overtook church leadership in effective display transparent use of resources of the public. This is an indication of trust of the Dabawenyos on the local leadership. A good perspective of this viewpoint is the turning-over of power of the society to the authorities; the relationship of citizens to government is trust and not a contract (Hardin, 1998). The citizens defer power to authorities with the expectations that leaders have the ability to function effectively.

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Table 4 Leadership and good governance

Indicators	Mean	Description
Dedicated political leaders	2.93	Few of them
Barangay leaders with integrity	2.83	Few of them
City councilors with integrity	2.82	Few of them
City government employees with integrity	2.77	Few of them
Church leaders and leaders of organizations with integrity	2.88	Few of them
Mean	2.85	Few of them

*Structures of good governance*

The business of developing reliable and effective social institutions can be simultaneously initiated in the various sectors of the society; it may take form in government reforms, advocacy groups, business industry (Reif, 2000) and even in family (Weiss, 2000). This study tried to figure out how the various

sectors play roles in achieving, and if achieved, sustaining the good governance in the purview of the Dabawenyos as electorate who holds power to change.

Table 5 reveals that the most influential in building democratic institutions is the mass media (mean=3.28) and the church (mean=3.26). The media is a recognized bulwark against an oppressive State against weak citizens and is also a successful agent in telling readers what to think (Godfred, 2009). In the Philippines, there are accounts where mass media can interact effectively with religious mediation (De, 2009). Perhaps, this nexus of mass media and church to instill good governance germinate from the sociological perspective of religious secularization and the proliferation of the religious television (Mason, 1996).

Table 5 Structures of good governance

Source	Mean	Description
Nurture of family	3.18	Strongly believed
Management of communities	3.08	Strongly believed
Church commitment	3.26	Very strongly believed
Workplace commitment	3.17	Strongly believed
Tri-media (worthy and truthful)	3.28	Very strongly believed
Youth development	3.17	Strongly believed
Mean	3.19	Strongly believed

*Simulation of good governance orientation*

Table 6 presents the results of the regression technique using stepwise analysis. It was found that of the socio-economic-demographic characteristics (age, sex, position in the household, income, size of household and number of family members above 18 years old); only two predictors were found to show statistical influence. The two variables are household size and income, both show positive relationship with good governance. There seemed to be interlinking between the deference of the public to authorities and the expanding nature of the authorities as it grows; people enjoy growth effects as political structures grow. It is assumed that the economic development effect flourishes in as a result of good governance resulting from the rule of law. And as this happens, the leaders come to integrate forms of power (Werlin, 2003). The integration of soft and hard forms of power start to decentralize without losing control and influence, and in ways that affect behavior with greater efficacy and width.

It was also found that family size has something to do with good governance orientation; a bigger family seemed to have higher likelihood of good governance orientation. This finding can be taken on the light of corporate governance. A corporation that is family-owned usually has bias towards insiders (Navarro & Anson, 2009) as they are the citizens of their own organization. The parallelism can be extended; a bigger family tends to have higher rates of participation because they have high stakes in their own government in the forms of social security services.

Table 6 Model simulation of good governance perception

Predictors	Model	
	1	2
Household size	0.07	0.07
	0.02	0.02
Income		0.09
		0.03
Constant	2.79	2.64
	0.08	0.09
R-squared	0.04	0.07
Adjusted R-squared	0.04	0.07
Standard Error of Estimate	0.50	0.49

Further exploration revealed that model 2 is a better model fit compared to model 1. As a result, the final model is given as:

$$good\_governance = 2.64 + 0.07Hsize + 0.09Income \quad [eq. 1]$$

Table 7 reveals a simulation of the strength of likelihood of an individual's orientation to good governance characterized by the income and size of the household. Simulation shows that if a household is small and earning a very low income, it will likely have an average orientation to good governance notions, a good governance index of 2.87. Simulation 7 presents simulation of a small family with a middle class income of Php20000. The governance orientation is likely to be high with a governance index of 4.16.

Simulation 8 describes an average family size and an income of Php20000 as having a high degree of good governance orientation as a matter of management notion. Thus, bigger household has bigger stake in the government. In the same manner, individuals who are earning higher income tend to participate in the democratic and governance processes of the local government.

Table 7 Simulation to determine likelihood of orientation to good governance

No.	Simulation	Consta	Househ	Incom	good governan ce index	Description
		nt	old size	e		
		2.64	0.07	0.09		
1	Size=2; Income=below 3k	2.64	0.14	0.09	2.87	Average orientation to good governance
2	Size=3; Income=Php4k-6k	2.64	0.21	0.18	3.03	Average orientation to good governance
3	Size=5; Income=below 3k	2.64	0.34	0.09	3.08	Average orientation to good governance
4	Size=5;Income=7k-10k	2.64	0.34	0.28	3.26	High level of orientation to good governance
5	Size=5; Income=9k-15k	2.64	0.34	0.37	3.35	High level of orientation to good

						governance
6	Size=2; Income=16k-19K	2.64	0.14	0.46	3.24	Average orientation to good governance
7	Size=2;Income=20K	2.64	0.41	1.11	4.16	High level of orientation to good governance
8	Size=5;Income=20K	2.64	2.06	0.28	4.98	High level of orientation to good governance

### CONCLUSION

It is interesting to note that though good governance is largely a model-country specific in its origin which faces large issue of transferability to developing countries, most of the Dabawenyos concoct good governance as rule of law and market efficiency. Rule of law is bedrock to achieve economic growth. There could hardly be trade and investment activities without peace and order. Further, the good governance perspective of the Dabawenyos is more of political leadership than people participation. People tend to defer authorities because of their trust on their leaders. This trust on the government is a result of effective and efficient government; the government able to make families live in harmony and enjoy industry of their business. As the relationship continues, leaders integrate soft and hard forms of power which expanded authority through delegation of powers without losing control. This is known as the rubber band effect of good governance leadership which made wider and bigger impact on the public.

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