



Survey the role of good governance in managing the water crisis of the Zayandeh Rood river

Elham Khosravipour

M.A in Human Resource Management, Azad University of Shushtar, Khuzestan, Iran.

*Corresponding Author email: khosravipour1400@gmail.com

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Extended Abstract

Introduction

Water is one of the most critical resources for life, playing a vital role in drinking, agriculture, industry, and socio-economic and political security. However, many countries, including Iran, face significant challenges in water resource management. In Iran, water scarcity has become a critical issue, affecting various sectors such as agriculture, economy, and the environment. The Zayandeh River, a vital water source in central Iran, has experienced severe water shortages, leading to social, economic, and environmental crises. This study explores the role of good governance in managing the water crisis of the Zayandeh River, emphasizing the need for a fundamental shift in water resource management practices. The research aims to highlight how good governance principles can address the water crisis and ensure sustainable water management in the region.

Materials and Method

This study adopts a review-based approach, utilizing library and online resources to analyze the water crisis in the Zayandeh River basin. The research focuses on the principles of good governance, including transparency, accountability, participation, and rule of law, and their application in water resource management. The study examines historical and contemporary water management practices in the Zayandeh River basin, identifying the shortcomings of the current governance system. Data from government reports, academic studies, and international organizations are used to evaluate the effectiveness of governance practices in addressing the water crisis. The study also explores case studies from other regions where good governance principles have been successfully applied to water management.

Results and Discussion

The findings reveal that the water crisis in the Zayandeh River basin is exacerbated by poor governance practices, including centralized decision-making, lack of transparency, and insufficient stakeholder participation. The current governance system has failed to address the increasing gap between water supply and demand, leading to the river's frequent drying and severe socio-economic consequences. The study identifies key governance principles that could mitigate the crisis, such as decentralized decision-making, enhanced stakeholder engagement, and improved accountability mechanisms. Case studies from other regions demonstrate that good governance practices, such as participatory water management and transparent resource allocation, have



successfully addressed similar water crises. The research concludes that adopting good governance principles in the Zayandeh River basin could lead to more sustainable water management and alleviate the socio-economic impacts of the water crisis.

Conclusion

The water crisis in the Zayandeh River basin is a complex issue that requires a fundamental shift in governance practices. The study highlights the importance of good governance principles, such as transparency, accountability, and stakeholder participation, in addressing the crisis. By adopting these principles, the Zayandeh River basin can achieve more sustainable water management, ensuring the equitable distribution of water resources and mitigating the socio-economic impacts of water scarcity. The research underscores the need for a collaborative approach involving government agencies, local communities, and other stakeholders to implement effective water governance practices. Future studies should focus on developing practical frameworks for applying good governance principles in water resource management, particularly in regions facing similar challenges.

Keywords: Zayandeh Rood, Isfahan, Water crisis, Water governance

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