



## Analysis of the Trend and Determinants of Governance Quality in Tanzania from 1990-2021

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### ABSTRACT

*The present study aimed to examine the factors that influenced governance quality in Tanzania and analyze their potential implications for policy formulation and socio-economic development. This study employed a time series approach to investigate the associations between multiple variables, such as gross fixed capital formation, foreign direct investment, trade openness, GDP per capita growth, and agricultural exports, and governance outcomes. The results indicated that GDP per capita and trade openness positively influenced governance quality, while gross fixed capital formation had a negative influence due to its concentration in traditional sectors, which limited new advancements that could enhance governance quality. This study offered significant insights for policymakers and stakeholders in Tanzania. It recommended the implementation of comprehensive strategies that facilitated the improvement of trade openness and diversity of capital accumulation towards higher productive sectors to promote economic development and efficient governance practices. Through the improvement of governance quality, Tanzania had the potential to promote sustainable development, enhance the delivery of services, and augment the overall well-being of its populace.*

**Keywords:** Corruption, Development, Governance, Poverty, Rule of Law

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### I. INTRODUCTION

The quality of governance plays a crucial role in determining the direction of a nation's development and its level of prosperity. According to the World Bank (1991), the term "governance" refers to the comprehensive framework of systems, institutions, and processes that facilitate the exercise of power, management of resources, and decision-making to attain collective objectives. The significance of effective governance in Tanzania has been widely acknowledged as a fundamental catalyst for both economic advancement and social progress. Multiple studies have provided evidence of a positive correlation between the quality of governance and various outcomes related to development (Kaufmann et al., 2010; Emara, 2016). Notwithstanding the endeavors made to foster sound governance, Tanzania continues to encounter obstacles in attaining desirable governance outcomes, such as the prevalence of corruption, inefficiencies associated with the bureaucracy, and deficiencies in public service provision (Fufa, 2017; Dimoso & Andrew, 2021).

The National Framework for Good Governance (NFGG) was developed in Tanzania in 1999 to improve governance practices and optimize resource management to enhance the quality of life (Kitole, 2023; Ferrini, 2012; Kitole et al., 2022b). The NFGG places significant emphasis on fundamental principles of effective governance, including the active involvement of citizens, adherence to constitutional norms, the establishment of a robust legal framework, the promotion of gender equality, fostering transparency, ensuring accountability, and enhancing the capacity of public service institutions. The Tanzanian government has introduced a range of governance reform initiatives, such as the Public Service Reform Programme (PSRP), Local Government Reform Programme (LGRP), Legal Sector Reform Programme (LSRP), and Public Financial Management Reform Programme (PFMRP), to tackle governance issues and enhance the provision of services (Kitole et al., 2022c).

Numerous scholarly inquiries have been conducted to investigate the correlation between governance and economic performance in Tanzania. However, there exists a requirement for a further extensive investigation that delves into the various facets of governance and their distinct influence on economic growth (Fumbwe et al., 2021; Kitole et al., 2023a). Previous research has predominantly concentrated on distinct facets of governance, such as corruption or public expenditure, thereby constraining our comprehension of the comprehensive governance framework and its consequences for development results. In addition, it is worth noting that prior research frequently combined data from various countries, potentially overlooking the distinctive governance context and specific challenges encountered in Tanzania (Ferrini, 2012; Kitole et al., 2022a).

The primary objective of this study is to address the existing research deficiencies by undertaking a comprehensive investigation into the trajectory and factors influencing governance quality in Tanzania. This study aims to gain a comprehensive understanding of the relationship between governance quality and various economic



factors in Tanzania. To achieve this, a time series analysis will be conducted using data from Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) and national statistical databases.

This research aims to contribute to the current body of literature on governance and development in Tanzania by examining the distinct factors that influence governance quality. The study's results will offer evidence-based suggestions for policymakers and stakeholders to improve economic policies to reinforce governance practices and institutional frameworks and promote sustainable economic growth. Additionally, this study aims to make a significant contribution to the wider academic debate surrounding governance and development in sub-Saharan Africa. It will offer valuable insights that can inform the decision-making processes of policymakers and researchers operating in similar socio-political environments.

## II. THEORETICAL FOUNDATION

The current study is based on the New Public Management (NPM) Theory, which recognizes the change from traditional government models to a "structural society" marked by the use of multi-organizational structures to provide services (Hjern & Porter, 1981). In this particular context, governance assumes a pivotal role. The scope of governance surpasses the notion of government and encompasses the various mechanisms and processes by which society is governed (Stoker, 1998). The statement underscores the increasing overlap between the public and private sectors and draws attention to the adoption of alternative methods such as franchising, contracting, and novel regulatory strategies (Stoker, 1998). This study examines the quality of governance in Tanzania, with a specific emphasis on comprehending the trajectory and factors influencing governance within a defined timeframe. Six indicators of governance, including voice and accountability, political stability, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law, and control of corruption, sourced from the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI), are used to provide insights into the governance situation in Tanzania and its implications for the country's development. This study aims to investigate how governance can be improved to facilitate effective service delivery and address the challenges encountered by the Tanzanian government by incorporating the New Public Management (NPM) perspective, which emphasizes efficient and market-oriented management practices.

## III. METHOD AND DATA

This study employed a quantitative research design which aimed to thoroughly examine the patterns and factors influencing the quality of governance in Tanzania over the period from 1996 to 2021. The utilization of this design facilitated a comprehensive examination of the data, thereby ensuring the dependability and accuracy of the results (Kitole et al., 2022c; Kitole & Utouh, 2023; Kitole et al., 2023c). The analysis relied on secondary data as the primary source of information. The utilization of secondary data is motivated by several advantages it provides, such as its extensive accessibility from various sources and its lack of manipulation or bias in its collection. The study obtained data from reliable institutions and databases, including the World Bank's Development Indicators website and the Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics. Through the integration of data from various sources, a thorough evaluation of governance quality was attained, facilitating a comprehensive analysis of the factors that impact governance dynamics in Tanzania during the designated timeframe. The study area has been shown in Figure 1, while the variables used are illustrated in Table 1.

**Table 1**  
*Description of Variables Used in the Study*

Variable	Code	Description
GDP per capita growth	gdpcap	The growth rate of real GDP per capita
Rule of Law	RUL	Looked at judicial independence
Government effectiveness	GOVEF	Administrative burden and efficiency of the management system
Regulatory quality	REGQUAL	Government effectiveness in carrying out policy
Voice and accountability	VOA	Freedom of the press, budget transparency
Political stability/No violence	POSV	Political Stability and Absence of Violence
Corruption	COR	Looked at the level of control of corruption,
Gross Fixed Capital Formation	GFCF	Gross Fixed Capital Formation as a % of GDP
Foreign Direct Investment	FDI	The inflow of Foreign Direct Investment in % of GDP
Trade openness	trade	Trade as a share of GDP
Agricultural exports	agrexports	Share of agricultural exports in merchandise exports

**Figure 1**  
*Map of Tanzania*



**3.1 Model Specification**

The model specification for the determinants of quality governance is presented hereunder:

General function:

$$Y = Q_0 + Q_1X_1 + Q_2X_2 + Q_3X_3 + Q_4X_4 \dots \dots + Q_nX_n + s_t \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

In this study, the following factors are considered potential indicators of governance quality: political stability (no violence), rule of law, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, voice and accountability, and control of corruption. Each of these indicators is measured in standard normal distribution units with values from -2.5 to 2.5; low



values indicate poor governance. The factors were also used by other governance studies (Udah & Ndiyo, 2014; Kitole et al., 2023d; Yusuff, 2018). These indicators start from 1996 to 2021, and they are used to construct an aggregate governance quality index using principal component analysis (PCA).

We follow the approach of Grabowski and Self (2020a) and argue that economic policy influences the degree of structural change in the economy, capital accumulation, and ultimately the functioning of the institutions and the overall quality of governance. Therefore, governance quality evolves gradually over time as a result of different policies. Social, political, and cultural factors also influence governance quality (Al-Marhubi, 2004a). However, this study considers the following potential economic determinants of governance quality: gross fixed capital formation (% of GDP), foreign direct investment, net inflows (% of GDP), GDP per capita growth (annual%), trade (% of GDP), and agricultural raw material exports (% of merchandise exports). These data range from 1990 to 2021 to include the period of comprehensive structural policy changes in Tanzanian history. For each independent variable, a seven-year moving average is used in the analysis to account for the slow and evolutionary effect of economic policies affecting these variables.

It is argued that poor governance quality is associated with low levels of development and vice versa (Al-Marhubi, 2004). In this study, GDP per capita is used as a proxy for economic development. Agricultural raw material exports are used to measure natural resource abundance and are hypothesized to be associated with weak governance due to corruption. The effect of this variable is, however, ambiguous in the literature (Al-Marhubi, 2004). Foreign direct investment inflows can improve or alter governance quality depending on whether they result in the strengthening of domestic institutions or not (Grabowski & Self, 2020a). Trade as a percentage of GDP is likely to improve governance quality since it results in new entrepreneurial opportunities that may alter the institution's structure. However, if the trade is focused on traditional sectors and is less diversified, a more protectionist approach to domestic entrepreneurs may alter the institution's structure and hamper governance quality (Grabowski and Self, 2020b). Additionally, a larger share of trade in GDP implies a country is more open to international markets and competition and therefore is susceptible to less corruption, which results in better governance quality (Al-Marhubi, 2004a). Gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) can have a positive or negative effect on governance quality, depending on the institutional changes accompanied. An improvement in governance quality can occur if the accumulation of GFCF creates new opportunities for sectoral growth and alters the economy's structure. However, if the accumulation of GFCF occurs in traditional sectors that necessitate institutional entrepreneurs seeking greater protection, GFCF may lead to poor governance.

The econometric model used in the study is adopted from Abas (2015) and modified accordingly to fit this study. Thus, the following equation is used:

$$GQ_t = Q_0 + Q_1GFCF + Q_2FDI + Q_3Trade + Q_4AgrExp + Q_5GDPPC + \epsilon_t \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

Before presenting the main results of the study, we first perform a unit root test to check the stationarity of all variables. The Augmented Dickey-Fuller test (ADF) and the Phillip Perron (pperron) test are used to test for variables' stationarity at the level and first difference. The significant p-value indicates that the variable is stationary at the level of the first difference. Before performing a unit root test, the variables are plotted against time to check whether the variation increases with the level of the series (the variance is not stable) and therefore requires log transformation. Based on the results, three variables - GDP per capita, FDI, and agricultural exports - are found to be more appropriately modeled in logs than levels, and thus a natural logarithm transformation is done.

A vector autoregressive model (VAR) is used to analyze the potential determinants of governance quality. Since governance quality evolves, respective determinants are also assumed to impact governance quality in a slow, evolutionary motion. The VAR model, which includes the past lags of the dependent variable and the past lags of explanatory variables, is thus chosen as an appropriate technique for modeling the determinants of governance quality.

#### IV. RESULTS

The summary statistics of six indicators of governance quality in Tanzania are presented in Table 2. All indicators have a negative average score, implying poor governance quality in Tanzania. Government efficiency and control of corruption are the worst-performing indicators, while political stability and the absence of violence are the better-performing indicators, with a maximum positive score of 0.09. Summary statistics of explanatory variables for the study period are presented in Table 3. GDP per capita growth and FDI inflows as a percentage of GDP recorded



the lowest mean values of 2.13 and 2.53 percent, respectively. Trade as a share of GDP recorded a higher average value during the study period, amounting to 41.72 percent of GDP.

**Table 2**

*Summary Statistics of the Governance Quality Variables*

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. dev.	Min	Max
VOA	26	-0.3634	0.1889	-0.7318	-0.1309
POSV	26	-0.4046	0.2424	-0.8555	0.0892
GOVEF	26	-0.6035	0.1018	-0.8323	-0.4235
REGQUAL	26	-0.4947	0.0988	-0.6739	-0.3533
RUL	26	-0.3960	0.1204	-0.5880	-0.1663
COR	26	-0.5974	0.1867	-0.8409	-0.2286

VOA-Voice and Accountability; POSV –Political stability/No violence; GOVEF- Government effectiveness; REGQUAL- Regulatory Quality; RUL- Rule of Law; COR- Control of corruption

**Table 3**

*Summary Statistics of the Explanatory Variables Used*

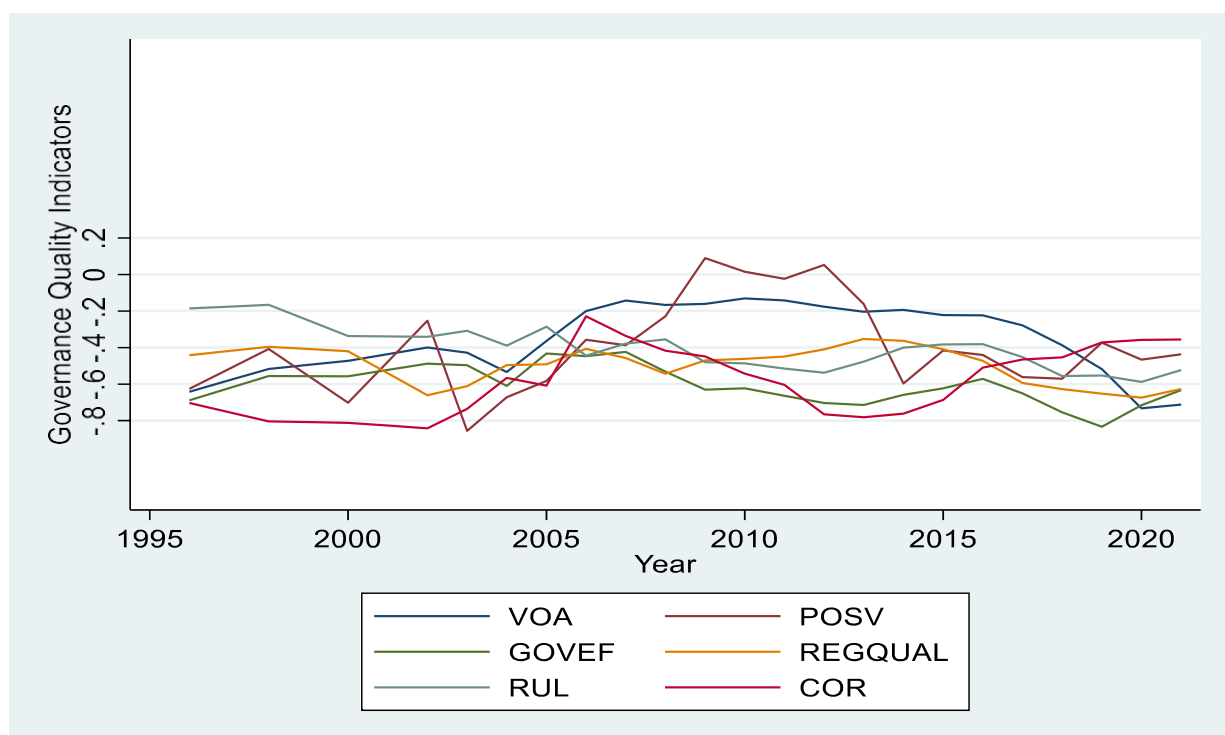
Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. dev.	Min	Max
GFCF	32	28.64	7.65	14.72	42.63
FDI	32	2.53	1.50	0.00	5.66
trade	32	41.72	12.11	23.98	65.69
agrexports	32	21.39	30.20	1.25	109.73
gdpcap	32	2.13	2.00	-2.30	4.65

GFCF-Gross fixed capital formation; FDI- Foreign direct investment inflows; agrexports-agricultural exports; gdpcap- GDP per capita

Figure 2 illustrates the trend of governance quality in Tanzania from 1996 to 2021. The data reveals the scores for various indicators of governance quality over time.

**Figure 2**

*Trend of the Governance Quality in Tanzania from 1996 to 2021*





As shown in Figure 2, of all the indicators in 1996, the Rule of Law score stood at -0.19, indicating a relatively strong legal framework and enforcement, while the Control of Corruption score was the lowest at -0.70, suggesting the presence of pervasive corrupt practices. The government effectiveness score in 1996 was -0.69, almost similar to the control of corruption score, indicating administrative inefficiencies. Other indicator scores ranged between -0.19 and -0.70, with the scores of voice, accountability, and political stability being almost similar.

Over the years, there have been fluctuations in these indicators. By 2021, significant improvements were observed in various areas. The control of corruption score improved to -0.36 (equivalent to a 48.9 percent increase in the score), indicating successful anti-corruption efforts. Political stability improved from -0.63 to -0.44 (equivalent to a 30.2 percent improvement), and the government effectiveness score improved slightly to -0.63 (only an 8.9 percent improvement in the score). The scores on other indicators deteriorated over time. In 2021, the rule of law score recorded a major decline of 173 percent, while regulatory quality, voice, and accountability decreased by 43.2 percent and 10.9 percent, respectively. These trends highlight the dynamic nature of governance quality in Tanzania and the need for continuous efforts to address economic policy challenges to attain positive trajectories.

Table 4 presents the results of the unit root tests, specifically the Augmented Dickey-Fuller and PP tests, conducted at the level of variables (without any difference) and their first difference. The findings suggest that, except per capita GDP (lgdpcap) and FDI (IFDI), all variables exhibit non-stationarity in their levels but demonstrate stationarity when differenced.

**Table 4**  
*Unit Root Test Results*

		Augmented Dickey-Fuller, ADF, and Phillip Perron, (pperron) tests			
		At level		At first difference	
Variable	Type of equation	ADF(p-value)	pperron (p-value)	ADF(p-value)	pperron (p-value)
Quality governance index	Constant	0.5298	0.1326	0.0000**	0.0000**
	Constant and trend	0.8569	0.4309	0.0000**	0.0000**
GFCF	Constant	0.8993	0.9075	0.0000**	0.0000**
	Constant and trend	0.3198	0.4598	0.0001**	0.0001**
trade	Constant	0.0125**	0.3761	0.1112	0.0045**
	Constant and trend	0.1105	0.638	0.3334	0.0260**
IFDI	Constant	0.0000**	0.0000**		
	Constant and trend	0.0000**	0.0005**		
lgdpcap	Constant	0.0000**	0.0000**		
	Constant and trend	0.0000**	0.0000**		
lagreexports	Constant	0.0859	0.22	0.0000**	0.0000**
	Constant and trend	0.4511	0.9002	0.0000**	0.0000**

**Note:** The asterisks \*\*\*, \*\*, and \* denote significance levels at 1%, 5%, and 10%, respectively for the ADF and PP test of unit root. The null hypothesis is that the series are non-stationary

The appropriate lag length for the VAR model was chosen based on Akaike information criteria. After model estimation, the post-estimation diagnostic tests conducted satisfied the conditions of no autocorrelation, normality, and model stability, implying the results presented are robust to empirical specification.

**Table 5***Determinants of the Governance Quality in Tanzania*

	gov qualityindex (1)	VOA(2)	POSV(3)	GOVEF(4)	REGQUAL(5)	RUL (6)	COR (7)
dep variable lag	0.185	0.670**	0.013	0.114	0.069	0.185	0.446
	(0.225)	(0.279)	(0.263)	(0.216)	(0.214)	(0.225)	(0.293)
GFCF	-0.071**	0.003	0.024*	0.001	-0.004	-0.009**	0.011
	(0.032)	(0.005)	(0.013)	(0.005)	(0.005)	(0.004)	(0.012)
lnFDI	-0.263	0.076	0.114	0.028	-0.008	-0.032	-0.074
	(0.337)	(0.065)	(0.156)	(0.052)	(0.047)	(0.040)	(0.097)
lngdpcap	0.035	0.1442**	0.038	0.065	0.026	0.004	0.137
	(0.294)	(0.057)	(0.133)	(0.052)	(0.044)	(0.035)	(0.085)
trade	0.022	0.003	0.005	-0.003	0.0073***	0.003	-0.006
	(0.014)	(0.003)	(0.007)	(0.002)	(0.002)	(0.002)	(0.004)
lnagrexports	0.122	0.132	0.211	0.098	0.022	0.015	0.034
	(0.384)	(0.079)	(0.165)	(0.059)	(0.054)	(0.045)	(0.125)

**Note:** The asterisks \*\*\*, \*\*, and \* denote significance levels at 1%, 5%, and 10%, respectively. Standard errors are in parenthesis. VOA-Voice and Accountability; POSV –Political stability/No violence; GOVEF- Government effectiveness; REGQUAL- Regulatory Quality; RUL- Rule of Law; COR- Control of corruption; GFCF- Gross fixed capital formation; FDI- Foreign direct investment; agrexports- agricultural exports; gdpcap- GDP per capita

Table 5 presents the findings of the study, with the government quality index as the dependent variable in the first column and individual indicators of governance as dependent variables in subsequent columns. Among the studied variables, gross fixed capital formation (GFCF), measured as a percentage of GDP, has a significant negative effect on the overall governance quality (column 2) and rule of law (column 6). A unit increase in GFCF reduces governance quality by 7.1 percent and the rule of law by 0.9 percent; other factors remain unchanged. The negative and significant effect of GFCF on the overall governance quality and rule of law found in this study is consistent with empirical studies in sub-Saharan Africa such as Grabowski and Self (2020a). GFCF has recorded an increasing trend in Tanzania since the 1990s. However, this capital, which is used for investment purposes, is concentrated in a few sectors, with more than 60 percent allocated to buildings and structures (The United Republic of Tanzania [URT], 2021). Therefore, GFCF growth has just resulted in the promotion of growth in already existing sectors in Tanzania and has a minimum impact on the creation of new economic opportunities, which could enhance governance quality. However, a positive effect of GFCF on political stability can be explained by the fact that Tanzania has succeeded in maintaining a politically stable nation over the years, implying that investment policies that enhance economic growth foster even more political stability in the country. As Haque et al. (2007) pointed out, capital accumulation and peacebuilding, or the absence of violence, are positively correlated.

GDP per capita and trade reveal expected signs, although they do not significantly determine governance quality. This implies that the government should devise policies to promote a higher level of economic development and trade openness in Tanzania to influence the significant improvement of governance quality.

The second column shows that the lagged value of voice and accountability (VOA) and GDP per capita have a significant positive effect on voice and accountability. A higher previous VOA score increases the current year's VOA score by 67 percent, whereas a percent increase in GDP per capita growth as a proxy of economic development increases VOA by 14.4 percent, *ceteris paribus*. The positive effect of economic development on governance quality, particularly voice and accountability, is consistent with empirical literature (Aliyev and Gasimov, 2018; Al-Marhubi, 2004b; Beschel et al., 2023; Emara and Jhonsa, 2014). Policies associated with other variables do not significantly influence voice and accountability in Tanzania.

Trade has a significant positive effect on regulatory quality (column 5). A unit increase in the trade share as a percentage of GDP increases the regulatory quality score by 0.7 percent. This finding seems plausible because increased trade opens the economy to competition and structural change, such as moving productive capacity up the value chain. This necessitates effective policies to regulate the business environment to improve efficiency. Lehne et



al. (2014) found that economic openness facilitates the improvement of economic institutions, and de Groot et al. (2005) found that more trade tends to coincide with the quality of formal institutions and regulatory quality.

All of the studied variables are not potential determinants of government effectiveness (column 4) or control of corruption (column 7). Therefore, we cannot draw any meaningful conclusions about the economic determinants of government effectiveness and control of corruption.

## V. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.1 Conclusions

This study focused on investigating the determinants of governance quality in Tanzania from 1990 to 2021. The results highlighted several key determinants that significantly impact governance quality. Specifically, factors such as gross fixed capital formation, GDP per capita growth rate, and trade openness demonstrated substantial influence on governance quality indicators. However, foreign direct investment and the share of agricultural exports in merchandise exports, which serves as a measure of natural resource abundance, were found to lack significance in determining governance quality.

Despite achieving noteworthy progress in various aspects of economic development, Tanzania has consistently exhibited negative governance quality scores since 1996. This persistent negativity suggests a low level of governance quality within the country. Root causes include corruption, ineffective rule of law systems, deficient government effectiveness, and subpar regulatory quality. These issues contribute to administrative inefficiencies, bureaucracy, and transparency deficiencies in governance systems, ultimately impacting economic competitiveness, growth, and overall development.

### 5.2 Recommendations

The findings of this study have significant implications for policymakers and stakeholders in Tanzania. To elevate governance quality, the government must implement strategic policies that accelerate economic development, promote increased trade, and encourage diversification of investments into high-tech industries and service sectors. Combatting corruption through stringent measures, streamlining bureaucratic processes with digital solutions, and fostering peace and stability are paramount actions to enhance governance quality.

Furthermore, the study underscores the importance of continuous assessment of governance indicators to track progress and identify opportunities for improvement. Regular evaluations of governance quality provide valuable insights for resource allocation, policy formulation, and capacity-building initiatives. Policymakers should adopt multifaceted approaches to enhance governance quality, recognizing the intricate interplay of socioeconomic, cultural, and political factors that influence governance outcomes.

The complexity of these relationships emphasizes the need for comprehensive strategies that holistically address these interconnected elements. Thus, policymakers are advised to embrace a comprehensive and inclusive approach to governance reform. Future research endeavors should delve deeper into understanding the intricate interactions between socioeconomic, cultural, and political determinants of governance quality, further enriching our comprehension of this complex landscape.

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