

Social Sciences Spectrum

A Double-Blind, Peer-Reviewed, HEC recognized [Y-category](#) Research Journal

E-ISSN: [3006-0427](#) P-ISSN: [3006-0419](#)

Volume 05 Issue 04, 2026

Web link: <https://socialsciencespectrum.com/index.php/sss>



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A Semi Systematic Assessment of Literature on Governance, Bureaucracy and Institutions

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Article Information [YY-MM-DD]

Received	2026-08-01	Revised	2026-09-04	Accepted	2026-10-01
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Citation (APA):

Waheed, H & Hussain, S (2026). A semi-systematic assessment of literature on governance, bureaucracy and institutions. *Social Sciences Spectrum*, 5(4), 12-50. <https://doi.org/10.71085/sss.05.04.603>

Abstract

Governance is considered to be the backbone of the modern day growth paradigm. In many nations, the desired target of economic well-being has been achieved successfully by adopting proficient governance policies. In past couple of decades an adequate level of research has been done on governance and its related themes. In this research paper the semi systematic literature analysis has been done to see the progress in the field of governance. In this regard the research domain of the concept of governance and the prospects of the future research has been explored. The semi systematic review has been done by focusing on the literature published from the year 1999 to 2025. The findings conclude that bureaucracy is vital parameter of governance and it needs to be explored, and more research needs to be done to oversee the interaction between governance and its related themes i.e. institutions, bureaucracy, corruption and growth. Furthermore, niche outcomes like well-being, development, entrepreneurship and regional dynamics are also integral part of governance related literature, and mandatory for the economic prosperity.

Keywords: Governance Framework, Bureaucracy, Institutional Quality, Semi Systematic Analysis, Development.

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1. Introduction

The governance itself is an evolving concept. The traditional idea of governance only focuses on the development and following the set of rules and regulations under a set regulatory framework (Meier and O'Toole, 2006; Bashar and Ngo, 2023). With the passage of time it has been explored that the implementation of the policies is also an integral part of the governance framework and the role of authorities or in other words the role of bureaucracy is pivotal. The historical analogy of the governance is linked with government activities and political thoughts (Patterson, Schulz, Vervoort, Van Der Hel, Widerberg, Adler, and Barau, 2017; Karamalla-Gaiballa, 2025). The role of state is vital as it set the rules and then implements these rules through its authoritative setup (Painter, 2017).

The modern economic thought has also made a significant impact on the governance framework. According to the modern theory, the term state covers the government and its administrative authority (Wijaya, S.O and Wijaya, S, 2025). Hence the term governance consists of two things at large, one is government and its policies, secondly the organization or the hierarchy of the administration, which ensures the effective and efficient implementation of the policies (Mayntz, 2003; Kryshchanovych, Tanashchuk, Kupchak, Zorya and Fatiukha, 2024). This further explains the importance of the administration or bureaucracy. Another development in this regard is the amalgamation between the governance and institutional framework, as on the structural side both governance and institutions are look alike, but practically governance is vital for the sake of execution, whereas the institution provides the specific rules and regulations which must be followed in the process of execution (Andersson, 2006).

This elaborates that the concept of governance evolved around couple of ideas. These ideas include the rules and regulation, which helps the executive to implement the policy, the role of institutions which works as a separate body but at the same time vital for the sake of policy implementation and lastly the executive itself in form of bureaucracy as an implementation authority (Palumbo, 2010; Saputra, Ferriswara, Albab and Kamariyah, 2025).

The concept of governance has been discussed with the help of certain other collaborating aspects which in one way or another are related to the governance. In this article an attempt has been made to connect these aspects with governance, so that their enhanced role in promoting governance can be determined.

1.2 Research Questions

An effort has been made to oversee the evolution of the concept of governance, in the last two decades, or in the twenty first century. Furthermore, the collaboration of governance and institutions has also been explored. Another important aspect which has been seen in this study is the current pattern of research with reference to the concept of governance, as bureaucracy has been emerged as one of the key parameter of the governance in last couple of years. In light of this discussion the following research questions have been addressed in this research study.

- a)** What is the research domain of the concept of governance?
- b)** How many themes are linked with the concept of governance?
- c)** What are the future prospects of the research in the field of governance?

2. Theoretical Framework

The following schematic framework helps us to understand the governance framework as explained by various governance theorists. The governance itself is a larger concept as it covers all the related and relevant parameters of the administrative and implementation system, which are necessary to run the socioeconomic system efficiently. The word system here has been used with respect to socio-economic, political and administrative frameworks of any respective nation. The combination of these systems is not only vital for the prosperity of the economic system, but at the same time it also helps in attaining the desired target of economic growth. The graphical explanation of this governance framework has been illustrated here with Figure 1.

Figure 1: (*Governance and its Allied Framework*)



Source: *Authors Own Idea*

The concept of governance has been evolved with the passage of time. It began from the colonialism, where colonial nations established systems to administratively run the captured nations (Bertocchi and Canova, 2002). The British and Spanish empires of that era played a major role in this regard. The colonial empires gave more importance to this type of administrative setup to run the system efficiently and strengthen their hold. From colonialism the world moves towards typical growth oriented governance mechanisms given by the economists like Ramsey, Solow and Swan, who advocated the convergence growth framework, which ensures that as the level of saving and investments increases in the country the nation slowly and gradually moves toward prosperous economic growth (Dowrick and Rogers, 2002).

This growth oriented governance agenda has been followed by modernization agenda and institutionalism, which focuses on the role of regulations and institutions. As per these it is vital for the nations to follow the liberalization agenda and give liberty to the markets to operate at their own, so that socioeconomic sovereignty can be achieved (Gissy, 2008). The institutions are critical

to protect the rights of the producers and the consumers, and their efficient working will ensure the smooth working of the economy.

This led us to the pure governance framework, which is a mixture of established institutional working under the radar of set rules and regulations (Arruñada, 2020), with the help of proper administrative structure, known to us as bureaucracy. It is important for the countries to progress in the field of governance so that economic growth can take place and the circle of low level of economic growth can be broken. The modern day governance mechanisms rely on the Weberian bureaucracy which ensures the good governance to promote the economic growth.

3. Methodology

In this research study the semi systematic literature review has been done. This approach is particularly suited to interdisciplinary fields like governance studies, where research is diverse, conceptualizations evolve over time, and the aim is to map out the breadth of a topic rather than to answer a specific, narrow question with a definitive conclusion (Omazic and Zunk, 2021 and Wong et al., 2013). Unlike a systematic review, which follows a strict protocol to minimize bias for meta-analysis, a semi systematic review allows for a more flexible and inclusive synthesis of knowledge across a wide spectrum of literature, focusing on achieving a comprehensive overview and identifying overarching themes and research gaps.

3.1 Literature Search and Selection Strategy

The literature search has been conducted in four primary phases to ensure a comprehensive and transparent selection process, adhering to the principles outlined by (Tranfield, Denyer, and Smart, 2003). Database identification and search string formulation were performed in major academic databases, including Scopus, Web of Science, JSTOR, and Google Scholar, to capture a wide range of journals across economics, political science, public administration, and development studies. The core search string has been built using Boolean Operators (Lee, J. H., Kin, W. Y., Kim, M. H., & Lee, Y. J., 1993, July) to capture the key concepts.

3.1.1 Core Search String

The following core search string has been evaluated.

- ("good governance" OR "quality of governance") AND ("economic growth" OR "economic development" OR "economic well-being"). This core string has then adapted and combined with key terms for the sub-themes:
 - a) For Institutions: AND ("institution" OR "institutional quality")
 - b) For Bureaucracy: AND ("bureaucracy" OR "public administration" OR "administrative quality")
 - c) For Well-being: AND ("economic well-being")
 - d) For Growth: AND ("economic growth")

3.1.2 Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria (Screening)

The initial search, limited to titles, abstracts, and keywords, yielded over 150 publications from 1999 to 2025. This pool is subjected to the following criteria:

3.1.2.1 Inclusion Criteria

The inclusion criteria are as under:

- a) Peer-reviewed journal articles, books, research dissertations, book chapters, and working papers from reputable institutions (e.g., World Bank, ADB).
- b) Publications explicitly theorizing or empirically testing the relationship between governance (and its dimensions: institutions, bureaucracy) and economic outcomes.
- c) Studies focused on cross-country analysis or specific developing regions.

3.1.2.2 Exclusion Criteria

The exclusion criteria are as under:

- a) Articles focused solely on corporate governance.
- b) Studies not published in English.
- c) Editorials, book reviews, and non-academic commentaries.

3.1.3 Quality Assessment and Final Selection

The remaining articles underwent a full-text review to assess their relevance and rigor based on the pre-defined inclusion and exclusion criteria. This process ensured the selected literature directly contributed to understanding the core themes of governance, institutions, and bureaucracy. The semi systematic literature analysis is different than the systematic analysis. In case of semi systematic assessment, the key is to develop a link among the various research domains and more importantly it covers the most relevant research studies. The final sample of seventy-eight publications has been selected to represent a chronological and thematic spread of the most influential and relevant works in the field.

3.1.4 Data Extraction and Analytical Framework

Data has been extracted from the final sample into a structured matrix to facilitate thematic analysis. The extraction fields included: Author(s), Year of publication, Title, Journal/Source, Codes and Justification. The analysis followed a thematic synthesis approach (Vaismoradi, Turunen, & Bondas, 2013). This involved:

- a) **Familiarization:** Repeated reading of the articles to identify initial concepts.
- b) **Generation of Initial Codes:** Identifying and labeling key phrases and ideas related to the research questions (e.g., “governance” "bureaucracy," "institutions," "growth", "well-being", “corruption”).
- c) **Identification of Themes:** Collating codes into potential overarching themes. The five pre-defined themes Governance (as source of growth), Institutions, Bureaucracy, Well Being and Sustainability and contextual outcome has been used as primary categories, but the analysis remained open to emergent sub-themes.
- d) **Review of Themes:** Refining the themes to ensure they formed a coherent pattern and accurately represented the dataset. This process confirmed the centrality of the three main themes and highlighted the evolving nature of their interrelationships.

3.2 Coding Process

The process of coding has been done by dividing the researcher articles in certain categories. One or more than one codes have been assigned to the articles. The coding has been done on the basis title, source and content. The following broader contexts have been explored:

3.2.1 Core Concepts

The core division has been done on the following basis.

- a)** Governance
- b)** Institutions
- c)** Bureaucracy
- d)** Corruption

3.2.2 Outcomes

The outcomes explain the results of the implementation or effects of the core concepts in different circumstances. The basic outcomes are as under:

- a)** Growth
- b)** Well being
- c)** Sustainability
- d)** Finance

3.2.3 Context

Another base of division is the contexts. It focuses on the methodology, region or country specific details of the methodology. Various contexts are as under:

- a)** Context Specific
- b)** Theory
- c)** Review
- d)** Entrepreneurship

3.4 The Working of the Coding Process

- a)** The process of coding has been implied through NVIVO software. In this regard the procedure has been employed. Total seventy-eight articles have been reviewed, by focusing on the title, journal/publication and year.
- b)** The initial coding has been done by focusing on the core concepts, outcome and lastly the context.
- c)** In the end the coding has been perceived by multiple papers. Most of the papers perceived the multiple coding.
- d)** In the end the group coding has been done by combining articles under different themes.

3.4.1 Coding Keys

The following code keys have been used. The keys, codes and their names have been explained in Table 1.

Table 1: Coding Details

Category	Code	Code Name	Description
Core Concept	GOV	Governance	Broader discussion of governance mechanisms, quality, and effectiveness.
Core Concept	INST	Institutions	Focus on formal and informal rules, laws, and organizations.
Core Concept	BUR	Bureaucracy	Focus on the public administration's structure, quality, and performance.
Core Concept	CORR	Corruption	Corruption as a central variable of study.
Outcome	GROWTH	Growth	Focus on macroeconomic growth (GDP).
Outcome	DEV	Development	Broader economic development & poverty reduction.
Outcome	WELL	Well Being	Focus on happiness, life satisfaction, and welfare.
Outcome	SUST	Sustainability	Focus on environmental sustainability and SDGs.
Outcome	FIN	Finance	Focus on financial systems, debt, and markets.
Context/Method	CONTEXT	Country Specific	Analysis focused on a specific region, country, or group.
Context/Method	THEORY	Theoretical	Conceptual, framework, or model building.
Context/Method	REVIEW	Review	Systematic or literature review.
Context/Method	ENT	Entrepreneurship	Private sector business

Source: *Authors Own Idea*

3.5 Frequency of the Codes in Literature

The in depth analysis of the literature shows that various codes have been appeared different number of times. On the basis of these codes the articles have been divided. The details are as under:

Table 2: Frequency of Codes in Governance Literature (n=78 Articles)

Category	Code	Code Name	Count	Percentage of Total Articles
Core Concept	GOV	Governance	46	45.1 %
Core Concept	INST	Institutions	32	31.4 %
Core Concept	BUR	Bureaucracy	13	30.4 %
Core Concept	CORR	Corruption	10	9.8 %
Outcome	GROWTH	Economic Growth	28	44.1 %
Outcome	DEV	Development	11	18.6 %
Outcome	WELL	Well Being	10	16.9 %
Outcome	SUST	Sustainability	4	6.8 %
Outcome	FIN	Finance	4	6.8 %
Context/Method	CONTEXT	Context Specific	28	30.4 %
Context/Method	THEORY	Theoretical	13	22 %
Context/Method	REVIEW	Review	6	10.2 %
Context/Method	ENT	Entrepreneurship	6	5.9 %

Source: Authors Own Idea

4. Discussion & Analysis

4.1 Frequency Analysis

The numeric results from the Table 2 are giving us the following insights.

- i. Dominance of Core Concepts:** The broad code GOV (Governance) is the most frequently used 45.1 percent, showing it as the primary lens of analysis. INST (Institutions) is a strong second 31.4 percent, BUR (Bureaucracy) 30.4 percent and CORR (Corruption) 10 percent, confirming it as a fundamental underlying mechanism within governance studies
- ii. Primary Outcome of Interest:** GROWTH (Economic Growth) is by far the most studied outcome 44.1 percent, highlighting the traditional and continued focus on macroeconomic performance. However, the significant presence of WELL (Well-being) 16.9 percent indicates a growing interest in broader, non-monetary measures of progress
- iii. High Context Specificity:** The high frequency of the CONTEXT code 30.4 percent is vital. It shows that a large plurality of research in this field is focused on specific regions, countries, or groups, arguing against one size fits all models and emphasizing the importance of local conditions.
- iv. Theoretical Engagement:** The substantial number of THEORY articles 22 percent indicates a mature field that is actively engaged in conceptual debate, framework development, and model building.
- v. Niche but Important Topics:** The topic like SUST (Sustainability) 4 percent, FIN (Finance) 4 percent, and ENT (Entrepreneurship) 5.9 are also there. They are integrated with major topics to cover the broader concepts of governance.

4.1 Discussion on themes

In light of Table 2 the following themes have been explored. The brief discussion on the themes is as under: -

4.1.1 Theme One (Governance as source of growth/wellbeing)

A large number of research studies have directly focused on this area of research. In most of these studies the relationship between governance/good governance and economic well-being has been explored (Azimi, 2022). In most of these studies the result has been drawn that there exists a direct relationship between governance and economic well-being, but at the same time there exists a question mark on the causality of the relationship (in some cases it's positive and in some it is negative).

4.1.2 Theme Two (Role of Institutions)

The governance is one side of the policy making, the implementation of these policies is being done through institutions. The institutions do provide a fundamental mechanism, through which government works (Acquah et al, 2023). The studies which focus on the institutions do conclude that inclusivity of the institutions is vital as it not only helps in improving the governance and also promotes economic growth.

4.1.3 Theme Three (Bureaucracy)

Bureaucracy is an integral part of the governance framework. It has been reported in number of articles that bureaucracy is also helpful in promoting the prosperous economic growth (Besley et al, 2022) and Cornell et al, 2020).

4.1.4 Theme Four (Well-being and Sustainability)

Governance is increasingly linked to non-economic outcomes, including human well-being, happiness, and environmental sustainability. A modern and evolving theme moves the discussion beyond pure GDP to broader welfare and environmental goals (Karjoko et al, 2022). The purpose of good governance is being redefined to include holistic human and planetary well-being, not just wealth creation.

4.1.5 Theme Five (Contextual Outcome)

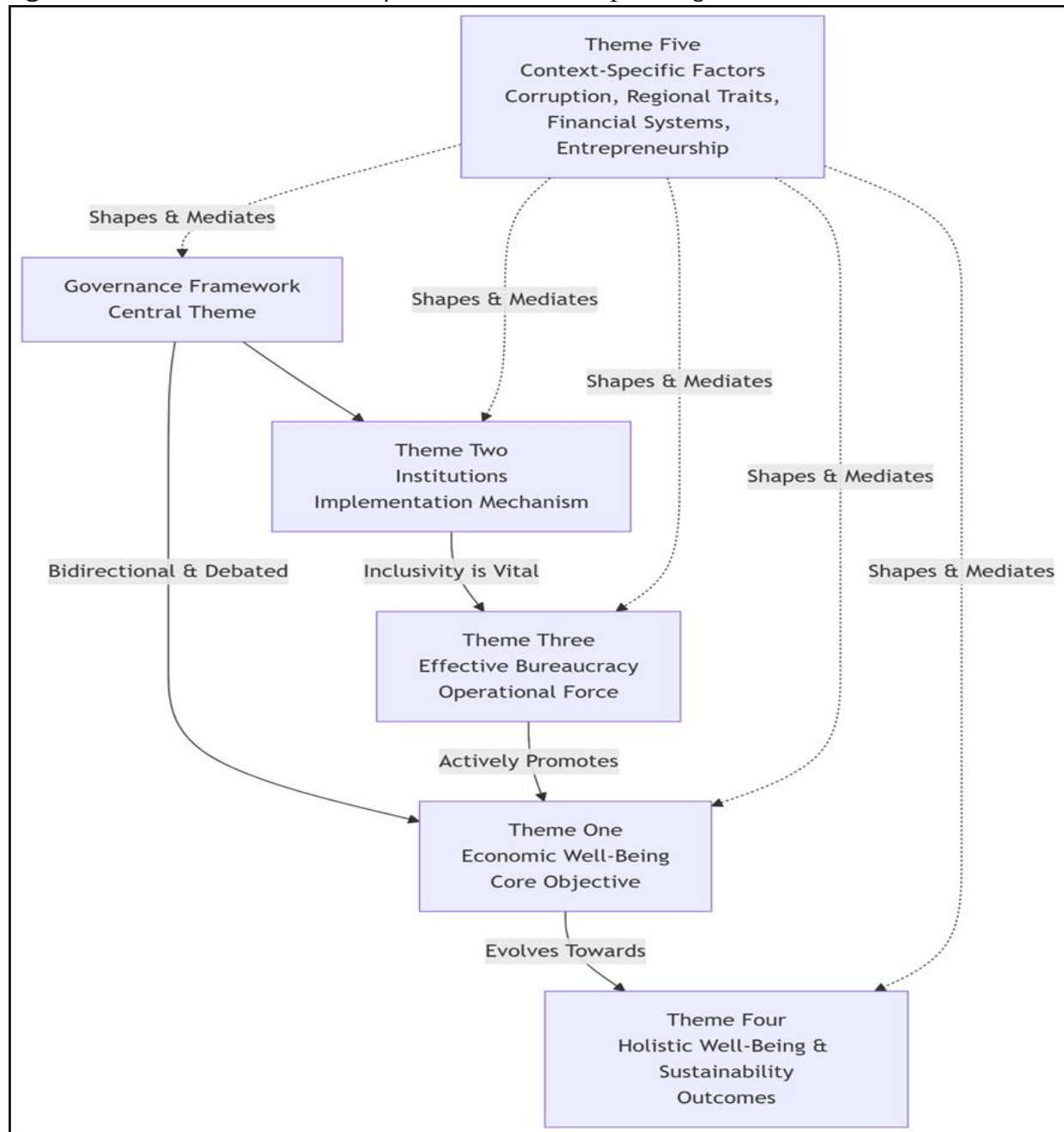
This theme emphasizes that the governance and outcome relationship is not universal but is mediated by specific factors. The impact of governance is shaped by a country's specific context, including its level of corruption, regional characteristics, and financial systems (Bekana, 2023). The effectiveness of governance is highly contingent on local conditions and other intervening variables.

4.1.6 Interrelation among the Themes

The themes are interrelated with each other. This has been presented in the schematic framework. This schematic diagram positions the governance framework as the central theme for the sake of economic well-being policy making and the four other themes are related with it. The relationship between governance and economic well-being (Theme one) is shown as bidirectional, highlighting the ongoing debate about the direction of causality, whether good governance leads to growth or vice versa. The mechanism for implementing governance has been directed through institutions (Theme two), whose inclusivity is vital for success, and operated by an effective bureaucracy (Theme three), which actively promotes economic growth. The outcomes of governance are presented as evolving beyond pure economic metrics to include holistic well-being and

sustainability (Theme four). More importantly this entire system is the context specific nature of governance (Theme five), illustrating that factors like corruption levels, regional characteristics, financial systems and entrepreneurship, fundamentally shape and mediates the effectiveness of all governance actions and their ultimate outcomes. The schematic diagram has been presented here.

Figure 2: Schematic Framework of the Interrelationship among Themes



Source: Authors Own Idea

4.2 Analyzing the Study Types

Further analysis has been done to separate the studies thematically and also divide them as per the type of the study (Theoretical, Empirical and Review).

Table 3: Thematic and Study Type Division

Sr. No	Title	Theme	Study Type	Variables (Dependent, Independent) and
1	The new European economic governance	Governance	Theoretical	NA
2	Governance and Institutional Development	Institutions	Theoretical	NA
3	Governance and development: The perspective of growth-enhancing governance	Governance	Theoretical	NA
4	Multiple trajectories and “good governance” in Asia: An introduction.	Governance	Theoretical	NA
5	Domestic ideas, institutions or interests? Explaining governmental preferences towards global economic governance.	Institutions	Theoretical	NA
6	Governance as theory: five propositions.	Governance	Theoretical	NA
7	The effects of bureaucracy on political accountability and electoral selection.	Bureaucracy	Theoretical	NA
8	Public spending, quality of bureaucracy and economic growth: A theoretical analysis.	Bureaucracy	Theoretical	NA
9	Government responsiveness in developing countries.	Bureaucracy	Theoretical	NA
10	Bureaucracy and labor market inefficiency: A contest model.	Bureaucracy	Theoretical	NA
11	Revolutionizing Public Management: From Bureaucracy to New Public Governance.	Bureaucracy	Theoretical	NA
12	Simplifying the Bureaucracy Through Transaction Cost Theory	Bureaucracy	Theoretical	NA
13	Bureaucracy Theory for Sustainable Development and the Convergence Problematic.	Bureaucracy	Theoretical	NA
14	Leadership Dualism in the Indonesian Notaries Association: Between the Sovereignty of Members and State Intervention from a Constitutional Law Perspective.	Bureaucracy	Theoretical	NA
15	Bureaucratic reform and clean governance: Efforts towards	Bureaucracy	Theoretical	NA

	social justice and sustainable economic growth in Indonesia.			
16	Ethics and accountability in government bureaucracy.	Bureaucracy	Theoretical	NA
17	Bureaucracy and control. The case of quality assurance.	Bureaucracy	Theoretical	NA
18	Optimizing The Bureaucracy in Economic Development Efforts to Provide Community Welfare in Indonesia.	Bureaucracy	Theoretical	NA
19	Beyond weber: The Bangladesh bureaucracy and the limits of theoretical models. Asian Journal of Comparative Politics	Bureaucracy	Theoretical	NA
20	Redesigning Bureaucracy as a Governmental Strategy for Enhancing Public Service Effectiveness.	Bureaucracy	Theoretical	NA
21	Institutions and economic growth: A systems approach.	Institutions	Theoretical	NA
22	Economic structures, institutions and economic performance	Institutions	Theoretical	NA
23	Inequality, institutions and economic growth in Latin America.	Institutions	Theoretical/Descriptive Analysis	NA
24	Changing role of public bureaucracy in India: A federal polity perspective.	Bureaucracy	Theoretical Descriptive Analysis	NA
25	Institutions and economic performance: A review on the developing countries.	Institutions	Review	NA
26	Bureaucracy and development.	Bureaucracy	Review	NA
27	Governance, economic growth and development since the 1960s.	Governance	Review	NA
28	Governance and economic performance: A survey.	Governance	Review	NA
29	Corruption, institutions, and economic development	Corruption	Empirical	Economic Growth (GDP per Capita), and Corruption, Institutions (Institutional Quality)
30	Governance and institutional quality and the links with economic growth and income inequality: With special reference to developing Asia.	Governance Institutions	Empirical	Economic Growth, Income Inequality, and Government Effectiveness, Political Stability, Rule of Law, Voice and Accountability, Regulatory Quality, Control of Corruption

31	The relationship between governance effectiveness and entrepreneurship.	Governance Institutions	Empirical	Entrepreneurship (GEM (Global Entrepreneurship Monitor), and Government Effectiveness, Rule of Law, Regulatory Quality, Control of Corruption
32	Policy volatility, institutions, and economic growth	Institutions Growth	Empirical	Policy Volatility, and Government Size, Investment Price, Initial GDP per capita, Primary Enrollment, Openness, Output Volatility, Inflation
33	How bureaucracy and corruption affect economic growth and convergence in the European Union: the case of Greece.	Bureaucracy Corruption Economic Growth	Empirical	Initial GDP per Capita, and Bureaucracy, Government Consumption as percentage of GDP, Openness of Economy, FDI (Foreign Direct Investment), ICP (Inflation Consumer Price)
34	The role of governance in economic development: Evidence from some selected countries in Asia and the Pacific	Governance	Empirical	GDP per Capita, and Corruption, Inflation Rate, Openness to Trade, Dependency Ratio on the GDP per Capita
35	Governance and economic growth: The case of Middle Eastern and North African countries	Governance Well Being	Empirical	GDP per Capita, and Voice and Accountability, Rule of Law, Political Stability, Regulatory Quality, Government Effectiveness, Control of Corruption
36	Impact of good governance in the economic development of Western Balkan countries	Governance	Empirical	GDP per Capita, and Voice and Accountability, Rule of Law, Political Stability, Regulatory Quality, Government Effectiveness, Control of Corruption
37	Does governance cause growth? Evidence from China.	Governance	Empirical	Governance Index (composite), and GDP (primary industry), GDP (secondary industry),

					GDP (territory industry)
38	Governance, resources and growth.	Governance	Empirical		GDP per Capita, and Oil Rent per Capita, Quality of Governance Index (Composite)
39	Good governance and economic growth: A contribution to the institutional debate about state failure in Middle East and North Africa.	Governance Institutions	Empirical		Economic Growth Rate, and Property Rights, Voice and Accountability, Political Stability
40	Governance and Economic Growth in Developing Economies: A Comparative Study.	Governance	Empirical		GDP per Capita, and Governance Quality Index (Composite), Government Expenditures, Investment as percentage of GDP, Human Capital, FDI, Trade Openness, Population Growth
41	Governance and sustainable development: How effective is governance?	Governance	Empirical		Investment, and Governance (Composite Index), GDP growth rate, Population Growth Rate, Democracy and Urbanization
42	Governance and economic growth in Asia	Governance	Empirical		Real GDP per Capita, and Voice and Accountability, Political Stability, Government Effectiveness, Regulatory Quality, Rule of Law, Control of Corruption
43	Governance, corruption and economic growth: A Panel Data Analysis of Selected SAARC Countries	Governance Context (Corruption)	Empirical		GDP per Capita, and Control of Corruption, Education Index, Government Effectiveness, Political Stability
44	Governance, marketplaces and social capital: The role of Batkhela bazaar in the evolving governance of the Malakand region of Pakistan	Governance	Empirical/ Analysis	Survey	Survey study has been done, by focusing on different variables derived from survey etc, local governance etc.
45	Good governance for sustainable development goals: Getting ahead of the pack or falling behind?	Governance	Empirical		HDI (Human Development Index), and CO2 Emissions, Government

				Effectiveness, Regulatory Quality, Political Stability, Voice and Accountability, Control of Corruption, Rule of Law, Trade Openness, Financial Development, Capital, Labor Force
46	Wealth inequality, governance and economic growth.	Governance	Empirical	GDP per Capita, and Wealth Inequality (unequal distributions of assets in country), Government Effectiveness, Regulatory Quality, Control of Corruption, Rule of Law
47	Good governance and economic development in Nigeria	Governance	Empirical	GDP per Capita, and FDI as percentage of GDP, Stock Market Capitalization to GDP, Voice and Accountability, Regulatory Quality, Control of Corruption
48	The Relationship Between Governance and Economic Growth in Intergovernmental Authority on Development Member States	Governance	Empirical	GDP per Capita, and Voice and Accountability, Political Stability, Government Effectiveness, Regulatory Quality, Rule of Law, Control of Corruption, Unemployment Rate, Gross Capital Fixed Formation, Population Growth Rate
49	Revisiting the governance-growth nexus: Evidence from the world's largest economies.	Governance	Empirical	GDP Growth, and Control of Corruption, Government Effectiveness, Political Stability, Regulatory Quality, Rule of Law, Voice and Accountability, Net National Saving Rate, Human Capital, Physical Rate
50	Decarbonization pathways: the roles of foreign direct investments, governance,	Governance Context (Growth)	Empirical	Carbon Dioxide Emissions, and FDI, Renewable Energy

	democracy, economic growth, and renewable energy transition.			Use, Governance Indicators (Regulatory Quality, Government effectiveness, Rule of Law, Control of Corruption), Economic Growth
51	Does institutional trust and governance matter for multidimensional well-being? Insights from Pakistan.	Governance Institutions	Empirical/Survey Study	Quality of Life Index, and Perceived Government Effectiveness, Household Income, Demographic Location
52	Governance quality and financial development in Africa	Governance	Empirical	Financial Development, and Governance Quality (Rule of Law, Control of Corruption, Regulatory Quality etc), GDP per Capita, Inflation Rate, Trade Openness as percentage of GDP, FDI
53	The impact of governance on economic growth: spatial econometric approach.	Governance	Empirical	GDP per Capita, and Governance Index(Voice and Accountability, Regulatory Quality, Rule of Law, Control of Corruption, Political Stability, Government Effectiveness), Trade Openness as percentage of GDP, Population Growth, Gross Fixed Capital Formation, FDI
54	Nexus between governance and socioeconomic factors on public service fragility in Asian economies	Governance	Empirical	Public Service Fragility, and Human Capital Index (HCI), Government Effectiveness, Regulatory Control, Demographic Pressure, Population Growth Rate, GDP growth Rate
55	External Debt and Economic Growth: Does the Role of Governance Matter in Emerging Countries?	Governance	Empirical	GDP per Capita, and External Debt as percentage of GNI, Gross Fixed Capital Formation as percentage of GDP, Trade Openness,

				Inflation, Secondary Enrollment Ratio, Regulatory Quality, Government effectiveness, Rule of Law, Control of Corruption
56	Bureaucratic structure and bureaucratic performance in less developed countries.	Bureaucracy	Empirical	A group of dependent variables (corruption, bureaucratic quality, bureaucratic delay, Red tape), Merit, Career, Salary, RGDP, Human Capital, ETHFRAC
57	The Quality of Government	Governance	Empirical	A Set of dependent variables (property right index, business regulation index, Top marginal tax rate 1994, corruption, bureaucratic delays, tax compliance, average government wages, GNP per Capita, Output of Public Goods, infant mortality rate) , Ethnoligiustic Fractionalization, Socialist Legal Origin, French Legal Origin, German Legal Orgin, Scandinavian Legal Origin, Latitutde, GNP per capita
58	Bureaucracy and growth.	Bureaucracy	Empirical	GDP per Capita Growth (t+5), and Impartial Public Administration, Meritocratic Recruitment, GDP per Capita
59	Want more high-growth entrepreneurs? Then control corruption with less ineffective bureaucracy	Bureaucracy Context (Entrepreneurship)	Empirical	TEA (early stage entrepreneurs), HAE (high growth entrepreneurs) , and Social Capital, Self-Efficacy, Fear of Failure, Opportunity Recognition, Age, Gender, Education, Procedural Bureaucracy, Corruption, GDP, Inflation, Unemployment,

				Investment, Saving, Political Instability, Infrastructure, Capacity of Innovation, Wage Flexibility
60	The technocratic tendencies of economists in government bureaucracy	Bureaucracy	Empirical	Technocratic Role Perceptions, and Economics Education, Finance Ministry, Administration Grade, Task Analysis Budget, Tenure Ministry, Gender,
61	A costly commitment: Populism, economic performance, and the quality of bureaucracy.	Bureaucracy	Empirical	Economic Performance(Debt Accumulation, Debt Repayment), and Quality of Bureaucrats(Manager's Turnover, Post graduate Managers), Mayors(Age, Gender, Secondary Education), Municipalities (Resident Population, Surface etc)
62	Sustainable growth through green electricity transition and environmental regulations: Do risks associated with corruption and bureaucracy matter?	Bureaucracy Context (Corruption)	Empirical	LCC (Load Capacity Curve), and Economic Growth, Environmental Regulations, Green Electricity, Bureaucracy Quality, Control of Corruption
63	The Effect of Bureaucracy on the Inflow of Foreign Direct Investment: A Comparative Study of Libya and the United Arab Emirates	Bureaucracy	Empirical	FDI (net inflows), and Bureaucratic Quality, Bureaucratic Corruption, Political Stability, Bureaucratic Expansion
64	Public administration and new venture startups: The association between economic development and the role of bureaucracy in startup activity.	Bureaucracy	Empirical	Part of Startup, and Professional Public Administration, Closed Public Administration, Log of GDP, Gender, Age, Household Income, Education (graduate, secondary, post graduate), New Business Density, Innovation , Economic Freedom
65	Evaluation of the Effect of Educational Bureaucracy on	Bureaucracy	Empirical/Survey	Teacher's Responses, and School Climate,

	School Administration: A Blunting School Climate for Teachers.			Organizational Commitment, Coercive Bureaucracy, Enabling Bureaucracy
66	From perception to support: The role of political bureaucracy in rural tourism development in Lombok, Indonesia.	Bureaucracy	Empirical/Survey	Checked the impact of benefits from tourism on the rural development. The benefits of tourism are economic, social and environmental.
67	Impacts of State Structure on Bureaucracy Crisis in Contemporary Iran (1979-2021).	Bureaucracy	Descriptive/ Analytical Study	NA
68	Political institutions and economic growth in Africa	Institutions	Empirical	GDP per Capita growth rate, and investment, schooling, combine variable (population +technology +capital), time in office, polity, four dummies for years (75, 80, 85,90)
69	Economic institutions and human well-being: A cross-national analysis.	Institutions	Empirical	HDI, and Tropics, Landlocked, Urbanization, Ethnic Group, Government, Property Rights, Rule of Law, Economic Freedom
70	Finance, institutions and economic development.	Institutions	Empirical	GDP per Capita, and Liquid Liabilities, Private Sector Credit, Domestic Credit, Institutions (Corruption, Rule of Law, Bureaucratic Quality, Government Repudiation of Contracts, Risk of Expropriation)
71	Institutional trust and subjective well-being across the EU	Institutions	Empirical	Satisfied Life, and Gender, Age, Single, Divorced, Widow, Village, Town, Education, Farmer, Unemployed, Income, Life Improved, Head of the house Unemployed
72	The role of institutions in Economic Development and their impact on economic growth in different countries	Institutions	Empirical	Real GDP growth, and government effectiveness, control of corruption, rule of law, regulatory quality,

					population growth, human capital, investment, trade openness
73	Legislature size and welfare: Evidence from Brazil.	Institutions	Empirical/Survey Analysis		Legislature Size, and Infant mortality, post neonatal mortality, school enrollment, education quality, number of female councilors, number of white councilors, candidate per seat, proportion of law approved council
74	Institutions, Labor Market Insecurity, and Well-Being in Europe.	Institutions	Empirical/ Analysis	Survey	Labor Market Insecurity, and Active labor market policies, employment protection legislation, unemployment insurance, collective bargain arrangements, unemployment rate, income inequality
75	Institutions and economic development: new measurements and evidence.	Institutions	Empirical		GDP growth rate, GDP per capita, and initial income, total population, effective labor force, Investment to GDP share, Human Capital Index, Public Sector size, Reliability and fairness of the legal system, Liquidity market openness, degree of protectionism, regulations
76	Institutions, social entrepreneurship, and individual economic well-being: an exploratory study.	Institutions	Empirical		Social entrepreneurship (male and female), and self- employed, savings, education, gender, post materialism, altruism
77	Formal institutions and subjective well-being: Revisiting the cross- country evidence.	Institutions	Empirical		Average National Happiness, and Average memberships, social trust, belief in god, honest and effective government, trade openness, post- communist, investment, price level,

				regional dummies, period dummies
78	Democratic institutions and regulatory privileges for government debt	Institutions	Empirical	Borrowing privileges, and Democracy, GDP per capita, log GDP, regulatory quality, governance, bank concentration, international public debt

Note: NA (Not Applicable), No independent and dependent variables, as articles are either theoretical/descriptive or review.

Source: Authors Own Idea

4.2.1 Systematic Assessment on the working of governance

In light of the distribution done in the Table 3, the following key observations have been drawn.

- i. There is a massive increase in research output starting from 2022, peaking in 2023 and 2025. This indicates that the topics of governance, bureaucracy, and institutions are highly contemporary and rapidly growing fields of study.
- ii. The empirical approach (testing hypotheses with data) has been consistently dominant, especially in the recent surge of publications from 2022 onwards. This suggests a strong trend towards evidence based analysis in these fields.
- iii. Theoretical work has been more sporadic but present throughout the timeline. The notable spike in 2025 suggests researchers are also actively working on new conceptual models and frameworks to explain observed phenomena.
- iv. Review articles (which summarize existing knowledge) are less common and appear intermittently. This is because as such syntheses are often conducted once a sufficient body of empirical work has been done. Figure 3, 4 and 5 are graphically presenting the results, shown in Table 2 and Table 3.

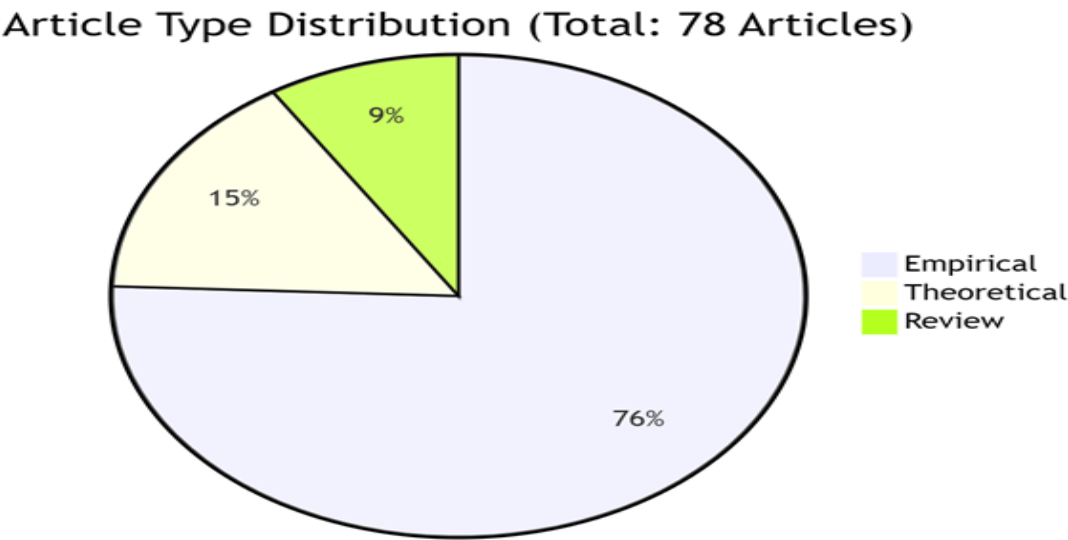
The Table 3 helps us to understand the fact that themes of Governance, Institutions, and Bureaucracy are deeply knotted. These selected studies acknowledge the fact that they are overlapped, with bureaucracy being a key component, which is a core aspect of governance. The governance is the broadest lens. It refers to the process and power of governing. Institutions are vital as they help in setting up the rules, which are necessary for the process of implementation. This table also explains the fact that there is a movement from theoretical propositions to overwhelming empirical evidence. The state quality can be measured through precise indicators like government effectiveness, control of corruption, and rule of law. Further there is strong evidence that these factors don't just affect economic growth but at the same time are pivotal for the well-being and life satisfaction of people.

It also identifies a clear paradigm shift in the making. The early literature (e.g., Dethier, 1999; Khan, 2007) successfully established governance as a key determinant of growth. The contemporary frontier, as evidenced by more recent works (e.g., Besley et al., 2022; Lebkhachi &

Chraibi, 2025), moves beyond this to ask the more nuanced question, how does governance actually work? In this regard following way forwards have been classified.

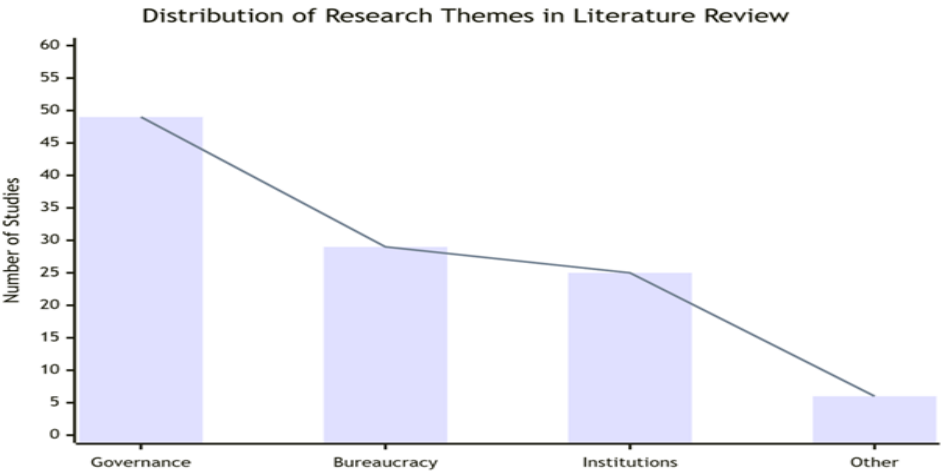
- a) **Disaggregating Governance:** The composite aggregation of the term governance is not the only way out. It is imperative to move away from composite indices to precise, measurable components like bureaucratic efficiency, judicial independence, and civil service meritocracy.
- b) **Exploring Intermediation:** The role of institutions is also very critical. It is imperative to investigate how institutions transmit their influence through bureaucratic action. For instance, how do anti-corruption laws (institution) actually change the behavior of public officials (bureaucracy) to improve service delivery?
- c) **Emphasizing Implementation:** The focus must be shifted from policy design to the often over looked challenge of policy implementation, where the role of bureaucracy is paramount.

Figure 3: Graphical Representation of the Data



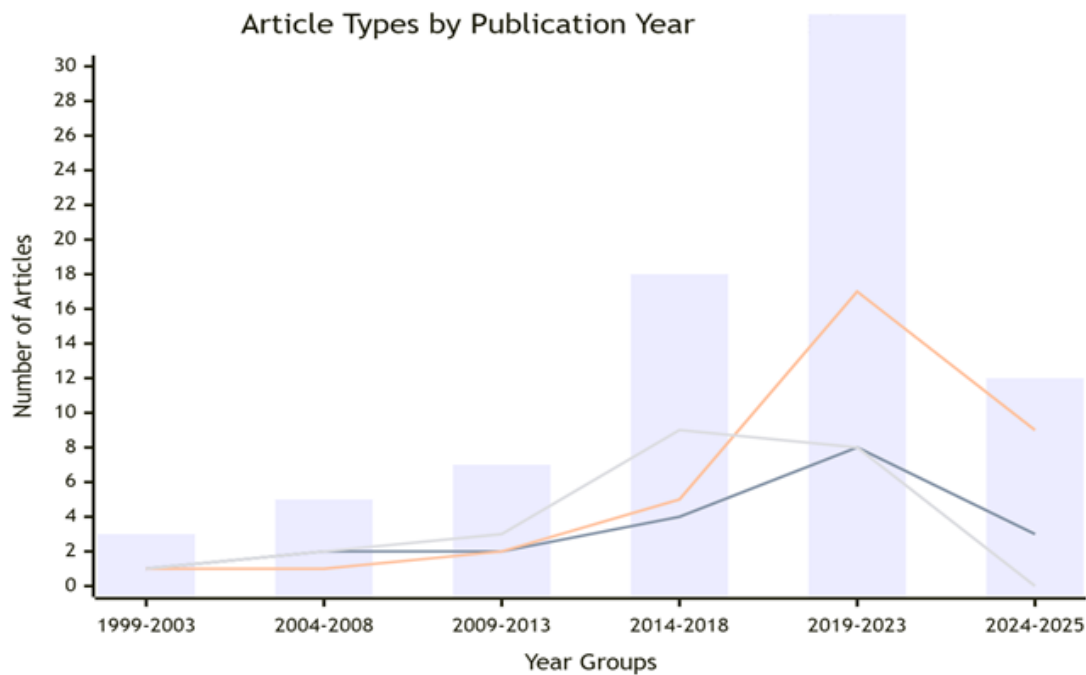
Source: Authors Own Idea

Figure 4: Graphical Representation of Research Themes



Source: Authors Own Idea

Figure 5: Year Wise Division of the Publications



Source: Authors Own Idea

4.3 Analysis of the results

After doing the coding and going through the study type analysis of the selected research articles the following Table 4 has been made to analyze the results. The author driven results and the data which have been used to compile the results has been given in the table.

Table 4: Summary of the Results

Sr. No	Authors	Summary of the Results	Same Results	Data Type (panel, time series, primary)/ Theoretical Article
1	Dethier, J. J.	It's a survey study. The conclusion has been drawn that, there exists a significant positive correlation between the quality of governance and economic performance.	Governance has significant positive impact on economic growth/ economic development /economic well-being/performance and on the overall economic condition.	Review Article
2	Arjun, & Mishra, B. R.	This research study finds that good governance moderates the debt growth relationship, helping avoid negative impacts of high debt in emerging economies.		Panel Data Study
3	Huang, C. J., & Ho, Y. H.	The positive correlation between "good governance" and growth is widely accepted, Huang and Ho argue		Panel Data Study

		that previous studies often suffered from methodological flaws that prevented them from establishing a causal relationship.		
4	Al Mamun, M., Sohag, K., & Hassan, M. K.	It has been found that good governance can help in reduction the "resource curse" and allow natural resources to positively impact growth.	Panel Study	Data
5	Hamid, I., Alam, M. S., Kanwal, A., Jena, P. K., Murshed, M., & Alam, R.	In this research study it has been found that, good governance is a key driver for enabling renewable energy transition and de carbonization.	Panel Study	Data
6	Danish, M. H., & Nawaz, S. M. N.	This research concludes that both institutional trust and governance quality are significant determinants of well-being in Pakistan.	Primary Data Study (Survey Based)	
7	Bekana, D. M.	It finds a strong positive link between the quality of governance and the depth of financial sector development in Africa.	Panel Study	Data
8	Mahran, H. A.	In this research study with the help of spatial econometric technique it has been found that a country's economic growth is positively influenced by good governance in neighboring countries.	Panel Study	Data
9	Güney, T.	In this research study, it has been found that governance effectiveness is a significant driver of progress towards sustainable development goals.	Panel Study	Data
10	Omri, A., & Mabrouk, N. B.	This research study argues that good governance is a prerequisite for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, but progress is uneven across countries.	Panel Study	Data
11	Islam, M. R., & McGillivray, M.	In this research study it has been found that high inequality can hinder growth, but good governance can moderate this negative effect.	Panel Study	Data
12	Adegboyega, R. R., & Arikewuyo, K. A.	This study concludes that poor governance is a major constraint on economic development in Nigeria.	Time Series Analysis	
13	Abubakar, A.	It has been found that a positive and significant relationship between governance indicators and economic growth in East African countries.	Panel Study	Data
14	Azimi, M. N.	This study reconfirms a strong positive relationship between	Panel Study	Data

		governance quality and economic growth in the world's largest economies.		
15	Awan, R. U., Akhtar, T., Rahim, S., Sher, F., & Cheema, A. R.	This research study finds a complex triangular relationship: corruption negatively impacts growth, but good governance can reduce corruption.	Panel Study	Data
16	Khan, M. S.	The research study chooses Malakand region, try to explore the role of local government in structuring social capital, facilitating economic order and development.	Primary Study	Data
17	Mira, R., & Hammadache, A.	This research study links better governance to higher growth and argues it is a key remedy against state failure in the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA) region.	Panel Study	Data
18	Lahouij, H.	This comparative study finds that there exists a significant positive relationship between governance quality and GDP growth in developing countries.	Panel Study	Data
19	Wilson, R.	In the research study, with the help of Granger causality, the conclusion has been drawn that governance reforms play a vital role in China's economic growth.	Time Series Analysis	
20	Pere, E.	The study finds that improvements in governance are positively associated with economic development in the Western Balkans.	Panel Study	Data
21	Emara, N., & Jhonsa, E.	In this research it has been found that, there exists a strong link between governance improvements and economic growth in the MENA region.	Panel Study	Data
22	Azam, M., & Emirullah, C.	This research study empirically investigates the relationship between governance and development. The Asia-Pacific region has been chosen.	Panel Study	Data
23	Friedman, B. A.	The study concludes that good governance is positively impacting the process of entrepreneurship.	Panel Study	Data
24	Kohler-Koch, B., & Jachtenfuchs, M.	It has been concluded that governance is a multi-dimensional concept and it is vital for institutional development. This research study is specific to EU nations.	Theoretical Article	
25	Abbas, H. S. M., Gillani, S., Ullah,	It has been explored how the governance and its contributing	Panel Study	Data

	S., Raza, M. A. A., & Ullah, A	factors affects the public service delivery.				
26	Khan, M.	In this survey study the conclusion has been drawn that governance quality is critical for economic growth.			Review Article	
27	Zhuang, J., de Dios, E., & Martin, A. L.	It has been concluded that governance is vital for economic sovereignty, but at the same time good governance is promoting income inequality too.	Adverse impacts of governance.		Panel Data Study	
28	Stoker, G.	This study outlines five core theoretical propositions that define the concept and study of governance.	Theoretical aspects of governance		Explicitly Theoretical Article	
29	Cornell, A., Knutsen, C. H., & Teorell, J.	This empirical study finds that Weberian bureaucracy (merit-based, autonomous) is positively associated with economic growth.	Bureaucracy is vital (positive impact)		Panel Data Study	
30	Besley, T., Burgess, R., Khan, A., & Xu, G.	This comprehensive review study concludes that a capable, meritocratic bureaucracy is a critical ingredient for successful economic development.			Review Article	
31	Xu, R., Pata, U. K., & Dai, J.	It finds that corruption and bureaucratic inefficiency are significant risks that can hinder green transition and sustainable growth.			Panel Data Study	
32	Thaher, I., & Alfiana, R.	Studies the core functions of governance (bureaucracy) and importance of constitutionalism.			Theoretical Article	
33	Dourgkounas, G.	It examines bureaucracy's role in implementing quality control and assurance systems.			Theoretical Article	
34	Christensen, J., & Mandelkern, R.	It analyzes how economists in bureaucracy tend to promote technocratic, market-oriented policies.			Primary Data Study (Survey Study)	
35	Mujahidin, M., & Kusuma, F. K.	This research study proposes that redesigning bureaucratic processes is a key strategy for improving the effectiveness of public service delivery.			Review Article	
36	Amir, A. F., Jamal, S. A., & Som, A. P. M.	In this research study it has been found that the effectiveness of political bureaucracy is crucial for gaining local support and developing rural tourism.			Primary Data Study	
37	Murwati, N., Prabowo, H., Rowa, H., Khairi, H., & Sujatmiko, A. P.	This research study applies Transaction Cost Theory to argue that simplifying bureaucratic procedures reduces economic costs for businesses and citizens.			Theoretical	

38	Fadhlurrohman, M. I., Khairina, E., HS, Y. T., & Akbar, G. G.	This study argues that optimizing bureaucracy is essential for effective economic development and community welfare in Indonesia.		Theoretical
39	Bellodi, L., Morelli, M., & Vannoni, M	It finds that populist governments often degrade bureaucratic quality, which in turn leads to worse economic performance.		Time Series Analysis
40	Lecuna, A., Cohen, B., & Mandakovic, V.	This study finds that reducing corruption and bureaucratic ineffectiveness is crucial for promoting high-growth entrepreneurship.		Panel Data Study
41	Ibrahim, R. A., Sidiq, F., & Azahra, A. S.	This research study explores the case of Indonesia links bureaucratic reforms to goals of clean governance, social justice, and sustainable growth.		Theoretical
42	Rauch, J. E., & Evans, P. B.	This research study finds that merit-based recruitment and predictable career rewards are key to improving bureaucratic performance in less developed countries.		Panel Data Study
43	Naseer, S.	The theoretical model explains that the quality of bureaucracy determines the efficiency of public spending, which in turn affects growth.		Theoretical Analysis
44	La Porta, R., F. Lopez-de-Silanes, A. Shleifer, & R. Vishny	It creates a measure of government quality, linking it to lower corruption, less red tape, and higher administrative efficiency across 152 nations.		Panel Data Study
45	Nkurunziza, J., & Bates, R.	It finds that stable, democratic political institutions have a positive effect on economic growth in African nations.	Institutions are vital (positive impact)	Panel Data Study
46	Norton, S. W.	This empirical analysis finds that economic institutions guaranteeing property rights and economic freedom are essential for human well-being.		Panel Data Study
47	Doucouliaqos, C., & Ulubasoglu, M.	This study proposes a systems theory approach to model the complex, interdependent relationship between institutions and growth.		Theoretical Analysis
48	Demetriades, P., & Hook Law, S	This study argues that the financial sector's impact on development is heavily dependent on the quality of underlying institutions.		Panel Data Study
49	Hudson, J.	This research study finds a strong positive correlation between trust in		Panel Data Study

		institutions and self-reported well-being across European countries.	
50	Constantine, C	It finds that institutions mediate the relationship between a country's economic structure (e.g., natural resources) and its performance.	Theoretical
51	Mignozzetti, U., Cepaluni, G., & Freire, D.	It finds that larger legislature size is associated with higher levels of public welfare spending and outcomes in Brazil.	Time Series Analysis
52	Inanc, H., & Kalleberg, A. L.	This shows that strong labor market institutions reduce feelings of economic insecurity, which improves subjective well-being in Europe.	Panel Data Study
53	Fatás, A., & Mihov, I.	It has been found that policy volatility is bad for economic growth, but at the same time strong institutions have a vital role to play in controlling this policy volatility.	Panel Data Study
54	Acquah, E., Carbonari, L., Farcomeni, A., & Trovato, G.	This research study develops new measures of institutional quality and provides fresh evidence of their positive link to economic development.	Panel Data Study
55	Aparicio, S., Klofsten, M., Noguera, M., & Urbano, D.	This exploratory study suggests that supportive institutions foster social entrepreneurship, which improves individual economic well-being.	Empirical Exploratory Study
56	Bjørnskov, C., Dreher, A., & Fischer, J. A.	This study reconfirms with newer data that formal institutions (rule of law, property rights) are robustly correlated with higher well-being.	Panel Data Study
57	Betz, T., & Pond, A.	It finds that democratic institutions lead to stricter financial regulations and fewer privileges for government debt.	Panel Data Study
58	Coatsworth, J. H.	This research study historically analyze that weak institutions have perpetuated inequality and hindered growth in Latin America.	Theoretical
59	Magomed Tashtamirov	In this empirical investigation, it has been found that strong, inclusive institutions are a fundamental determinant of well-being.	Panel Data Study
60	Schirm, S. A.	The conclusion has been drawn that domestic institutions are the main factor shaping national preferences towards global economic governance.	Theoretical Study

61	Yıldırım, A., & Gökalp, M. F.	This review concludes that institutional quality is the primary factor explaining economic performance differences in developing countries.		Review Article
62	Degryse, C.	The governance framework has been explored, with reference to post 2010 economic crisis.	The theoretical explanation of the fact that governance and its framework is vital for socioeconomic prosperity.	Theoretical Analysis
63	Khan, M. H	It explored the theoretical framework for growth enhanced governance policies.		Theoretical Analysis
64	Li, L. C.	It has been concluded that the governance framework is not universal and Asian countries have followed diverse governance paths.		Theoretical Analysis
65	Aidt, T. S.	It has been found that corruption negatively effects the economic growth, but these effects can be controlled with the help of improved institutional structures.	Negative Impact of bureaucracy and corruption on the economic performance.	
66	Elakder, A.	The comparative analysis study finds that excessive bureaucracy is a significant deterrent to foreign direct investment.		Comparative Time Series Analysis
67	Patel, P. C., & Wolfe, M.	It concludes that bureaucratic complexity negatively impacts new venture startup activity, hindering economic development.		Panel Data Study
68	Shaikh, G., & Şentürk, İ.	It concludes that educational bureaucracy can create a negative school climate for teachers, blunting administrative effectiveness.		Primary Data Study
69	Papaconstantinou, P., Tsagkanos, A. G., & Siriopoulos, C.	It studies the case of Greece, and concludes bureaucracy and corruption are negatively impacting the economic growth and also creating hurdles in convergence.		Time Series Analysis
70	Grossman, G., & Slough, T.	This review article finds that bureaucratic responsiveness is often low in developing countries due to capacity constraints and lack of accountability.		Review Article
71	Lebkhachi, K., & Chraibi, A.	This research study argues the theoretical shift from traditional Weberian bureaucracy to New Public Governance models.	Evolution of bureaucratic systems	Theoretical Analysis
72	Klunover, D.	In this research study the theoretical model illustrates how bureaucratic red tape and rent-seeking can create inefficiencies in the labor market.		Theoretical Analysis

73	Tosun, Y., & Yoldas, C.	This theoretical piece argues that traditional bureaucracy must be reformed to address complex, global sustainability challenges.		Theoretical Analysis
74	Mendy, O.	This theoretical discussion on the importance of ethics and accountability mechanisms in ensuring responsible bureaucracy.		Theoretical Analysis
75	Yazaki, Y.	In this research study the theoretical model suggests that a powerful bureaucracy can weaken political accountability by insulating politicians from voters.		Theoretical Analysis
76	Zafarullah, H., & Kaiser, Z. A.	In this research study the critical evaluation has been done. It argues that Western models like Weber's are insufficient to explain the realities of bureaucracy in Bangladesh.	Study of bureaucratic systems of different nations, evolution, impacts and evaluation.	Country Specific Theoretical Analysis
77	Mirabasi, F.	This study analyzes how Iran's state structure has led to a perpetual crisis in its bureaucratic system.		
78	Peppin, S., & Singh, V.	Case study tracks the evolving and increasingly complex role of the Indian bureaucracy within its federal system.		

Source: *Authors Own Idea*

4.3 Analysis and Discussion on the Results from the Selected Articles

The selected articles have also been studied to find out the key conclusions. The Table 4 representing the results summary of each selected article. This compilation of seventy-eight research articles gives a comprehensive summary of the scholarly consensus and debates surrounding governance, institutions, and bureaucracy and their impact on economic and social outcomes. The majority of research studies are empirical, primarily, panel data (forty-four studies). The panel data allows for cross country and longitudinal analysis. There is a strong and universal agreement that good governance and high quality institutions have a significant positive impact on economic growth, development, financial sector depth, well-being, and the achievement of sustainable development goals. Good governance works through several channels. It moderates the negative effects of debt (Arjun and Mishra, 2024) and inequality (Islam and McGillivray, 2020), which reduce the "resource curse" (Al Mamun et al., 2017) and enables the energy transition (Hamid et al., 2022). It also helps in promoting the entrepreneurship (Lecuna et al., 2020). A specific and crucial component of governance is a capable, merit based bureaucracy (Weberian). Furthermore, the analysis also helps us to conclude that bureaucracy is a critical driver of development (Rauch and Evans, 2000; Cornell et al., 2020 and Besley et al., 2022).

There is strong evidence with respect to the regions too. Studies across various regions (global, Africa, MENA, Asia-Pacific, East Africa) and contexts find a significant positive relationship between governance/institutional quality and outcomes like economic growth (Adegboyega and Arikewuyo, 2020; Azam and Emirullah, 2014; Lahouij, 2017 and, Mira and Hammadache, 2018),

financial development (Bekana, 2023), sustainable development (Güney, 2017; Omri & Mabrouk, 2020), and wellbeing.

The powerful, panel data studies often struggle to prove causality. Does good governance cause growth, or does growth allow for better governance? Some studies, like that of (Huang and Ho, 2017) explicitly caution against inferring causality from correlation. The measures for complex concepts like "governance" or "institutional quality" (e.g., from World Bank) can be proxies that may not fully capture the underlying reality.

The most of the empirical studies rely on aggregate indices (e.g., World Governance Indicators) that combine perceptions of corruption, government effectiveness, rule of law, etc. These are valuable but imperfect. They can be subjective, may not capture informal institutions, and can be slow to reflect real world changes.

The panel data studies, by their nature, often assume a somewhat uniform effect of governance across diverse countries. The theoretical articles (Li, 2014; Zafarullah & Kaiser, 2025) provide a crucial counterpoint, arguing that the "one-size-fits-all" model is flawed. The effectiveness of a specific governance reform may depend heavily on historical, cultural, and political context.

The literature is very strong at establishing that governance matters but is less clear on the precise, actionable how of building high quality institutions in challenging environments. While authors like (Rauch & Evans, 2000) emphasizes on merit based recruitment, which offers the practical implementation of these reforms in the face of political resistance and path dependency is a monumental challenge that the literature touches on but does not fully solve.

The analogy developed earlier that governance and institutions cannot alone contribute to the well-being of the people is being elaborated by the summary of results of the various articles. The inclusivity of the institutions and working of the bureaucracy is pivotal for the economic prosperity. The most valuable future research will likely build on this consensus by delving deeper into the causal mechanisms, developing better context-specific measures, and providing more nuanced blueprints for building effective institutions in the real world, where politics and history often complicate technocratic solutions.

5. Conclusion

In this research an attempt has been made to overview the governance and its related themes. This qualitative analysis has been done with help of semi systematic literature and thematic analysis. It has been found that five central themes evolved around the concept of governance. An interesting find is the co-existence of the concepts of well-being and sustainability with governance. The concept of well-being has been conceptualized as a synonym with economic growth and development. It is an acknowledgment of the fact that any nation's economic prosperity is a fundamental indicator of its overall socioeconomic well-being (Stiglitz, Sen, & Fitoussi, 2009).

As explained earlier that five themes have been identified in result of the semi systematic thematic analysis. The first identified theme encompasses governance, which explains the effective implementation mechanism. The second theme is the role of institutions, which are necessary to specify the rules and procedures. These rules are essential for the implementation of policies. It has been concluded that role of bureaucracy is also pivotal, because bureaucratic structures do also helps in the policy implementation. The well-being and sustainability is the fourth theme, which has been identified as the core outcome of the proper implementation of the governance mechanisms, in coordination with institutions and bureaucracy. And lastly theme identifies the contextual outcomes like region, corruption and financial development, which are the result of

better governance policies. Lastly it has been found that governance can also be divided in further parts. The disaggregation of the concept of governance is important to see the effects of sub themes, like bureaucracy on the well-being of the people.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

We hereby declare that we are not financially bound to or dependent on, any organisation or any party having a direct financial contribution to the object of the study or materials tested in a given study (e.g. by employment, consultancy, holding of shares, fees), except for those mentioned in the attachment. We understand that every subsidy for studies or the project has to be listed in a footnote of the first page of the paper.

Funding

This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

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