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Assessment of Challenges and Prospects of Good Governance in post-war era in  
Tigray region: the case of Seharti Woreda Administration

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## **Abstract**

*Good governance has become a key agenda of development discourse in the world in general, and Africa in particular. Ethiopia, too, does not deviate from this global fashion. Accordingly, due to their closeness to the citizen, local governments are required to give timely service to the people under their administrative jurisdiction. Similarly, gijjet Town Administration, tashi and mykana local administration has this mandate for their residents; however, there are wide public grievances regarding the accountability and transparency, rule of law, effectiveness, responsiveness of local authorities and corruption especially after the war. This study tries to assess the challenges and prospects of good governance in postwar in seharti woreda selected areas. For the sake of achieving the objective of the study, descriptive research method was used. To determine sample respondents purposive and convenience sampling techniques are used. Quantitative data was gathered through questionnaire. Pertinent to qualitative information, structured interview and FGD are employed. Then after, data collected and analyzed through quantitative and qualitative methods. The major findings of the paper identified that lack of transparency and accountability, ineffectiveness in providing service and existence corruption as major challenges of good governance among other. Based on the findings, it is conclude that the current good governance practice in local and Town Administration is weak. This research argues for the existence of governance, which ensure public engagement in decision-making, and prioritization of shared problems, accompanied by transparent and accountable manner.*

**Key word:** challenges, Governance, Good governance, accountability, transparency, rule of law, effectiveness, and seharti

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## Acronyms

- AfDB:** African Development Bank
- FDRE:** Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- GOE:** Government of Ethiopia
- MDG:** Main development goals
- MoFED:** Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
- NGOs:** None Governmental Organizations
- TPLF:** Tigray people liberation front
- UN:** United Nations
- UNDP:** United Nations Development Program
- UNDP:** United Nations Development Program
- USAID:** United States Agency for International Development.
- WB:** World Bank

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction, background, problem statement, and purpose of the study, research questions, scope of the study, significances of the study and organization of the study.

#### **1.1 Background of the Study**

There is strong evidence that governance matters in accelerating development and in reducing poverty in most countries of the world. Advocates have linked the advancement of a variety of issues to improved governance. Since the end of the 1980s, the issue of good governance, as an instrument for sustained development and poverty alleviation, has gained widespread acknowledgment, especially among international organizations. It has also been dominating the international discussion about development and international assistance to developing countries (Imran and Shahnawaz, 2009; Anowar Uddin, 2010).

Good governance promotes accountability, transparency, participation, efficiency, effectiveness, equitability and rule of law in public institutions at all levels. It also allows for sound and efficient management of human, natural, economic, and financial resources for equitable and sustainable development. Moreover, under good governance, there are clear decision making procedures at the level of public authorities, civil society participation in decision-making processes, and the ability to enforce rights and obligations through legal mechanisms (Berhanu, 2003; Julie Aubut, 2004; Morita and Zaelke, 2007; Stella Ladi, 2008).

Without good governance, it is assumed that the benefits of most reforms in developing countries, like Ethiopia, will not be reached to the poor and the funds allocated for various developmental issues will not be used effectively. On the other hand, bad governance stifles and impedes development. In those countries where there are lacks of accountability, transparency, responsiveness, inefficiency, ineffectiveness, corruptions, poor control of public funds and abuses of human rights, development inevitably suffers. Bad governance acts as a barrier to economic, social, and political development and this leads to the collapse of a nation state (John Graham et.al, 2003; Stella Ladi, 2008; Anowar Uddin, 2010).

Sustainable development, social cohesion and environmental management are dependent on governance and efficient public sector management. Hence, good governance is representative of successful public sector reform programs that promotes equity and sustainable development (Mezgebe, 2007).

It is very difficult to think effective social and economic resources in a manner that is transparent, accountable, and equitable without the existence and practical applicability of the indicators of good governance. A weak governance system compromises the delivery of services and benefits to those who need them most (Adel M. Abdellatif, 2003, Samson, 2011).

In countries where there are lacks of accountability, transparency, responsiveness, inefficiency, ineffectiveness, corruptions, poor control of public funds and abuses of human rights, development inevitably suffers. Ethiopia as one of the African countries has been striving for alleviating bad governance at all levels of government since 1990s. Decentralization and good governance remain critical issues for national led development programs in Ethiopia. Tigray is one of the regional states in Ethiopia that different development activities have been undertaking to tackle poverty and bring sustainable development. As in, the other regional sates the rare myriad problems that the region has been facing both in ensuring good governance and in speeding the process of democratization. It is true that ensuring development is not an easy task that can be done without a challenge. The problems of the regional state are not different from the national and global script.

The region has long faced significant governance issues, marked by a lack of adherence to key elements such as transparency, accountability, and the rule of law. Decision-making processes, access to information, and financial disclosures have been notably deficient, undermining the governing body's accountability. Inadequate mechanisms to hold individuals and institutions accountable, compromised independence of the judiciary and a lack of inclusivity in decision-making processes have further exacerbated governance challenges in the region, influencing the delivery of public services and resource management (Assefa, 2024).

The Tigray region has faced profound ravage following the conflict between the FDRE and the TPLF, resulting in significant ramifications for the local community. Thus, the needs assessment

seeks to comprehensively understand the current statuses, needs, and aspirations of the people in post-war Tigray, seharti woreda in relation to the challenges and prospects of good governance.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

According to UNDP cited in Gisselquist(2012), ‘Good governance refers to governing systems which are capable, responsive, inclusive, and transparent. All countries, developed and developing, need to work continuously towards better governance’. In line with this international concern, the GOE has emphasized and started working to realize good governance at all government levels. Though the Ethiopian government is committed to realizing good governance at all levels, the literature reveals that research on good governance is lacking in municipal administrations. Tegene and Kassahun (2007, p: 55) pointed that research on issues such as accountability of service providers to users, representation and participation of users in the planning and decision-making process, and structures for participation and representation are almost lacking.

Several studies have been conducted on good governance among which significance of good governance and its challenges in Ethiopia, the findings show that lack of knowledge, and skill of the officers on right implementation of good governance has impact on societal outlook, which constrains playing part in governance. To curb challenges, Ethiopian government has taken number of measures that could be considered as opportunities. This includes adaption of FDRE constitution, amendment of domestic laws, development plan that enhances the development of country in many accesses that helps society participate on government and related commitments of government (Gizaw, 2014).

The existence of poor responsiveness, lack of awareness about the management, lack of democracy, corruption, poor sense of ownership, double responsibility and lack of members’ awareness were found to be the reasons for weak performance. The binary logistic regression model results show that, four predictor variables such as participation, accountability, transparency and rule of law are found to be significant on the impact of cooperative performance which needs due attention of the concerned stake holders to maintain good governance practice(Dayanandan, 2013).

Good governance plays key role in realizing governments objectives eradicating poverty specially food shortage problem in short term backwardness of domestic economic sector, traditional use of land and animal husbandry poor use labor power too comparing of global agricultural practice chemical fertilizers. The war which is held between the FDRE government and Tigray region affects all activates in the region. as a result of this The areas selected for research have challenges that can discourage for the promotion of good governance. A grievance of citizens observed on lack of transparency, un-accountability, delivering service, low level of public participation, access to public services and information's and ineffectivness and non-responsive leaders, equality of all citizens before the law and rampant corruption pushes the reasercher to asses the problem on the given area.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

The central research question of the paper is formulated as follows

- What is the view of service users regarding to (accountability and transparency, participation, rule of law and effectiveness) in the study area Administration in post war?
- To what extent the people are involved in decision-making and governance processes in the selected area.
- What are the major challenges in delivering essential public service in the area after the war?
- How functional are local governance institutions in delivering effective public administration?

### **1.3. Objective of the Study**

#### **1.3.1 General objective**

The main objective of the study is to assess the challenges of good governance and its prospects in post war Tigray, with a focus on key elements of good governance such as rule of law, transparency, accountability, participation, responsiveness and effectiveness.

#### **1.3.2 Specific objectives**

The specific objectives are

- To examine the impact of the war on governance institutions and the rule of law in post-war.
- To examine the effectiveness of governance mechanisms in ensuring transparency, reducing corruption, and promoting accountability in public institution in post-war.
- Examine the perceptions of the people regarding the practice of good governance elements in the study area administration in post war
- To evaluate the effectiveness and responsiveness of local government institutions in delivering public service.

#### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The significance of this study is serving as a guideline benchmark for individuals who can work on the challenges of good governance and its prospects in post war in the same or other area of the region as well as other parts of Ethiopia. The investigation of these challenges may provide a direction to other researchers to conduct further investigation and later they can suggest remedial measures to be taken by policy planners, actioners and implementers to address the issue.in addition to this:

- It gives better understanding about good governance challenges and prospects in post war.
- It helps to familiarize with working on good governance and to work on curbing challenge.
- It also helps the society to practice good governance and to understand what it means what is good governance and playing parts on its challenges.
- It helps to solve implementation challenges of good governance.

#### **1.5 Scope of the study**

This research would assess the existing practice of good governance measurements, and investigating challenges impeding the exercise of these measurements. In short, the scope of the research is defined in terms of its thematic and geographical aspects. In terms of theme the research assesse, the challenges of good governance and its prospects in light of selected elements of good governance for the purpose of this research. Transparency and accountability control of corruption, public participation and prevalence of rule of law, responsiveness and

effectiveness. Which are the major elements of good governance, would use to assess the practice of good governance in the study area administration. Geographically the research is restricted within the territorial jurisdiction of seharti woreda specifically Gijjet town, tabyia tashi (kebele) and tabia mykana local administration.

### **1.6. Ethical Considerations**

This study involved different stakeholders whose participation has significant in achieving the objectives. Each category of stakeholders in a research activity may have different interests, perspectives, purposes, aims, and motivations that affects the way that research activity is carried out and the way results are communicated and used. Because of this, it is important to ensure that research is not affected by the self-interest of any party and is not carried out in a way that harms any party (Kumar, 1999). Depending on this idea, the researcher has set a code of ethics that could steer the whole activities of the research. Therefore, the researchers practically observed the ethical considerations and execute research activities in line with prescribed code of ethics. In order to ensure the confidentiality of data collection and to keep the rights of the research participants, the following ethical protocols would be carefully observe.

The research participants were asked for their willingness. Based on their permission they are oriented or informed with the type of information sought from them, the reason for their participation and usefulness of the research for their life. The information given by respondents is kept indistinctive. The researcher used appropriate methodology to get reliable finding and has careful while using information and writing the thesis. Letter of confirmation for conducting the research would be presented for respondents.

### **1.7. Organization of the study**

This research organized under six chapters. Chapter one concentrates on the problem and its approach. It includes the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, the scope of the study. The second chapter includes general literature review on good governance and its challenges. The third chapter includes the

methodology of the research. The fourth chapter covers presentation and analysis of the data, chapter five deals with finding and discussion and the last chapter focuses on summary, conclusions and recommendations of the study.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **Review of Related Literature**

This chapter of the research is dedicated to presenting the review of the related literatures, which are helpful in establishing theoretical and analytical-framework pertinent to the study. Thus, this portion of the research brought the meaning of governance by summarizing what has been said by different scholars, international organizations. The attributes/elements of good governance that were defined by UNDP and AfDB were also presented. In line with this, the major dimensions of good governance with their detail were summarized which are helpful in analyzing good governance at local level, the good governance issues in general and particularly in our country Ethiopia are discussed.

#### **2.1. The Concept of Governance**

Academicians and students of politics presumably understand the concepts and the underlying nature and principles of governance. Majority of individuals may find this word “Governance” unfamiliar or even they need the thought but do not necessarily fully understand the term in its entirety. Some people would equate governance to government. This paper tries to elucidate what governance and good governance means also on explicate the principles underlying governance and good governance. Let’s examine first, what is governance. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) defined governance as the exercise of political, economic and administrative authority in the management of a country’s affair at all levels.

Dannug (2005) acknowledges that “in the public sector, the governance perspective extends beyond traditional players and look at the development of broad range of non-state actors including business, media, civil society, and faith-based groups”. Governance encompasses all other stakeholders within the state, not just the government bureaucracy in carrying out its mandates. All of these parties play an important role in the state’s operations and administrations. Within which a theory is gaining traction that the success or failure of

government is not exclusively dependent on the execution and application of the government's policies or the implementation of the government's programs, projects, and services. However, these other elements must be examined in order to understand how governance is defined in the framework of political authority, as well as how state and non-state actors see governance.

Keping (2018) stated that scholars from many countries have come up with five major ideas on governance: The term governance refers to the power dynamics that exists in connection between institutions engaging in collective activity. To be more explicit, any organization dedicated to collective action must rely on other organizations, in order to fulfill its goal, it must trade resources and actors, as well as the rules of the game and the environment in which the exchange occurs. In order to address social and economic concerns, governance acknowledges the blurring of boundaries and duties. It indicates that in modern society, the state is transferring previously exclusive responsibilities to civil society, as a result of which the boundaries between the state and society, as well as the public and private sectors, are becoming increasingly blurred, as are the definitions of responsibilities.

The term "governance" refers to a group of institutions and actors within and outside of government. It questions the state or government's authority in the traditional sense, arguing that the government is not a state's sole source of power. It is possible to become a power center at a specific level as long as the power wielded by public or private institutions is recognized by the public. Governance emphasizes the importance of autonomous self-governing networks as such has the authority to issue orders in a certain sphere and the work with the government in this sphere and share its responsibilities for public administration.

Governance recognizes the capacity to get things done without relying on the power of government tools to command or use its authority. In public affairs management, there are other management tools and techniques and the Government has the responsibility.

According to Gisselquist (2012), not only do definitions vary across organizations; they also vary within organizations.

## **2.2 Definition and Element of Good Governance**

Good governance is the process measuring how public institutions conduct public affairs and manage public resources and guarantee the realization of human rights in a manner essentially free of abuse and corruption with due regard for the rule of law([www.wikipedia.net](http://www.wikipedia.net)).

The realization of how governments meet the overall needs of their citizens, regardless of affiliations, social statuses, or groups, is the concept of good governance. The government's accountability and responsibilities to its citizens are met satisfactorily. Governing policies are fully applied in order to accomplish development, as opposed to preferential policies that favor only certain groups.

The World Bank defines good governance into two areas. First, the political system of an organization affects good governance. Establishing a strong power exercise mechanism by valid vote from the grass roots to the top and bringing an administrative scale for the improvement of the region by an institution or government. The systematic strategy to reformation for sustainable development is described by political power exercise. In order to produce effective governance, the government should select which policies serve people's needs and how they handle government aspects with such innovative policies.

Roman R. Dannug in his book "Politics and Governance" expounded the relationship between civil society and the state, the rulers and the ruled, and the government and the governed is referred to as governance. It is the process of making group decisions in which the government may or may not play prominent or even minor role. In this approach, government is viewed as an instrument, with governance as part of the governing process. Transparency, accountability, openness, and the rule of law are the cornerstones of good governance. Specifically, a state pursuing good government would: actively combat corruption, improve democratic procedural institutions and principles, establish and maintain good governance institutions.

It is widely accepted that good governance is a necessary condition to sustain economic development and ensure the prosperity of the country. According to UNDP Good, governance refers to governing systems that are capable, responsive, inclusive, and transparent. All countries, developed and developing, need to work continuously towards better governance (Gisselquist, 2012).

## **2.3 Objectives of good governance**

The objective of good governance is to enhance transparency and accountability so that there is zero tolerance for corruption. Good governance initiatives will be supported by information technology and expansion of civic education. The public service delivery systems will be modernized made efficient, fair and transparent in their delivery. Some of the major objectives and benefits of good governance is to:

### **2.3.1 Promotes community confidence**

People are more likely to have confidence in their local government if decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way. This helps people feel that local government will act in the community's overall interest, regardless of differing opinions. It also encourages local governments to remember that they are acting on behalf of their community and helps them to understand the importance of having open and ethical processes which adhere to the law and stand up to scrutiny.

### **2.3.2 Encourage elected members and council officers to be confident**

Elected members and council officers will feel better about their involvement in local government when good governance is practiced. Councilors will be more confident that they are across the issues, that they can trust the advice they are given, that their views will be respected even if no one agrees with them, and that the council chamber is a safe place for debate and decision making. Officers will feel more confident in providing frank and fearless advice that is acknowledged and respected by councilors. Leads to better decisions that are informed by good information and data, by stakeholder views, and by open and honest debate will generally reflect the broad interests of the community. This does not assume that everyone will think each decision is the right one. However, members of the community are more likely to accept the outcomes if the process has been good, even if they do not agree with the decision. They will also be less tempted to continue fighting or attempting to overturn the decision.

### **2.3.3 Supports ethical decision making**

Good governance creates an environment where elected members and council officers ask themselves what the right thing to do when making decisions is. Making choices and having to

account for them in an open and transparent way encourages honest consideration of the choices facing those in the governance process. This is the case even when differing moral frameworks between individuals means that the answer to ‘what is the right thing to do’ is not always the same.

## **2.4 Elements of good governance**

### **1. Accountability and Transparency**

Accountability and transparency are critical components and key requirements of good governance. According to Tiwari (2004), good governance implies accountability to the citizens of a democratic polity and their involvement in decision-making, implementation and evaluation of projects, programs and public policies. In this regard, accountability and transparency become inviolable elements of good governance. The notion of accountability is an amorphous concept that is difficult to define in precise terms. However, broadly speaking, accountability exists when there is a relationship where an individual or body and the performance of tasks or functions by that individual or body are subject to another’s oversight, direction or request that they provide information or justification for their actions. The concept of accountability is not only limited to governmental institutions but also it stretches to private sectors and civil society organizations (Tiwari, 2004).

Therefore, the idea of accountability obliges government institutions, private sector as well as civil society organizations to be accountable for the public. According to AfDB (1999), accountability defined as holding responsible elected or appointed individuals and organizations charged with a public mandate to account for specific actions, activities or decisions to the public from which they derive their authority. In a narrow sense, accountability focuses on the ability to account for the allocation, use, and control of public spending and resources in accordance with legally accepted standards, i.e. budgeting, accounting, and auditing. In a broader sense, it is also concerned with the establishment and enforcement of rules of corporate governance. According to RAND (2008), accountability is an ethical concept concerns proper behavior, and it deals with the responsibilities of individuals and organizations for their actions towards other people and agencies (Rand, 2008).

The concept is used in practical settings, notably in describing arrangements for governance and management in public services and private organizations. The term is often used synonymously with concepts of transparency, liability, answerability and other ideas associated with the expectations of account giving.

Bovens (2005) cited in RAND (2008) defined accountability as a social relation in which an actor feels an obligation to explain and to justify his or her conduct to some significant other. The principle of Accountability also established in Ethiopian Constitution. In Ethiopia, since the fall of Derge regime, having recognized the inviolability of accountability and transparency in governance system, the newly established FDRE government, has gave attention to it. Indeed, the 1995 Ethiopian constitution in Article 12 under sub article 1-3, clearly stated about the accountability of government. According to the constitution in the government that is accountable, the following features are prevalent:

- The conduct of affairs of government shall be transparent.
- Any public official or an elected representative has to be accountable for any failure in official duties.
- In case of loss of confidence, the people may recall an elected representative. In general accountability make sure that, for every action and inaction in government and its consequences there is a body responsible and accountable to the government, the society and the people in general.

## **2. Transparency**

Transparency is the principle that those affected by administrative decisions should be informed, and it is the duty of civil servants, managers, and trustees to act visibly, predictably, and understandably. It describes the increased flow of timely and reliable economic, social, and political information (for example, about government service provision). Transparency enables institutions and the public to make informed political decisions and it improves the accountability of governments and reduces the scope for corruption (OSI, 2004).

Transparency means that decisions taken and their enforcement are done in a manner that follows rules and regulations. It also means that information is freely available and directly

accessible to those who will be affected by such decisions and their enforcement. It also means that enough information is provided in easily understandable forms and media (Ibid).

### **3. Responsiveness**

Good Governance require that institutions and processes for to serve all stakeholders with in a reasonable period. In the present times the emphases is more on institutions being responsive to the needs of all those who are going to be affected by their actions Consensus Oriented There are several actors and as many view point in a given society. Good governance requires meditation of the different interests in society to reach a broad consensus in society on what is in the best interest of the whole community and how this can be achieved. It also requires a broad and long-term perspective on what is needed for sustainable human development and how to achieve the goals of such development. This can only result from an understanding of the historical, cultural and social contests of a given society or community.

Responsiveness is also one of key components of good governance that urges the government to serve the public within a reasonable timeframe. Rodden and Wibbels (2012) noted that responsiveness and accountability have come to be seen as crucial ingredients of good governance. This is because good governance requires that institutions and processes try to serve all stakeholders within a reasonable timeframe. Responsiveness in a democratic state is one way of serving people is to attempt to deliver, serve state actors with interests, and be served with the highest attention and care, with effective implementation and close monitoring of the process. Good Governance require that institutions and processes for to serve all stakeholders within a reasonable period. In the present times the emphases is more on institutions being responsive to the needs of all those who are going to be affected by their actions (Rodden and Wibbels 20120).

### **4. Participation**

Participation is defined as a process whereby stakeholders exercise influence over public policy decisions, and share control over resources and institutions that affect their lives, thereby providing a check on the actions of government (AfDB, 1999). In the governance context, participation targets on the empowerment of citizens and the interaction between civil societies, actors and actions. In general, it is about a situation in which all citizens and private institutions

can participate in their own governance, generate legitimate claim and monitoring government policies and actions (Ibid).

Participatory governance is one of key component of good governance that has been included in definitions of good governance. In participatory governance, citizens got a meaningful place to exercise their rights and articulate interests accordingly.

The definition given by Wampler and McNuty (2004) pointed that, participatory governance consists of state-sanctioned institutional processes that allow citizens to exercise voice and vote, which then results in the implementation of public policies that produce some sort of changes in citizens' lives. In this system of governance, citizens are engaged in public venues (common public affairs) at a variety of times throughout the year. Thus, it allows citizens to be involved in policy formulation, selection, and oversight. Moreover, it creates interactions among citizens as well as between citizens and government officials (Wampler and McNuty, 2004).

The idea of participatory governance has gained enormous popularity in recent times, both in academic discourse and actual practice. More generally, the recent emphasis on good governance as the foundation for sustained and equitable development has generated widespread interest in participation in the development circle, as effective participation by all stakeholders, especially at local levels of government, has come to be viewed as a necessary condition for promoting good governance. In the developed world too, people's participation in social decision-making processes is increasingly being emphasized as a means of combating a range of social malaise, including the problems of social exclusion, political apathy and so on (United Nation, 2008). Participation has enormous significance for human beings. According to United Nation (2008), participation is valued for both intrinsic and instrumental reasons. The intrinsic value refers to the idea that the act of participation is valuable in itself, quite apart from any value it may have in helping to achieve other good things (United Nation , 2008 ).

## **5. Combating Corruption**

It is literally defined as the misappropriation of public assets or public office/trust for private gains. Concretizing this definition cited in Lengseth (1999) WB and Transparency International (TI) defined corruption as the misuse of public office for private gain. As such, it involves the improper and unlawful behavior of public-service officials, both politicians and civil servants,

whose positions create opportunities for the diversion of money and assets from government to them and their accomplices (Lengseth, 1999).

## **6. Rule of Law**

The Secretary-General of UN (2013) cited in Nwekeaku(2014) defines the rule of law as a principle of governance in which all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the State itself, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and which are consistent with international human rights norms and standards. It requires as well measures to ensure adherence to the principles of supremacy of the law, equality before the law, accountability to the law, fairness in the application of the law, separation of powers, participation in decision-making, legal certainty, avoidance of arbitrariness, and procedural and legal transparency (Nwekeaku, 2014).

## **7. Effectiveness and Efficiency**

Performance management and services that create desired results or effects are given in this field. A deliberate use of resources and people produces a productive effect with results that fulfill the planned goals. Policies have to be effective delivering what is needed based on clear objectives, an evaluation of future impact and in case of availability of experience. Effectiveness moreover depends on implementing policies in a proportionate manner and on taking decisions at the most appropriate level. The management of effectiveness includes particularly a technical dimension because effectiveness concerns the ability of public bureaucracies to skillfully and efficiently transform public resources into services and infrastructure that correspond to publicly determined priorities. Performance orientation and transparent procedures are key facts of effective public management. Effective regulation requires clear, achievable objectives and ensuring that these policy goals remain to the fore throughout the regulatory process. An objective approach to regulation places greater emphasis on performance and outcomes. However, the assumptions underlying the stated objective must also be clear ( UNDP, 2000).

These are the important events, conditions or decisions outside the regulation that must nevertheless prevail for the objective to be attained. Further, an associated element of regulatory effectiveness is the need to minimize unintended outcomes. That means avoiding the creation of unnecessary barriers that can frustrate and inhibit innovation, repress economic activity by

reducing entry and exit to particular sectors and markets. Therefore, effectiveness is also ensuring that regulations are precise, not only in identifying the right targets, but also in confining the extent of their impact. In fact, that means doing the right things in the right way. This raises the question of downstream enforcement and compliance with regulations. This is often inadequately considered in terms of identifying acceptable and unacceptable levels of compliance, the range of enforcement options available and the likely costs involved. These aspects are important because they will ultimately determine whether regulations are observed (World Bank, 2007).

## **8. Equity and Inclusiveness**

that all its feel that a stake do not feel excluded from the mainstream of society this requires all groups but particularly the most vulnerable have opportunities and improve or maintain their wellbeing. A society's wellbeing depends on ensuring that all its members feel that they have a stake in it and do not feel excluded from the mainstream of society this requires all groups but particularly the most vulnerable have opportunities and improve or maintain their wellbeing.

## **2.5 Good Governance in Ethiopia**

Federalism has given an opportunity and functional authority of self-administration for nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia as per the constitutional provision of FDRE. Owing to this decentralized governance, system was introduced and this in turn enabled the local government to exercise full power under its political jurisdiction. In Ethiopia, the decentralization program has contributed to improve local governance. It is widely accepted that, good governance is a key ingredient in development process. Grindle (2010), argued that good governance is a mighty beacon for people who live in conditions of corruption, abuse of law, public service failure, poverty, and inequality. It seems recognizing the prominence of good governance that the GOE focused on promoting good governance at all government levels (grindle, 2010).

According to MOFED, (2009) Ethiopia has, over the last several years, began implementing major reform programs to empower citizens as well as enhances public sector efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability. The Constitution of Ethiopia is the foundation of the ongoing efforts in building democratic and good governance system. In doing so, the GOE has established the good governance package to promote good governance.

MoFED (2009) argued that, the introduction of good governance package also has strengthened the decentralization program's contribution to improve local governance. Besides, the good governance package has contributed to improvement in the understanding and knowledge of good governance at all levels, and local structures and mechanisms are being developed to translate the principles and values in to practice, making a positive difference to citizens (MoFED, 2009).

The package attempts to enhance good governance including participation, consensus building, gender equality, responsiveness, transparency, accountability, equity and fairness, the rule of law and efficiency and effectiveness. Therefore, a number of measures were taken to improve local governance including awareness raising campaign, issuing directives and codes of conduct, changing the number and composition of councilors, appointment of Kebele managers, complaints handling officers, and participation of membership-based grass root organizations (MoFED, 2009).

## **2.6 Governance Weaknesses in Post-Conflict**

Because conditions in post-conflict countries vary widely, restoring governance and rebuilding trust in government requires different approaches in countries at different stages of conflict resolution, at different stages of recovery from conflict, and with governments at different levels of administrative capacity. Some countries require and can support a more comprehensive approach to governance reform. Others may only be able to support narrow interventions that build capacity to carry out specific functions or to address critical deficiencies. The most difficult challenges of restoring governance arise from the absence of a constitutionally established governing authority and from serious weaknesses in government capacity and resources. Most countries in early stages of postconflict reconstruction, and even those in the transition from reconstruction to more stable government, rank relatively low on indicators of governance. Using the World Bank's 2006 governance indicators, for example, almost all post-conflict countries show relatively weak performance in government effectiveness, political stability and control of violence, voice and accountability, regulatory quality, and control of corruption (World Bank, 2006).

### **2.6.1 Government Effectiveness**

Governments in post-conflict countries simply are not very effective in performing their functions. The World Bank's governance indicators for government effectiveness assess the quality of public services, the quality of the civil service and the degree of its independence from political pressures, the quality of policy formulation and implementation and the credibility of the government's commitment to such policies. Good governance and trust in government are essential conditions for maintaining peace and reconstructing countries that have been devastated by war because countries emerging from crises remain vulnerable to continuing tensions. Governance tasks and challenges Experience over the past quarter of a century indicates that among the most immediate and important tasks facing post-conflict countries are strengthening their capacity to carry out five categories of governance and redevelopment functions. establishing safety and security, re-establishing or restoring Effective Governance and Building Trust in Government constitutional governance, implementing post-conflict recovery and reconstruction programs, stabilizing and equitably growing the economy; and Strengthens justice and reconciliation organizations. Each of these sets of functions is crucial in contributing to post-conflict reconstruction and is inextricably interrelated with each of the others. The boundaries among these sets of functions are often porous and the ability to deal with one often requires strengthening other government capacities as well. Some problems cut across several or all sets of functions that governments must perform during the period of post-conflict reconstruction (World Bank, 1994).

In many post-conflict countries, governments need the capacity to carry out all of these tasks at the same time while ensuring the accountability, transparency and integrity of their actions. Failure to attend to one set of problems often impacts negatively on a government's ability to deal effectively with others. For example, widespread corruption often undermines the capacity of government to carry out all of the other reconstruction tasks and weakens trust in public sector leaders (Ibid).

## **2.8 Local administrative discretion**

In order to have flexibility in delivering services and the opportunity to respond to local demands, local governments need to have administrative autonomy. In Ethiopia, the local governments hardly seem to have any such discretion. In administrative functions such as enforcing regulatory decisions and governing the procurement system, the laws are in place

providing discretionary powers to the local authorities but because of capacity constraints and party interference, defect discretion does not exist. Local governments also seem to lack the power to control and manage their workforce, as all hiring and firing have to go through zonal or regional offices. At the kebele level, a number of formal as well as informal mechanisms exist to construct and maintain services and to hold the agents of service delivery accountable. Some of these such as the school management committees seem to function well. Overall, these mechanisms are geared more towards filling the service delivery gap (because of lack of capacity of the government to deliver services) than keeping the local government accountable.

### **2.8.1 Local government's ability to regulate**

As part of their administrative autonomy, local governments need to have a minimum set of powers and capacities to initiate regulatory legislation on critical issues affecting their jurisdiction. In Ethiopia, local governments in rural woredas have the authority to determine land use- they can decide the location of facilities such as schools, wells, health posts and clinics. They can also regulate co-ops and community volunteer activities. In municipalities, local government authorities can prepare and implement development plans and regulate markets, sanitary services, slaughterhouses, fire brigades and mortuary and burial services. They also have the discretion to issue marriage and birth certificates, approve building plans, and register properties. Most of these discretionary powers are on paper only and as most decisions on laws and planning seem to be top-down arising from the party at the national level, and conveyed through the regional and zonal structures to the local level.

### **2.8.2 Transparency and Accountability in Urban Governance**

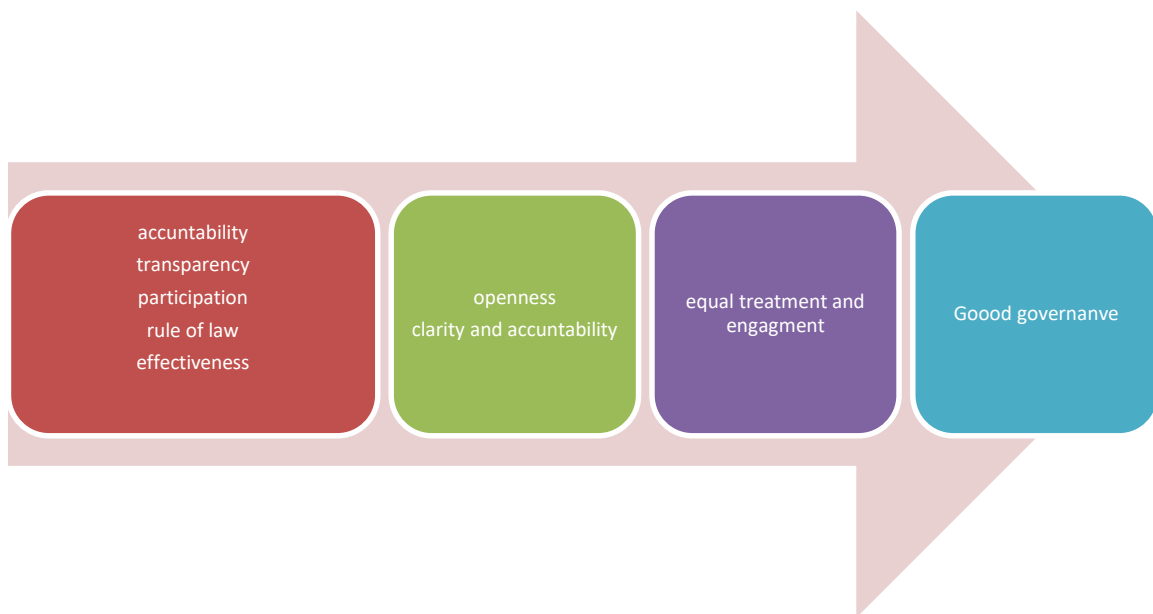
According to Global Campaign on Urban governance (2002), the accountability of local authorities to their citizens is a fundamental tenet of good governance. Similarly, there should be no place for corruption in cities. Corruption can undermine local government credibility and can deepen urban poverty. Transparency and accountability are essential to stakeholder understanding of local government and to who is benefiting from decisions and actions. Access to information is fundamental to this understanding and to good governance. Laws and public policies should be applied in a transparent and predictable manner. Elected and appointed officials and other civil servant, leaders need to set an example of high standards of professional

and personal integrity. Citizen participation is a key element in promoting transparency and accountability. Therefore, practical means of realizing accountability and transparency in local governments include, among other things:

- Regular organized and open consultations of citizens on financial matters and other important issues like budgeting.
- Removing administrative and procedural incentives for corruption, including simplifying local taxation systems and the reduction of administrative discretion in permit processing
- Establishing codes of conduct and provision for regular disclosure of assets of public officials and elected representatives;
- Creating public feedback mechanisms such as an ombudsman, hotlines, complaint offices and procedures, citizen report cards and procedures for public petitioning and/or public interest litigation
- Promoting the public's right of access to city information.

**Conceptual**

**framework**



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political  
inference

corruption

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bureaucra  
cy

**challenges of good governance**

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budget  
deficiency

leadership problem

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## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **Research Methodology**

This chapter presents the research method used in the study in order to answer for the research questions and meet the objectives of the research. It also presents the process of data collection as well as data analysis procedures.

#### **3.1 Site selection and description of the study area**

The study is conducted in Seharti wereda. The wereda is located in southeastern zone of Tigray region and northern Ethiopia. The wereda administrative have 12 tabia and each tabia is divided in to “kushet” which are the lowest unit in administrative hierarchy. The delineation is made based on natural boundaries like rivers, mountain peaks, settlement, population size and convenience and proximity to administrative centers. Concerning the selection of the wereda by the researcher is, as the researcher grew up in this region and he had not face communication barrier between him and the local people to interact and deal with all matters related to the research activities. With regard to the selection of the sample, tabias three tabias were selected purposefully. In selection of these tabias things that were taken in to consideration are the

grievance of the people in governance after the war forwarded to the tabia and woreda administration.

### **3.2. Research Design**

As it is clearly stated in the above, the main purpose of this study is to identify the challenges and prospects of good governance. To accomplish the objective of the study a descriptive research method was employed. The research follows cross-sectional design. According to laurenthomas (2020), cross-sectional approach is concerned with collecting data from many different individuals at single point in time. Therefore, individuals from different geographical areas were entertained to questionnaire, interview and focus group discussion to express their view regarding of challenges of good governance and its prospects that are going in the woreda selected tabias administration. More over descriptive research is concerned with the present and attempts to determine the status of the phenomenon under investigation. It describes and interprets what exists at present. In descriptive or normative research the researcher is concerned with conditions or relationships that exist, practices that prevail, beliefs, points of view or attitudes that are held, process that are going on, influences that are being felt, and trends that are developing (Singh Y, 2006: p102-4). Having recognized these all natures, the researcher uses descriptive research method because the central theme of the study was assessing the challenges of good governance and its prospects. In the study, the researcher would assess the good governance challenges by collecting data from study participants via selected tools. In doing, so both quantitative and qualitative data could be used.

### **3.3. Sampling Techniques and Size of Sampling**

The researcher predominantly used non-probabilistic sampling techniques. Accordingly, the study uses purposive sampling to select the study woreda, sample kebeles, the farmers, office workers, administrators, service providers etc. Seharti wereda is purposely selected. Because the woreda is more convenient for the researcher and no research was conducted, relating to governance issues as it is newly recognized wereda and this research would assess the situation in post war. Three “tabias” of the woreda are also being purposely selected and households were selected through convenience sampling technique. Because these “tabias” were selected purposively by considering the geographical proximity, frequency of complaints recorded in

woreda and social court and grievance of the people after the war. The participants of the study were those who have been selected based on non-probability sampling technique. Purposive and convenience sampling techniques were utilized in this research.

It is clearly noted in Dawson (2002), purposive samples are used if description rather than generalization is the goal. As a result, the researcher purposefully selected gijjet town, tashi and mykana kebeles as the study site. In order to get holistic information about the practice and challenges of good governance in the area, the researcher has gathered data from the people (town residents), and local authorities, civil servants. Convenience sampling is a kind of non-probability or nonrandom sampling in which members of the target population, are selected for the purpose of the study if they meet certain practical criteria, such as geographical proximity, educational background, availability at a certain time, easy accessibility, or the willingness to volunteer. Based on this the study used a sample of respondents from each place, making a total of 250 respondent. The formula for the sample was given in equation (i) at the confidence interval of 95% with significance level of 5%

The Formula for sample size: 
$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where:

n = Sample size to be studied

N= Population size

e = margin of error

From the above formula, the sample size for this study was:

$$n = \frac{250}{1 + 250(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{250}{1 + 0.625}$$

$$n = \frac{250}{1.625}$$

$$n = 153.8$$

Therefore the sample in this study is 154 from the above formula; the required sample for this study was 154 people which includes all interested parts. The interested party had been selected by using purposive.

**Table 1: Sample frame**

No of kebele	Name of kebele	Sample of respondents
1	Gijjet	70
2	Tashi	44
3	Mykana	40

### **3.4 Data Type and Sources**

The research was conducted by using descriptive survey type in which all data are relevant to the case was gathered and analyzed. This type of method was used because the research tried to assess the challenges and prospects of good governance based on different good governance indicators. The researcher used both primary and secondary data as a source of information. Combinations of qualitative and quantitative data were gathered through semi structured questionnaires and interviews as a primary source of information for the study. A document analysis was also used as sources of secondary data, which relied on published and unpublished materials, such as internet, books, magazines, reports and journals

### **3.5 Data Collection Techniques**

#### **3.5.1. Questionnaire**

A questionnaire with both open-ended and close-ended question items would be originally prepare in English and then translated into Tigrigna to collect information from the people, Civil servants, and dwellers were fill up the questionnaire and focal persons were used.

#### **3.5.2. Interview**

Un-structured manner of face-to-face (personal) interview was conducted to obtain accurate information from delegates, Civil servants, dwellers' and other concerned bodies. The researcher

had made an interview for about sixteen individuals. This was mainly made with key informants of tabia, woreda and municipal administrators and officers.

### 3.5.3 FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

The focus group discussion primarily arranged with issues that were not included and answered through questionnaire and interview. In addition, it was mainly used even with questions that were included in questionnaire but that need further information. The number of individuals that involved in focus group discussions ranged from ten up to fifteen. Sometimes the discussion was made flexible when important ideas for the study was raised. By doing this, the researcher received a wide range of responses during a meeting and the problem were clearly identified, articulated and analyzed. In selecting individuals for group discussions all sex, age groups, educational background and social status were taken in to consideration. The respondents were comprise from woreda,tabia (kebele) administrations , experts, residents and youth association.

## Chapter Four

### 4. Analysis and Interpretation of Data

This Chapter of the research provides analysis and interpretation of data. Data was analyzed using percentile, then after, the analyzed data was presented by using tables, graphs, and pi-chart. Finally, interpretation was given according to the analysis.

#### 4.1 The Socio Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

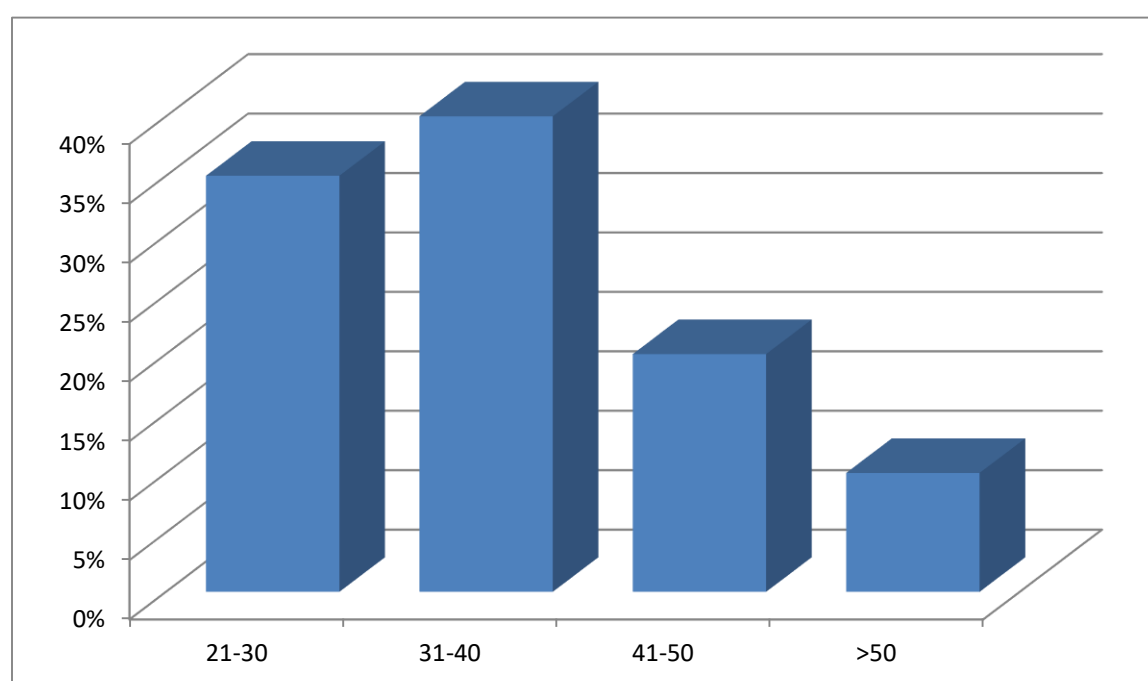
**Table 2: Percent Distribution of Respondents by Residential Kebele and Sex**

Gender respondents	Name of kebele						Total	
	Gijjet		Tashi		Mykana			
	No	%	No	%	no	%	no	%
Male	38	25.7	28	18.1	22	14.3	88	57.2
Female	32	20.7	16	10.3	18	11.6	66	42.8
Total	70	45.4	44	28.5	40	25.9	154	100.0

Source: Survey result, 2017

Regarding sex and residence Keble of respondents, the table above depicted that 38(25.7%) of male and 32 (20.7%) of female participated from Gijjet town. 28 (18.1%) and 16 (10.3%) of male and female respondents participated from kebele (tabia) tashi. The remaining 22 (14.3%) male and 18(11.6%) female respondents were from kebele (tabia) mykana. This means, 88(57.2%) male and 66 (42.8%) of female respondents took part from all selected Kebeles in this particular research.

**Figure 1: Characteristics of respondents by age group**



**Source: survey result 2017**

In terms of age group, majority of respondents about 62(40.3 %) were between the age of 31-40, followed by 55(35.7%) between the age of 41-50, 24(15.6%) between the age of 21-30 and 13(8.4%) were above 51.

**Table 3: Educational background**

Educational background	No	%
1-8	56	36.3
Grade 9-12	47	30.5

Certificate	22	14.3
Diploma	11	7.1
Bachelor Degree	5	3.2
Above	3	2
Total	154	100.0

**Source: survey result 2017**

Concerning educational background 56 (36.3%) and 47 (30.5%) of research participants were grade 1-8 and 9-12 holders respectively. The remaining 22(14.3%), 11 (7.1%), 5 (3.2%) and 3 (2%) were certificate, diploma, degree and above degree respectively.

#### **4.2. Public Views (response) on Transparency and Accountability in the study area**

Transparency and accountability are essential elements of good governance. Access to information is fundamental to this understanding and to good governance. Without transparency, it is hardly possible to hold officials accountable for their decisions. Thus it is important to look at how transparent is the governance system.

**Table: 4** Public Views (response) on Transparency and Accountability

Item	Respondents											Total	
		Strongly agree		Agree		Uncertain		Disagree		Strongly disagree			
Administrative polices and laws are applied in transparent and accountable manner after the war	Male	7	4.5 %	16	10.4 %	5	3.2%	42	27.3%	18	11.7 %	88	57.1
	Female	6	3.9	22	14.3	4	2.6	31	20.1	3	1.9	66	42.9
	Total	13	8.4	38	24.7	9	5.8	73	47.4	21	13.6	154	100.0
Your local government holds an open consultation and discussion on providing social services	Male	-	-	14	9.1	8	5.2	38	24.7	20	12.9	88	57.1
	Female	3	1.9	17	11	9	5.8	28	18.2	9	5.8	66	42.9
	Total	3	1.9	31	20.1	17	11	66	42.9	29	18.8	154	100.0

Your local government makes hot and attractive debate with the people regarding to annul budget	Male	8	5.2	19	12.3	16	10.4	45	29.2	-	-	88	57.1
	Female	-	-	11	7.1	7	4.5	43	27.9	5	3.2	66	42.9
	Total	8	5.2	30	19.5	23	14.9	88	57.1	5	3.2	154	100.0

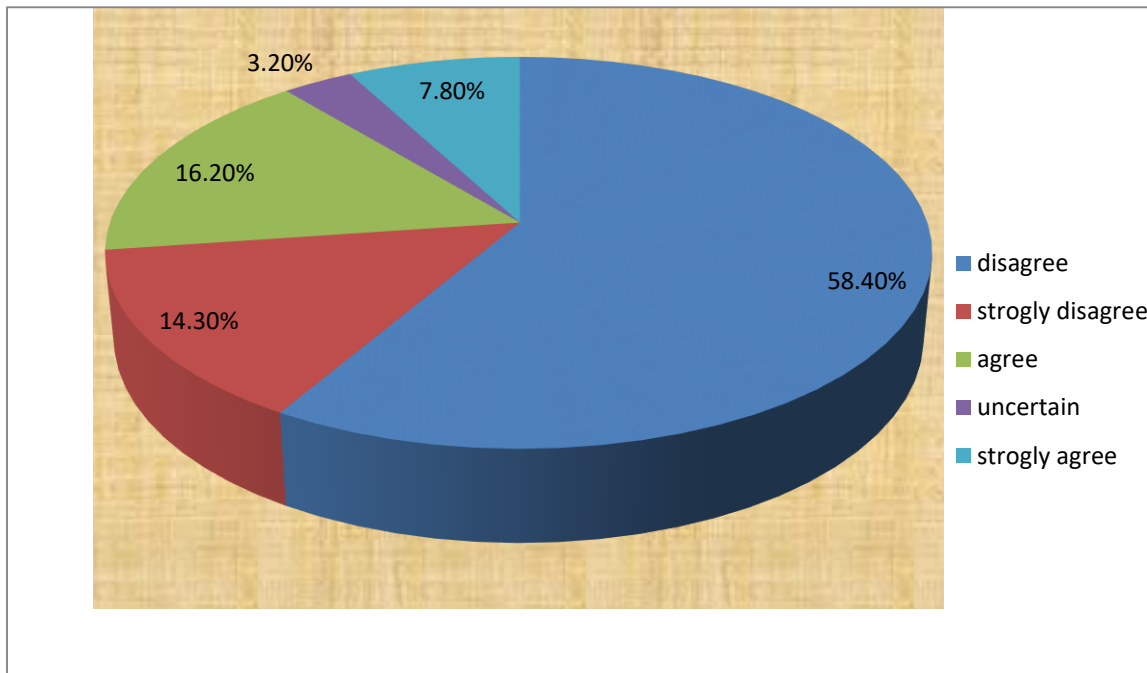
**Source: survey result, 2017**

The data in the table above shows that, administrative policies and laws are not applied in transparent manner. As seen in table, majority of respondents disagreed to the view that, laws and policies were applied in a transparent and accountable manner. This means, 73(47.4%) and 21 (13.6%) of male and female respondents were in the categories of disagree and strongly disagree respectively. However, about 38 (24.7%) of male and female respondents agreed, that laws and policies are applied in a transparent and predictable manner. The remaining 9 (5.8%) of male and female respondents were uncertain to the view that local governments hold open discussion with the people in relation to providing social service in a transparent and accountable manner. Regarding to local government makes hot and attractive debate with the people on annul budget about 88(57.1%) and 5(3.2%) of respondents were responded disagree and strongly disagree to the view. Similarly around 30 (19.5%) and 23 (14.89%) respondents were replied agree and uncertain. Thus, according to the data it is possible to infer that, administrative decisions, polices and laws are not transparent to the people. it also shows there is no hot and attractive discussion among the people and local governments. From this, we can understand that local governments are not accountable for their failure. When they explain their view they said that:

- Weak interaction between people and leaders.
- Discrimination between rich and poor- whenever you want to get something, you have to commit an illegal action that is corruption. Therefore, the rich can afford to pay it not the poor. Therefore, justice is unable to reach at the door of the poor. Only the affluent or the well to do individuals have been getting their need by giving of corruption was their idea.
- Absence of checking and controlling mechanisms.
- Lack of speedy response

- Policy implementers do not understand what they are going to implement.
- Administrators and development agents have not been consonant among each other.
- The development agents have been served as messengers of the administrators without knowing the message of their task.

**Figure 2: Accessibility of public office information to service users**



**Figure 2**

**Source: Survey result, 2017**

The data on figure tells that information is relatively less accessible to service users. About 90(58.4%) and 22(14.3%) respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed. Whereas, 25(16.2%) and 12 (7.8%) of respondents experienced that public offices information is accessible to the people. The remaining five (3.2%) of sample respondents were uncertain.

**Table: 5 Respondents experience with public compliant office of the town and local administration**

Respondents	Have you gone to public office to voice your complain in the past two years			Total
	Yes		No	

		%		%		%
Male	47	30.5	41	26.6	88	57.1
Female	28	18.2	38	24.7	66	42.9
<b>Total</b>	75	48.7	79	51.3	154	100.0

Source: Survey result, 2017

According to the data in the above table, about 41 (26.6%) of male and 38 (24.7%) of female respondents replied that they have gone to public compliant handling office and got a service. This means around 47 (30.5%) of male and 28 (18.2) female respondents have gone to the office.

**Table 6: Public Satisfaction regarding complaint handling office service.**

respondents	If your answer “yes” how you got the service from the office								Total	
	Very satisfied		satisfied		dissatisfied		Very dissatisfied			
		%		%		%		%		%
Male	-	-	5	3.2	65	42.2	18	11.7	88	57.1
Female	3	2	7	4.5	39	25.3	15	9.7	66	42.9
Total	3	2	12	7.8	104	67.5	33	21.4	154	100.0

Source: Survey result, 2014

The respondents who have gone to compliant office were also asked about their view of satisfaction on the service they got from the office. Most of the respondents replied that they were dissatisfied with the service of the compliant office. This means 104 (67.5%) of male and female respondents were dissatisfied with the service they have got from their local administration. The remaining 33 (21.4%) of male and female respondents also replied as they were very dissatisfied with the service. Some of the respondents 3(2%) and 12(7.8%) were very satisfied and satisfied with the service given from the administration.

**Table 7: Public meeting attendance on various issues of the local areas**

Gender respondents	Have you attended a public meeting/consultation in the past 2 years?				Total	
	Yes	%	No	%		
Male	32	20.7	56	36.3	88	57.1
Female	28	18.2	38	24.6	66	42.9
Total	60	38.9	94	61	154	100

The above table suggests a low level of citizens' attendance in public meetings held in their local government in the past two years. Around 56 (36.3%) of male and 38 (24.6%) of female respondents responded No. This means, 94 (61%) of all respondents did not participate in public meetings of the local government in the past two years. As can be seen in the table 28 (18.2%) of females attended public meetings as compared to 32(20.7%) of male respondents. The information obtained from key informants of the interview and participants of FGD also confirmed that, males have more attendance than females in public meeting held at kebele as well as town level. The interview result obtained from key informants also identified attitudinal factors contributing for less attendance of the people in meetings and public consultations:

- consider attending meeting as wasting time, thus they give priority for their day today activities
- Considering meetings as valueless
- In the open-ended question respondents who haven't attended public consultations or meetings in their locality in the past 2 years, were asked to mention the main reasons for their absence. Accordingly majority of respondents both male and female pointed the following reasons as the major variables affecting their attendance in meetings:
  - Problems that are mentioned by the people are not solved
  - Agendas always flow from top to down to the grass root people
  - Most of the agendas are predefined
  - Attending meeting has no value; this is because local leaders took suggestions and comments from gathered people during the meetings and they pledged to consider ideas

coming from the people, however in practice-received feedbacks from the people kept ignored without being considered.

- Similar issues frequently raised in public meeting and consultations
- Discriminating and discouraging those who speak truth and try to expose wrong doings
- Local authorities are less committed to encourage the people to take part in public issues

### 4.3 Respondents' view regarding to the issue of public participation

**Table 8: public participation**

Item	Respondents											Total	
	Agree			Strongly agree		disagree		Strongly disagree		uncertain			
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
citizens have freedom to express their opinion in public meeting in post war	M	6	3.8	5	3.2	52	33.8	23	14.9	2	1.3	88	57.1
	F	2	1.3	3	1.9	46	29.8	12	7.8	3	1.9	66	41.9
Authorities encourage you to make participation in different issues and other activities	M	20	12.9	16	10.4	35	22.7	12	7.8	5	3.2	88	57.1
	F	21	13.6	11	7.1	20	12.9	7	4.5	7	4.5	66	41.9
Females and the youth part of the people actively participate in criticize the local administration after the war	M	4	2.6	3	1.9	48	31.2	31	20.1	2	1.3	88	57.1
	F	4	2.6	3	1.9	37	24	22	14.2	-	-	66	42.9

**Source: survey 2017**

According to the above table citizens have not the freedom to express their opinion in public meeting in post war and Authorities does not encourage them to make participation in different issues and other activities. In addition to this after the war female and youth part of the people does not actively participate in their local administration issues.

**Table 9: Respondents view regarding to factors that affect people’s participation in their local administration.**

Gender respondents	Do you think that there are problems that affect active public participation in your area?				Total	
	Yes	%	No	%		
Male	78	50.6	10	6.4	88	57.1%
Female	63	40.9	3	1.9	66	42.9
Total	141	91.5	13	8.4	154	100

The above table shows indicates the prevalence of problems affecting active participation of the people in the local administration areas. Almost all male and female respondents affirmed that, there are problems that affect the participation of people in the areas. As can be seen in the table around 50.6% of male and 40.9% female respondents responded yes regarding the prevalence of problems deterring public participation.

Through open-ended question and FGD, respondents were also asked to identify the problems affecting public participation. Based on this the following elements were identified as major challenges affecting the general participation of people in the town and local administration.

- ✓ Prevalence of corruption
- ✓ Unresponsiveness of local government; due to this people are less interested to take part in public affairs
- ✓ Public officials and authorities are not keen enough in mobilizing the people for participation
- ✓ People are not fully exercising their right to discussion and decision making on shared problems. Instead, local leaders let them to accept what has been decided and do what ordered by them.

- ✓ There is a gap between people and local authorities. Authorities are not close enough to the people.
- ✓ Poor public service delivery

#### 4.4 Public Perception Regarding the Rule of Law

**Table 10:** Please indicate your agreement to the following statements in the table

	agree		Strongly agree		Disagree		Uncertain		Strongly disagree	
	res	%	res	%	res	%	Res	%	res	%
There is a clear procedures/rules in your local administration	10	6.5	15	9.7	79	51.2	13	8.4	37	24
Decisions were not subject to corruption	-	-	-		126	81.8	6	3.8	22	14.2
Decisions were independent and impartial	10	6.5	7	4.5	89	57.7	27	17.5	21	13.6
Administrative decisions are transparent to the people	9	5.8	7	5.5	48	31.1	34	22	56	36.3
Cases are processed quickly	4	2.5	3	1.9	98	63.6	30	19.4	19	12.3
The institution makes decision and takes actions in accordance with the law	12	7.7	7	4.5	85	55.2	13	8.4	37	24

The above table indicates

- The procedures and rules of the local administration are not clear to the people
- the decisions which are made by the local administration are subject to corruption
- the decisions are not transparent to the people
- Cases were not processed quickly and most of the decisions and action taken by the local administration are not according to the law.

#### 4.5 peoples view on corruption

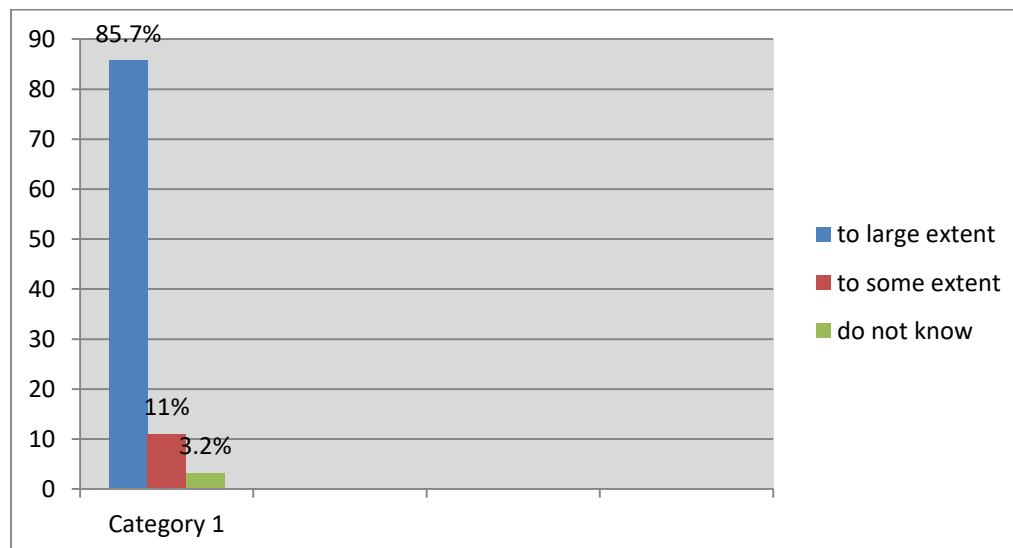
**Table 11:**

Respondents	Is there corruption in your local administration				Total	
	yes		No			
Male	85	55.2%	3	1.9%	88	57.1%
Female	58	37.6%	8	5.2%	66	42.9%
Total	143	92.8	11	7.1%	154	100%

According to the above table, 85(55.2%) male and 58(37.6%) female respondents affirmed that corruption was existed in their local administration. Furthermore, the response from the open-ended question and interview coupled with FGD result enlightened the following specific reasons for the existence of corruption in the town and local administration:

- To get kebele residential identity card. Many of research participants reported that getting kebele residential card in the formal way is difficult and time consuming.
- To get license (specially trade)
- For transfer within (getting promotion) and between public sectors (offices)
- In order to get land for farming
- To build house on illegal place
- To get humanitarian aid that comes from NGO

To what extent do you think that corruption is a problem in your local or town administration?



**Figure 3:** peoples view regarding to the prevalence of corruption

To what extent do you think that corruption is a problem in your local or town administration?

According to the pie chart, 85.7% of male and female responds that the existence of corruption in the local area is large and 11% male and female responds the existence of corruption is to some extent. Therefore, we can understand that the existence of corruption in the local and town administration is large.

#### 4.6. Peoples view on effectiveness

**Table 12:** Please state your level of agreement with the following statement: (Agree, Un-certain, Disagree and strongly disagree).

	Agree		Un-certain		Disagree		Strongly disagree	
	M	F	M	f	M	f	m	F
The institutions provides the overall service on time as per the service	2(1.3%)	2(1.3%)	3(1.9%)	4(2.5%)	62(40.2%)	42(27.3%)	21(13.6%)	18(11.6%)
There is complete availability of competent personnel	11(7.1%)	5(3.2%)	9(5.8%)	21(13.6%)	37(24%)	33(21.4%)	31(20.1%)	7(4.5%)
There is a bureaucratic delay and much process in the service providing	66(42.9%)	51(33.1%)	6(3.8%)	4(2.5%)	9(5.8%)	7(4.5%)	7(4.5%)	4(2.5%)
There is high standard service delivery in the institution	4(2.5%)	2(2.3%)	11(7.1%)	8(5.2%)	55(35.7%)	41(26.6%)	18(11.6%)	15(9.7%)

The data in the table above suggests that majority of the respondents disagree and strongly disagree to the view that institutions provide overall service no time as per the service. That means 108(70.1%) male and female, 39(25.3%) male and female respondents were in the categories of disagree and strongly disagree respectively.

Regarding to complete availability of competent personnel about 70(45.4%) male and female, 38(24.6%) male female are disagree and strongly disagree to the view. however, 30(19.4%) respondents become uncertain to the issue. The some to this 96(62.3%) male and female,

33(21.4%) male and female are in the categories of disagree and strongly disagree to the view that there is high standard service delivery in the institution. Regarding bureaucratic delay and much process in the service providing about 117(75.9%) male and female respondents were responded agree to the view. however, 16(10.4%) male and female were disagree to the view that There is a bureaucratic delay and much process in the service providing.

Moreover, the FGD result confirmed that always smart ideas raised, hot discussion made and also agreements are reached between local government representatives and people, however, everything remains the same and unchanged in post-conference times. Adding to this they pointed that discussions are made only for the sake of formality.

**Table 13:** How satisfied are you with the overall service provision of the municipality regarding pure water supply, electricity, education and health in the post war.

Respondents	Satisfied		Dissatisfied		Very dissatisfied	
Male	18	11.6%	37	24%	11	7.1%
Female	24	15.5%	50	32.4%	14	9.1%
Total	42	27.2%	87	56.5%	25	16.2%

Based on the above table 37(24%) males, 50(32.4%) females and 11(7.1%) males, 14(9.1%) females were dissatisfied and very dissatisfied with the provision of overall services in the local areas. However, 18(11.6%) males and 24(15.5%) females were responds as they are satisfied in the provision of the services.

**Table 14:** Does your town or local administration carry out an open discussion with the people on the issue of good governance?

Respondents	Does your town or local administration carry out an open discussion with the people on the issue of good governance				Total	
	Yes		No			
Male	11	7.1%	77	50%	88	57.1%

<b>Female</b>	15	9.7%	51	33.1%	66	42.9%
<b>Total</b>	26	16.8	128	83.1%	154	100%

In your opinion, what are the main obstacles for good governance in your town or local administration? Multiple responses are possible. Some of the obstacles of good governance in local administration stated by the interviewers FGD were

- Lack of accountability and transparency
- Weak political leadership
- Lack of resource
- Lack of skilled public servant Corruption
- Lack of citizen's participation
- Poor service delivery
- Lack of integrity among public officials

## ▪ **Chapter Five**

### **5. Research Finding and Discussion**

This chapter reveals the major findings of the research work and discussions with reference to literatures. This research produced a number of findings. The findings show that laws and policies are not applied in transparent and predictable manner. Besides, administrative decisions are not open to the people. According to Tiwari (2004), good governance implies accountability to the citizens of a democratic polity and their involvement in decision-making, implementation and evaluation of projects, programs and public policies. However, information is required to be accessible according to literature, in contrary; accessibility of public office information to service users is minimal in the study local and Town Administration. MoFED (2009) argued that, local governments should disseminate information about where to go/whom to contact in case of questions or problems with a service. The local government has low level of consultation with its people concerning various affairs of the community. In this regard, respondents reported as they are disengaged in municipal budget consultations; indeed the budget proposal is not announced to the people publicly affecting transparency in local government.

The following factors were figured out as the contributing factors for low public meeting attendance in particular and problems for overall public participation in general:

- Agendas always flow from top to down

- Most of the town agendas are predefined
  - Similar issues frequently raised in public meetings and consultations
  - Unresponsiveness of local government, due to this people are less interested to take part in public affairs
  - Citizens perceive that attending meeting has no value
  - Local authorities don't encourage the people to take part in public affairs
  - Public officials and authorities are not keen enough in mobilizing the people for participation
  - Discriminating and discouraging those who speak truth and try to expose wrong doings
  - People are not fully exercising their right to discussion and decision making on shared problems.

Instead, local leaders let them to accept and do what ordered by them. Besides court, decision lacks impartiality and found to be subject to corruption. Besides, according to the interview result with the municipal councilors and municipality head the town lacks professionally led office to solve the problems. Generally, respondents reported, as they are very dissatisfied with the overall municipal service provision. In addition to this though, discussions/public conferences are made between the local government and people regarding good governance, problems raised remain unsolved. Participants of FGD respondents reported that discussions are made only for the sake of formality. The research result showed that rent seeking was reported as a chief threat of good governance in the local admonition. Moreover, poor service delivery, lack of integrity among public officials and weak political leadership are also identified as challenges of good governance in the local administration. In general the finding of the study can stated as

- The procedures/rules are not clear in the local administration
- Local governments does not encourage the people to participate in debate and public meeting
- Decisions are not made quickly
- Local leaders are not accountable for the failure they done
- People are not fully exercising their right to discussion and decision making on shared problems citizens have freedom to express their opinion in public meeting in post war

## **Chapter Six**

### **6. Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation**

In this part of the paper findings of the research had briefly summarized, more condensed and comprehensive statements had offered in the form of conclusions and recommendations.

#### **6.1 Summary of the major findings**

The main purpose of this study was to investigate the challenges and prospects of good governance in seharti Woreda three selected administrative offices. More specifically the study had designed to answer the following research questions:

- What is the view of service users regarding to (accountability and transparency, participation, rule of law and effectiveness) in the study area Administration in post war?
- To what extent the people do have access to social service provision (water, electricity, transport, health) in the selected area.
- What are the major challenges of good governance in the study area after the war?
- What are the underlying factors that influence the degree of transparency, effectiveness rule of law, participation and responsiveness in the woreda selected areas in post war

In order to find out answer for the above research questions the study has used questionnaires and interview as the main data gathering tools. The collected data were analyzed using simple statistical technique such as percentage, charts, and tables. The major findings of such analysis were briefly summarized as concerning to transparency and accountability most of the respondents confirmed that there is no transparency and accountability in their local administration. From these results, it can be conclude that the local administrative officials were less accountable and transparent to their people. In addition to this, the finding can be summarized as:

- Administrative polices and laws were not applied in transparent and accountable manner after the war.
- The local government does not hold an open meeting and discussion on providing social services with the people.
- The local government does not make hot and attractive debate with the people regarding to annul budget.

- the existence of Unresponsiveness of local government; due to this people are less interested to take part in public affairs
- Public officials and authorities are not keen enough in mobilizing the people for participation
- People are not fully exercising their right to discussion and decision making on shared problems. Instead, local leaders let them to accept what has been decided and do what ordered by them.
- There is a gap between people and local authorities. Authorities are not close enough to the people.
- Poor public service delivery especially pure water supply, internal road building, refuse collection and specifically the public dissatisfaction related with these issues
- There is a bureaucratic delay and much process in the service providing to the people The procedures and rules of the local administration are not clear to the people
- the decisions which are made by the local administration are subject to corruption

## **6.2.Conclusions**

The study attempted to address the challenges and prospects of good governance in post war seharti wereda selected areas. This paper has sought to assess the challenges and prospects of good governance in the northeastern zone of Tigray, seharti woreda local administration in post war era. The research finding shows that the city and local administrative officials were less accountable and transparent i.e. the decision was not open to the public. There was no enabling environment for the public to have their voice in their governance system. Decisions were made in spite of active sharing of the community and they were not decision maker rather than decision taker. Besides, there was a limitation of getting public service that the public officials were not delivering public service in an equal comportment. The existence of apparatus that shows to whom the city and local administrative officers are accountable and transparent for their decision and action they made so that people grumble concerning good governance could be addressed. The administration system has to allow the service users to actively engage in decision making process of their governance aspects and it would be helpful to have public service delivery system without any discrimination he local administrative.

### **6.3. Recommendations**

Based on the identified finding the following recommendations are made for better working to ensure good governance in the study area.

- Implement policies that ensure transparency in government operation by utilizing technology to share real time data on government project and resource allocation.
- Rebuild and strengthen key institutions such as the judiciary, local government and public administration system.
- Encourage the active participation of civil society organizations, local communities, and marginalized groups in political and decision- making processes.
- Establish open government portals that create an online platform where where government contracts, budgets, and aid distribution are publically accessible.
- Strengthen the parliamentary over sight that ensures the local and regional parliament to have the power to monitor government action and hold officials accountable.

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## **Annex A**

### **Questionnaire for residents**

Dear respondent

The purpose of this questionnaire is to get information about the good governance prospects and challenges in seharti woreda purposely selected kebeles and local administration. Therefore, your genuine response to the questions will have an important contribution for the accomplishment and the success of this study. As a result, you are kindly requested to supply appropriate response for each question. To fill out the questionnaire it will not take more than 20 minutes. You do not need to write your name and your response will be kept confidential.

**Thank you for your cooperation in filling out and returning the questionnaire!**

**Part I: Socio Demographic Characteristics**

**Instruction: Please supply the following personal details by using  $\surd$  in the appropriate box**

1. Your kebele: tashi  maykana  gijjet
2. sex: Male  Female
3. What is your Age group: from 21-30  1-40  41-50
4. Educational background: Illiterate  Grade 1-8  Grade 9-12  Certificate   
 Diploma  Bachelor Degree  Above

**Part II: questions regarding accountability and transparency in the town administration.**

5. Please state your level of agreement with the following statements in the table: (5=Strongly Agree, 4=Agree, 3=Un-certain, 2=Disagree and 1=strongly disagree)

	strongly agree	agree	Un-certain	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Administrative polices and laws are applied in transparent and accountable manner after the war					
Your local government holds an open consultation and discussion providing social services					
Your local government makes hot and attractive debate with the people regarding to annul budget					
Your local leaders are accountable for the frailer they do					
Public offices in your local provide the necessary information to service users					

6. Have you ever gone to public complaint office to voice your complaint? YesNo

7. If your response is “Yes” how satisfied are you with the service you got from the office?

Very satisfied  satisfied  Dissatisfied  Very Dissatisfied

**Part III: questions regarding the issue of public participation.**

8. Please state your level of agreement with the following statement: (Strongly Agree, Agree, Un-certain, Disagree and strongly disagree).

	Strongly agree	agree	Un-certain	disagree	Strongly disagree
In the local administration citizens have freedom to express their opinion in public meeting in post war					
Authorities in your local and town administration encourage you to make participation in different issues and other activities					
Females and the youth part of the people actively participate in criticize the local administration					

9. Have you attended a public meeting/consultation in the past 2 years? Yes  No

10. If your answer is No for question 11 why haven't you attended public meeting

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11. Do you think that there are problems that affect active public participation in your area?

Yes  No

if your response is Yes Please name the problems that affect public participation.

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**Part IV: Questions regarding rule of law.**

12. Please indicate your agreement to the following statements in the table:

The institution makes decision and takes actions in accordance with the law				
There is a clear procedures/rules				
The institution is independent from political dependence to decide on different issues				
Decisions were independent and impartial				
Decisions were not subject to corruption				
Cases are processed quickly				
Administrative decisions are transparent to the people				

**Part V: questions on effectiveness**

13. Please state your level of agreement with the following statement: (5=Strongly Agree, 4=Agree, 3=Un-certain, 2=Disagree and 1=strongly disagree).

	<u>Strongly agree</u>	<u>agree</u>	<u>Un-certain</u>	<u>disagree</u>	<u>Strongly disagree</u>
There is complete availability of competent personnel					
There is high standard service delivery in the institution					
The institution provides the overall service on time as per the service					

There is a bureaucratic delay and much process in the service providing					

**Part VI: questions on corruption**

14. To what extent do you think that corruption is a problem in your local or town administration after the war?

To large extent  to some extent a  do not know

15. Is there corruption in your kebele administration. Yes  No

**Part VII: questions on municipal service provision (pure water supply &electricity, transport, telecommunication, health and education).**

27. How satisfied are you with the overall service provision of the municipality regarding pure water supply, electricity, education and health in the post war?

Satisfied  Dissatisfied  Very Dissatisfied

28. Does your town or local administration carry out an open discussion with the people on the issue of good governance? Yes  No

If your answer is, yes how much it does

Always  usually  sometimes  never

**Annex B**

**Structured Interview for Key Informants**

Dear respondent, you are kindly requested to give appropriate response for each question. The purpose of the interview is to collect data regarding the existing condition of good governance prospects and challenges in seharti woreda gijjet town, tashi and mykana local administration. The objective of this data collection is for the purpose of Master's Thesis. Thus, your genuine response is critical in getting a true understanding about governance in your town. The interview will not take more than 15 minutes and your response will be also kept confidential.

Date of the interview \_\_\_\_\_ Time started \_\_\_\_\_ ended \_\_\_\_\_ Place  
where the interview conducted \_\_\_\_\_ Name of interviewee \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of interviewer \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your cooperation!**

1. What do you say about good governance in seharti woreda after the war?
2. Can you mention some problems that affect public participation in the local administration?
3. Is corruption a serious problem in the local administration of the selected area?
4. What do you say about public service provision in your local administration?
5. In your opinion, what are the main obstacles for good governance in your town?

**Thank you for your cooperation. Your response will be kept confidential.**

### **Annex C**

#### **Questions for Focus Group Discussion**

Date of the discussion \_\_\_\_\_

Time started \_\_\_\_\_ ended \_\_\_\_\_

Place where the discussion conducted \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the facilitator \_\_\_\_\_

1. What are the major challenges of good governance in your town in your particular area after the war?
2. What do you say about public participation in various affairs of the town, tashi and mykana local administration after the war?
3. Do you think corruption is a serious problem? What government can do to fight corruption?
4. What is your possible solution in promoting good governance in BTMA in general? What government can do to promote good governance?

**Thank you for your cooperation!**