

A Philosophical Analysis of Good Governance: A Study of Buddhist Sources

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Good governance is an important and universally accepted concept and a democratic political pattern which has its roots in the Greek era. Under such circumstances, the purpose of this research is to interpret the oriental narrative of good governance and to identify the possibility of creating an ideal state through Buddhist guidance. In studying the particular path, the study will also compare with the Western political philosophy as emphasized in various texts and scriptures thereby showing the vivacity of modern political concepts, specifically explained in Buddha's Sermons. Of the particular significance are the Buddhist sutras that have a strong connotation in comparison with the contemporary western political concepts. A special focus will be placed to identify the basic aspects of good governance in Sri Lanka, eight main points; participation, consensus, accountability, transparency, sensitivity, efficiency, equity and the rule of law will be discussed. The Buddha's discourse reveal that the Buddha's preachings are well explained and practically engaged in explaining the quality of ruling. *Sarananda Sutra*, the *Great Parinibbana Sutta* and the *Adhammika Sutra* explain how a country has an adverse effect when the ruler is unruly. Further, according to the *Kutattha Sutta*, the ruler must be a correct ruler who prevents theft in the state and works towards economic progress, whereas in the *Chakkavaththi Sihana Sutta*, the ruler is righteous and knows how to properly establish the state. Accordingly, it is evident from the study of all sermons that the teachings of the Buddha are more prevalent in the modern day political philosophy and practically advantageous compared with the Western teaching.

Key words: *Good governance, Western political concept, Presidential election, Buddha's sermon, Ideal state*