

governance GLOSSARY

Governance Glossary

This glossary provides definitions of key terms used in urban and regional governance topics, particularly in public policy, land, climate change, and urban management. It facilitates an understanding of basic terminology for academics, researchers, and practitioners. The glossary is designed to provide a foundational vocabulary for anyone new to the field of governance. While it is not an exhaustive list of all the terms used in this context, it does include those terms that are used the most and perhaps understood the least.

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A

Accountability

The acknowledgement and assumption of responsibility by public, private, and voluntary sector officials for their actions, and the existence of redress mechanisms when duties and commitments are not met (Natural Resource Governance Glossary 2017a).

Accountability institutions

Public, private, and voluntary organisations that monitor the policies and performance of government or others in positions of authority, and take actions to ensure accountability for decisions taken. They include formal independent entities, e.g., ombudsman’s offices, anti-corruption agencies, judicial entities, human rights commissions, and parliamentary bodies, among others. More broadly, civil society organisations, citizen movements, and the media play key watchdog roles (Natural Resource Governance Glossary 2017b).

Adaptive governance

Adaptive governance is a concept from institutional theory that deals with the evolution of institutions for the management of shared assets, particularly common pool resources and other forms of natural capital (Hatfield-Dodds, Nelson, and Cook 2007).

Adaptation

The process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects. In human systems, adaptation seeks to moderate or avoid harm, or exploit beneficial opportunities. In some natural systems, human intervention may facilitate adjustment to expected climate and its effects (Climate Change Knowledge Portal 2018a).

Adaptation strategy

A land use and management strategy that can be used— (i) to increase the sequestration capabilities of covered greenhouse gases of any ecosystem; or (ii) to reduce the emissions of covered greenhouse gases from any ecosystem (Legal Information Institute 2007).

Adaptive ecosystem management

A natural resource management process under which planning, implementation, monitoring, research, evaluation, and incorporation of new knowledge are combined into a management approach that— (i) is based on scientific findings and the needs of society; (ii) treats management actions as experiments; (iii)

acknowledges the complexity of these systems and scientific uncertainty; and (iv) uses the resulting new knowledge to modify future management methods and policy (Legal Information Institute 2004).

Administrative governance

Administrative governance refers to the system of policy implementation (Samiul Islam 2017, 2772).

B

Bureaucracy

A governmental organisation characterised by adherence to fixed rules, specialisation of functions, and hierarchy of authority (Simon, Steel, and Lovirch 2018a).

C

Climate change

A change in the state of the climate that can be identified (for example, using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties, and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer. It refers to any change in climate over time, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity (Climate Change Knowledge Portal 2018b).

Climate change adaptation

Climate change adaptation can be defined as: “adjustments in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities” (Schneider 2014).

Community development

Broadly, community development is a participatory people-centred process that involves bringing, mobilising, or organising people together, keeping them together, and enabling them to work together to address their needs and issues so as to facilitate their own and society’s comprehensive development (Pawar 2009, 186).

Civic boosterism

Attempts by local governments to develop their local economies by attracting inward investment and through partnerships with private sector sources of capital. Also termed civic entrepreneurialism (Knox and Pinch 2010a, 317).

Climate governance

Climate governance, derived from more general approaches to global governance, comprises mechanisms and measures aimed at steering social systems towards preventing, mitigating, or adapting to the risks posed by climate change. (Jagers and Stripple 2003, 385)

Collaborative governance

The move to share bureaucratic decision-making power with citizens and personnel in the lower reaches of organisational hierarchies, to embrace public-private collaborative partnerships, and to reform rule structures and hierarchy for efficiency (Simon, Steel, and Lovirch 2018b).

Civil society

Civil society refers to the wide array of non-governmental and not-for-profit organisations that have a presence in public life. These organisations express the interests and values of their members or others based on ethical, cultural, political, scientific, religious, or philanthropic considerations (Udegbumam 2014, 276).

Corruption

Corruption refers to behaviour that deviates from the formal duties of a public role due to private-regarding (i.e., personal, close family, or private clique), pecuniary, or status gains. Additionally, corruption includes behaviour that violates rules against the exercise of certain types of private-regarding influence (Nye 1967, 419).

D **Decentralisation**

Decentralisation involves a combination of promoting subnational governance structures, local elections, and local management of natural resources (Werker 2013, 55).

Disaster management

Disaster management refers to the organisation and management of resources and responsibilities for dealing with all humanitarian aspects of emergencies, in particular, preparedness, response, and recovery in order to lessen the impact of disasters (Bhashyam 2015, 44-45).

Disaster risk governance

Disaster risk governance refers to the way in which the public authorities, civil servants, media, private sector, and civil society coordinate at community, regional, and national levels in order to manage and reduce disaster and climate-related risks (Rao 2013, 3).

Demunicipalisation

Attempts by central governments to reduce the powers and responsibilities of local governments. Applied especially to the sale of local authority housing in the United Kingdom in combination with restrictions on new public sector housing construction (Knox and Pinch 2010, 321).

Decision making

Decision-making in government is a process in which evidence, both from systematic research and practical experience, mixes with a complex interaction of ideas, interests, ideologies, institutions, and individuals. These several factors are the determinants of decisions at the political and administrative levels (Aucoin 2005).

E **Ecosystem**

An ecosystem is a functional unit consisting of living organisms, their non-living environment, and the interactions within and between them. The components included in a given ecosystem and its spatial boundaries depend on the purpose for which the ecosystem is defined. Ecosystem boundaries can change over time. Ecosystems are nested within other ecosystems, and their scale can range from very small to the entire biosphere. In the current era, most ecosystems either contain people as key organisms, or are influenced by the effects of human activities in their environment (Climate Change Knowledge Portal 2018c).

Economic growth

Economic growth is the process by which the amount of goods and services one can earn with the same amount of work increases over time (de la Croix 2015, 38).

Empowerment

The process of gaining power over decisions and resources (Nadan and Nagi 2014, 19).

Enabling state

A key element of the new mode of governance and urban entrepreneurialism in which the direct role of the state is reduced and replaced by greater partnership between government and business interests (Knox and Pinch 2010c, 323).

Environment

The sum of all external conditions affecting the life, development, and survival of an organism (Haque 2018).

Environmental governance

Environmental governance is a concept in political ecology and environmental policy that advocates sustainability (sustainable development) as the supreme consideration for managing all human activities—political, social, and economic (Development Environment Politics Society 2019).

Environmental assessment

Environmental assessment can be defined as identifying, estimating, and evaluating the environmental impacts of existing and proposed projects (Balaman 2019, 103).

Environmental and social impact assessment

A process for predicting and assessing the potential environmental and social impacts of a proposed project, evaluating alternatives, and designing appropriate mitigation, management, and monitoring measures (BBOP 2018, 18).

E-governance

E-governance is the application of information and communication technology for the delivery government services, exchange of information, communication, transactions, integration, and various stand-alone systems. These services may involve the government and citizens, the government and

businesses, as well as back-office processes and interactions within the entire governance framework (Sridevi, Kumar, and Radhikaashree 2017, 162).

Enforcement

Enforcement is prompting the adoption of new instruments and mechanisms among governments in common law jurisdictions aiming to improve workplace regulation (Vosko, Grundy, and Thomas 2016, 1).

Education governance

Education governance is concerned with how the funding, provision, ownership, and regulation of education and training systems is coordinated, and at what level; local, regional, national and supranational (NESSE, n.d.).

Economic regulation

Economic regulation refers to the imposition of rules by the government to modify economic behaviour (Talley 2021, 24).

F

Food security

A state that prevails when people have secure access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food for normal growth, development, and an active and healthy life (Climate Change Knowledge Portal 2018).

G

Governance

All the methods by which societies are governed. The term is used to indicate the shift away from direct government control of the economy and society via hierarchical bureaucracies towards indirect control via diverse non-governmental organisations. Associated with the demise of local forms of government (Knox and Pinch 2010, 326).

Global governance

Global governance is a purposeful order that emerges from institutions, processes, norms, formal agreements, and informal mechanisms that regulate action for a common good (Benedict 2001, 6232).

Good urban governance

Good urban governance is a multidimensional concept that focuses on the improvement of the quality of living conditions of local citizens, especially those of marginalised and disadvantaged communities (Meyer and Auriacombe 2019).

Global Environmental Governance

Global Environmental Governance (GEG) is the sum of organisations, policy instruments, financing mechanisms, rules, procedures, and norms that regulate the processes of global environmental protection (Najam, Papa, and Taiyab 2006).

Governance reform

Reforms and governance are the art and science of administration and politics, which correspond to administrative reform functionally, deal with reorganisation and change in the affairs of institutionally arranged governmental apparatus of a nation state for “crisis management,” and ultimately achieve overall “national development” (Azizuddin 2018).

H**Hollowing out**

The transfer of powers from the nation state to political units at other levels such as the supranational or subnational level. May also refer to the transfer of powers at the local government level to private sector organisations rather than other political jurisdictions. Also used to refer to the contracting-out of activities by private corporations (Knox and Pinch 2010, 327).

Informal employment

Informal employment as comprising the total number of informal jobs, whether carried out in formal sector enterprises, informal sector enterprises, or households, during a given reference period (Husmanns 2004, 5).

Inequality

Inequality is the result of differences in individual endowments, and the solution to inequality is to adopt economic policies that can enrich individuals' endowments (Li 2017, 70).

International cooperation

The interaction of persons or groups of persons representing various nations in the pursuit of a common goal or interest (EAGL 2013).

Land tenure

The relationship, whether legally or customarily defined, among people, as individuals or groups, with respect to land and associated natural resources (such as water, trees, minerals, etc.). Rules of tenure define how property rights in land are to be allocated within societies. Land tenure determines who can use what resources, for how long, and under what conditions (FAO 2020, 34).

Land reform

Land reform—a part of agrarian reform—aims to implement changes in land policy in the areas of politics, economics, and society. The most common types of land reform are those dealing with reallocation of land and redistribution of tenure rights (FAO 2020, 33).

Local Economic Development (LED) strategies

LED means more than just economic growth. It includes promoting participation and local dialogue, connecting people and their resources for better employment, and a higher quality of life for both men and women. The ILO's goal of Decent Work for All is reflected in LED strategies through its focus on growth, poverty reduction, and social inclusion (ILO, n.d.).

Local self-government

Local self-government implies the transference of the power to rule to the lowest rungs of the political order. It is a form of democratic decentralisation where the participation at even the grassroots level of society is ensured in the process of administration (Varma 2017).

Local and regional governance

Local and regional governance structures with an emphasis on the following four major aspects: (i) fiscal outcomes; (ii) regional economic implications; (iii) social equity issues; and (iv) environmental consequences. It is contended that a holistic approach, covering various aspects of the implications

and revealing the context-specific trade-offs, is required to better understand the nature of governance systems (Kim and Jurey 2013, 111).

Local communities

A local community is a group of interacting people sharing an environment. In human communities, intent, belief, resources, preferences, needs, risks, and a number of conditions may be present and common, affecting the identity of the participants and their degree of cohesiveness (Abaitua, n.d.).

Land policy

The set of intentions embodied in various policy documents that are adopted by the government to organise land tenure and land use (FAO 2020, 32).

Land use planning

Land use planning is an activity of local and regional government that seeks to order and regulate land use in an efficient and ethical way, thus preventing land-use conflicts (Marcellus Community Science, n.d.)

Livelihoods

A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources), and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base (Hertz et al. 2010, 1).

Legitimacy

Legitimacy refers to the right and acceptance of an authority, usually a governing law or regime (Ekvall Halila 2020, 15).

M

Multilevel governance

Multilevel governance is a term used to describe the way power is spread vertically between the various levels of the government and horizontally across multiple quasi-government and non-governmental organisations, cooperatives, and business groups (Dutta 2021, para 12).

N

Non-governmental organisations

A non-governmental organisation (NGO) is an organisation independent of the government, whose primary mission is not commercial, and that focuses on social, cultural, environmental, educational, and other issues (Coppola 2015, 522).

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA)

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (NREGA) is a social security scheme that attempts to provide employment and livelihood to rural labourers in the country, in an effort to make inclusive and overall development a reality (Sujatha 2015).

Natural resource governance

Natural resource governance refers to the norms, institutions, and processes that determine how power and responsibilities over natural resources are exercised, how decisions are taken, and how citizens – women, men, indigenous peoples, and local communities – participate in and benefit from the management of natural resources (IUCN 2016).

New governance

New governance (NG) denotes a new approach in the governance strategies. This approach comes with a conceptual background explaining how the hardcore corporate decision-making and people-friendly business strategies have started to converge, relying on executive fiduciary duties, stakeholder engagement, and economic analysis of management incentives (Rahim 2013).

Normative governance

Risk governance denotes both the institutional structure and the policy process that guide and restrain collective activities of a group, society, or international community to regulate, reduce, or control risk problems (Jovanović, Renn, and Schröter 2012, 81).

Non-state actor

A non-state actor is an organised political actor not directly connected to the state but pursuing aims that affect vital state interests (Pearlman and Cunningham 2012, 2).

P**Participatory urban governance**

Participatory urban governance, with its focus on citizen representation and the equitable distribution of resources, has been implemented globally to deepen democracy (Koster 2016).

Public policy

Public policy is a goal-directed course of action, taken by government, to deal with a public problem. Governments use public policy to solve a social problem (housing, welfare), to counter a threat (crime, illegal drugs), or to pursue an objective (revenue generation). Public policy, then, is a choice made by official government bodies and agencies that affect the public interest (Tsengiwe 2018).

Performativity

The process through which identities are constructed. See performance. Also the practice of monitoring the performance of workers. Can involve worker productivity and efficiency in terms of output, but also the extent to which workers perform certain roles, such as in service jobs. Used as a defining element of postmodernism through new forms of governance (Knox and Pinch 2010, 334).

Polycentricity

A governance system in which there are multiple interacting governing bodies with autonomy to make and enforce rules within a specific policy arena and geography (Schoon et al. 2015, 226).

Public land

Public land is land that, unlike private land, is managed by the state, municipality, or local government (DEMLAS, n.d.).

Property rights

The legally defined and enforced rules of ownership, specifying who has the right to use and to sell anything, especially a piece of land, and whatever may be situated on, above, and below it. Well-established property rights are essential to a successful economic system (Deardorff 2016).

Poverty

“A state of individual or collective destitution that puts people in a situation of lack or dissatisfaction with their basic needs essential” (Karim 2013, 19).

Precarious employment

Precarious employment is defined as jobs of limited duration with limited protection from labour-market uncertainties and unacceptable treatment at work, low wages, and limited worker control over factors such as wages and working hours (Benach 2014, 238).

Political governance

Political governance is the process of decision-making to formulate policy (Vyas-Doorgapersad 2017, 32).

Public administration

Public administration is the implementation of government policy. It may also refer to an academic discipline that studies this implementation and prepares civil servants to work in public service (Thapa 2020, 2).

Public health

The health of the population as a whole, especially as the subject of government regulation and support (Britton 2019).

Public sector

The public sector is that part of the economy concerned with providing various governmental services. The composition of the public sector varies by country. In most countries, the public sector includes such services as the military, police, infrastructure (i.e., public roads, bridges, tunnels, water supply, sewers, electrical grids, telecommunications, etc.), public transit, and public education and healthcare, along with those working for the government itself, such as elected officials (Gupta and Sivakumar 2018, 100).

R**Resilience**

Resilience is commonly understood to mean withstanding or bouncing back from any hazard or disaster. According to the National Research Council, “individual, community, and national resilience is the ability to prepare and plan for, absorb, respond to, recover from, and more successfully adapt to adverse events (Wakeman et al. 2017, 8).

Restitution

Land restitution is the process of restoring land or other property to its former owners. In cases where property cannot be returned, restitution may involve compensation for its loss (Gregory 2013, 95).

Regional economics

Regional and local economics is a study of political economy (Clark 2010, 2).

Regulatory new governance

Regulatory governance includes a broad range of government-enforced rules and procedures: collaborative private-public rule-making efforts, increased attention to internal processes and organisational dynamics, and the promotion of government-supported self-regulation (Lobel 2012, 65).

Rule of law

The rule of law is a set of principles or ideals for ensuring an orderly and just society (Kim 2022, 12).

S Socio-ecological systems

A coupled system of humans and nature that constitutes a complex adaptive system with ecological and social components that interact dynamically through various feedbacks (Schultz 2015, 195).

Social issues

A social issue is a problem that influences many citizens within a society. It is a common problem in present-day society, and one that many people strive to solve. It is often the consequence of factors extending beyond an individual's control (Levinson and Sanford 2020, 43).

Social safety nets

Social welfare services provided by a community of individuals at the state and local levels. They are geared toward eliminating poverty in a specific area. These services may include housing re-assignment, job placement, subsidies for household bills, and other cash equivalents for food. Social safety nets work in conjunction with a number of other poverty reduction programmes with the primary goal of reducing/preventing poverty (Rouf 2018).

Social security

Social security is a major part of government policy and social expenditure. All citizens contribute to the funding of social security via general taxation and social insurance, and they also receive these benefits at some point in their lives (Ditch 1999).

Sustainable development

Sustainable development is defined as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (United Nations 1987).

Sustainability governance

Governance for sustainable development refers to processes of socio-political governance oriented towards the attainment of sustainable development (Newing 2019).

T Transparency

Transparency comprises the legal, political, and institutional structures that make information about the internal characteristics of a government and society available to actors both inside and outside the domestic political system (Ball 2009, 298).

U Urban management

Urban management can be described “as the set of activities which together shape and guide the social, physical, and economic development of urban areas”. The main concern of urban management, then, would be intervention in these areas to promote economic development and well-being, and to ensure necessary provision of essential services (Bhadur 2017, 20).

Urban development

Urban development covers infrastructure for education, health, justice, solid waste, markets, street pavements, and cultural heritage protection (European Union, n.d.).

Urban governance

Urban governance is concerned with the processes through which government is organised and delivered in urban areas, and the relationships between state agencies and civil society. The focus is on questions of democratic representation, power, and decision-making (Raco 2020, 253).

Urban planning

Urban planning could be understood as the professional work of guiding urban development through making physical plans and development regulations, or more broadly as social, economic, environmental, and constructive efforts to make an urban area a better, healthier, and more just place to live, work, and get around (Zhang 2015, 869).

Urban poverty

Urban poverty is usually defined as an absolute standard based on a minimum amount of income needed to sustain a healthy and minimally comfortable life, and as a relative standard that is set based on the average standard of living in a nation (Maria 2013, para. 2).

Urban policy

Urban policy, as a general term, is about the activities of governments in urban areas (Blackman 1995, 12)



Vulnerability

The propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected. Vulnerability encompasses a variety of concepts and elements, including sensitivity or susceptibility to harm, and lack of capacity to cope and adapt (Climate Change Knowledge Portal 2018).



Water governance

Water governance refers to the political, social, economic, and administrative systems in place that influence the use and management of water. Essentially, who gets what water, when and how, and who has the right to water and related services, and their benefits (Wajjwalku 2019, 126).

Annexure

Process followed:

1. Subject dictionaries on governance were identified.
2. Papers and books on governance and public policy issues were consulted, with a focus on
 - Disaster management and risk reduction;
 - Poverty, vulnerability, precarity, social security, food security, and social safety nets;
 - Employment, work, informal work, livelihoods, and NREGA;
 - Climate change, adaptation, environment, ecology, and biodiversity;
 - Infrastructure, water supply, transportation, and electricity.
3. Articles from *Economic and Political Weekly* were identified and compiled. The team focused on main subject terms to build a list of terms in alphabetical order.
4. The rationale for finalising these terms was based on the context, i.e., their relevance to the governance theme.

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