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Society 5.0 and Good Governance: Analyzing Governance Strategies and Addressing Challenges

MIR ARASTOO¹

ABSTRACT

Society 5.0 is a futuristic human-centered society envisioned by Japan. The society will be using the technological inventions of the former society. Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Big Data, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, and Internet of Things will be some of the key gears for realization of this super smart society blurring the lines between cyber space and physical space. Though such an image of the future society sure looks desirable, it's crucial to examine whether the principles of Good Governance that offers normative attributes of governance for guaranteeing and realizing human rights would be embedded in Society 5.0. The present study aims to study the application of Good Governance principles in Society 5.0 and the implications while addressing challenges. Through a brief study of policy and secondary material available, the study finds that the Good Governance principles are better realized in the futuristic society than the current information society. Further, the study expects that there would be a key change in the understanding of the meaning of Law. There lies concerns however the inherent flaws in the number of technologies being employed that may hamper the stability and well-being of the society. Considering, the practical operation of the policy as well as the tools to be tapped are only in nascent stage, there is a scope of transformation in the constitution of Society 5.0. Though the present study focuses specifically on Japan's vision of a supersmart society, it is imminent that such a policy would soon be sought by other nations. Thus the challenges and hurdles that Japan may face are not only of its own but is a point of concern for other nations as well.

Keywords: Society 5.0; Good Governance; Super Smart Society; Artificial Intelligence

I. INTRODUCTION

Humans have grown accustomed to the present Information Society. Our daily lives seem next to impossible without using our mobile devices for every little thing from communication to creating excel sheets. Moving further down the technological lane, Japan is aiming forward with the Society 5.0 whereby it aims to completely transform the Japanese way of life by

¹ Author is an LL.M. Scholar at Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur, India.

blurring the gaps between the physical space and the cyber space. The aspirations of this society is to place human beings at the center of innovation while exploiting the previous society's inventions by technological integration to improve quality of life, social responsibility and sustainability.² The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data, Robotics, Deep Learning, and Machine Learning are making way for an automated lifestyle that the Society 5.0 promises.³

While Society 5.0 promises a human-centered society, by far everyone is aware of the exploitative society the Industrialized Society was and somewhat the present information society is as well. There has been human cry against such exploitation with a call to good governance from the previous notions of governance, managing, and ruling. The term 'Good Governance' traces back to foreword of a World Bank study wherein it is referred to as a "public service that is efficient, a judicial system that is reliable and an administration that is accountable to its public".⁴ Evidently since then there has been a push forward for its adoption and has been promoted by the UN as well for a more human centered society.

Since the conception of Good Governance, certain principles have been enunciated that should be there for its effective adoption by the State. The present study aims to study whether Society 5.0 would be able to integrate the values of good governance in it as both models aim for a human-centered society. It is of paramount important since even though Society 5.0 has been pushed forward first in Japan, eventually it will contribute to resolving societal challenges worldwide.⁵ Thus, for a better realization of human rights and promotion of a future prosperous society that guarantees more freedom and liberty, the study aims to analyze governance strategies and address challenges that may come forward with the advanced technology integrated society.

A. Review of Literature

In the Article "**Principles for Good Governance in the 21st Century**"⁶, the author says that Governance opens one's mind to the prospect that groups in society other than government may have to play a greater role in addressing challenges while on the point of good

² Carayannis, Elias G., and Joanna Morawska-Jancelewicz. "The futures of Europe: Society 5.0 and Industry 5.0 as driving forces of future universities." *Journal of the Knowledge Economy* 13.4 (2022): 3445-3471.

³ Nair, Meghna M., Amit Kumar Tyagi, and N. Sreenath. "The future with industry 4.0 at the core of society 5.0: Open issues, future opportunities and challenges." *2021 international conference on computer communication and informatics (ICCCI)*. IEEE, 2021.

⁴ Tripathi, Rahul. "Good governance: origin, importance and development in India." *International Journal of Development Research* 7.11 (2017): 16968-16970.

⁵ Fukuyama, Mayumi. "Society 5.0: Aiming for a new human-centered society." *Japan Spotlight* 27.5 (2018): 47-50.

⁶ Graham, John, Timothy Wynne Plumptre, and Bruce Amos. *Principles for good governance in the 21st century*. Vol. 15. Ottawa: Institute on governance, 2003.

governance he says further that a universal set of principles can be developed where its universality rests to a large extent on the body of international human rights and laws.

In the article **“Good governance: the old, the new, the principle, and the elements”**⁷, the author says that the "elevation" of good governance to the point of a principle not only legitimizes its status as an adamant and self-evident truth or standard but also lays down the realness of principal elements to concretize it. Some of these elements being: competitive democracy, the rule of law, effective bureaucracy, discretion and decentralization.

In the article **“Society 5.0: Aiming for a New Human-Centered Society”**⁸, the author says that the aim of Society 5.0 is to realize a society where the people experience the life to its fullest since the main purpose of economic growth and advancement of technology is that only. The author further notes that though the Society 5.0 is Japan’s growth strategy, but it is not limited to Japan only as the goals of this strategy are as same as the Sustainable Development Goals.

In the article **“What is society 5.0”**⁹, the author sees the development of Society 5.0 as a transition from information society to data-driven society where data is collected, analyzed, and then transformed into meaningful information which is then applied in the real space at a society-wide level. The author further highlights the role of AI as AI will be integrated with the Internet of Things and the data being generated will be transformed into knowledge (general empirical laws) through an automated process, and then use this knowledge for governance.

In the article **“Smart cities of the Future”**¹⁰, the author says that smart cities will have much wider participation in decision-making along with real time construction with availing simulations and optimizations that are appropriate for decision support.

II. FOUNDATIONS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

UN OHCHR describes Good Governance as *“political and institutional processes and outcomes that are necessary to achieve the goals of development”* while UNHRC identifies five key attributes that are “transparency, responsibility, accountability, participation, and

⁷ Botchway, Francis N. "Good governance: the old, the new, the principle, and the elements." *Fla. J. Int'l L.* 13 (2000): 159.

⁸ Fukuyama, Mayumi. "Society 5.0: Aiming for a new human-centered society." *Japan Spotlight* 27.5 (2018): 47-50.

⁹ Deguchi, Atsushi, et al. "What is society 5.0." *Society 5.0* (2020): 1-24.

¹⁰ Batty, Michael, et al. "Smart cities of the future." *The European Physical Journal Special Topics* 214 (2012): 481-518.

responsiveness (to the needs of the people)".¹¹ However, it is an ideal and only few countries have come close to achieving it.¹² It may be better understood with elaboration of its key-attributes which according to us consists of the following:

- **Rule of Law:** Law should be held supreme rather than the human.
- **Transparency:** The Government should be transparent in its affairs by publicizing political information of State policies.
- **Participation:** There should be adequate representation and participation from diverse backgrounds in governance.
- **Accountability:** Public bodies and public offices are to fulfill the functions and duties of their respective obligations and are to be held liable for lack in fulfilment of their obligations.
- **Responsiveness:** The governance should align its policies to meet the needs of the people.
- **Effectiveness:** The outcome of the actions taken should reflect in itself meeting of the needs of the people.
- **Consensus:** The policies should be in confirmation and affirmation of the people it aims to govern.
- **Sustainability:** The policies should value the resources of the society in a manner that it does not exhaust it for the future and future generations.

Though more qualities of Good Governance may be employed but these form the core of it in order to realize the humanitarian goals. Good Governance though not specifically is a sustainable development goal (SDG) yet the concepts underly and overlap with many of the SDG goals. Governments around the world are trying to achieve it in their own way, one of it being through the immersive and deep integration of technology in daily life. Society 5.0 is one of such initiatives designed by Japan that reflects the aim towards a more human-centered society while its counterparts have similar projects such as Germany's concept of 'Industry 4.0' or European Commissions' idea of 'Industry 5.0'.

¹¹ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. "About Good Governance." *OHCHR*, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/good-governance/about-good-governance> . Accessed 27 Sept. 2024.

¹² Sheng, Mr Yap Kioe. "United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific "What is Good Governance"." *Journal Poverty Reduction Section UNESCAP. UN Building. Rajdamnern Nok Ave* (2018).

III. SOCIETY 5.0 – THE WAY AHEAD

Underlying principles of Good Governance aim to fulfill the SDG while Society 5.0 could be called as a practical approach of seeing it come true. Vision of Society 5.0 represents a futuristic society that succeeds the previous four societies: Hunter-gatherers (Society 1.0), Agriculture Society (Society 2.0), Industrialized Society (Society 3.0), Information Society (Society 4.0). Society 5.0 was first described as *"a human-centered society in which economic development and the resolution of social issues are compatible with each other through a highly integrated system of cyberspace and physical space"* in the initial proposal of 2016 which is to be through the conjunction of physical and cyber space.¹³

One such act passed in for making Society 5.0 reality is Basic Act on the Advancement of Utilizing Public and Private Sector Data that allows for the advancement of the appropriate and effective use of public and private sector data curbing requirements of physical presence and hardcopy documents.¹⁴ However, there might be concerns raised about the same being in conflict with Act on the Protection of Personal Information (APPI) however it is not so as the former act's article 3 ensures that *"advancement of public and private sector data utilization must be conducted for the purpose of ensuring smooth circulation of information while protecting the rights and interests of individuals and corporations"* and further emphasizes on it to be in conformity with the data protection acts.

The major focus is on the integration of AI, Big Data, Internet of Things (IoT), 5G Networks, and Robotics.¹⁵ Japan is said to be an advanced society having advanced problems. With the technological convergence in governance, it aims to solve a number of societal problems such as of an aging population, slowing economic growth, widening income disparity, rapid climate change, and the threat of infectious diseases.¹⁶

IV. GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SOCIETY 5.0

As Japan moves forward with integrating technology deeply into the human life with focus on a human-centered society blurring the lines of cyber and physical space, there lies a promise of Good Governance as well. The implementation and fulfillment of applicable and visionable Good Governance principles within Society 5.0 may be envisioned in the following table:

¹³ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. "About Good Governance." *OHCHR*, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/good-governance/about-good-governance>. Accessed 27 Sept. 2024.

¹⁴ Translation, Japanese Law. "Basic Act on the Advancement of Public and Private Sector Data Utilisation (2016)." (2016).

¹⁵ Calp, M. Hanefi, and Resul Bütüner. "Society 5.0: Effective technology for a smart society." *Artificial Intelligence and Industry 4.0*. Academic Press, 2022. 175-194.

¹⁶ Chandler Institute of Governance. "Governance for Society 5.0." *Governance Matters*, 2021, <https://www.chandlerinstitute.org/governancematters/governance-for-society-5-0>. Accessed 30 Sept. 2024.

Principles of Good Governance	Before Society 5.0	After Society 5.0
Transparency	Information Disclosure, Public Access to Government Data Limited	Open (government) data-equality and free access to data ¹⁷
Accountability	Limited Channels to monitor government performance	Real-time auditing and tracking government decision and performance
Participation	Very Limited, at individual level only Elections convened representation in true manner	collaborative effort between governmental agencies, universities, other research institutions, and resident's participation ¹⁸
Responsiveness	Bureaucratic Delays, Slow Government Response, Manual Workflow hampered quick decision making	tackling localized social challenges and addressing citizen needs through ICT and data analysis, ¹⁹ visualization of the town" such as energy management of power consumption ²⁰
Effectiveness	Checked through measures such as GDP growth, Ground reality hampered through inefficient data collection	big data analytics, IoT and automation helps realize effectiveness
Consensus	Limited and public consultations, Political debates	regulatory sandbox to support innovative companies and

¹⁷ Nikiforova, Anastasija. "Smarter open government data for society 5.0: are your open data smart enough?." *Sensors* 21.15 (2021): 5204.

¹⁸ Deguchi, Atsushi. "From smart city to society 5.0." *Society 5* (2020): 43-65.

¹⁹ Trencher, Gregory. "Towards the smart city 2.0: Empirical evidence of using smartness as a tool for tackling social challenges." *Technological Forecasting and Social Change* 142 (2019): 117-128.

²⁰ ESCI-KSP. "Smart City Aizuwakamatsu." *ESCI Knowledge Sharing Platform*, <https://www.esci-ksp.org/archives/project/smart-city-aizuwakamatsu>. Accessed 27 Sept. 2024.

		start-ups - involve collecting and using data in consultations on legislative reforms ²¹
Sustainability	Environmental policies and economic growth models	enables the visualization of utilities; peak shift and peak cut controls across regional borders in real time ²²

Table 1: Transition in Application of Good Governance Principles

While on the subject of Rule of Law, there might be a landmark development in the understanding of 'Law'. Traditionally, Law is made by the Government enjoying the power surrendered to it by the citizens. However, Society 5.0 there is a scope that these power be taken back from the Government and the General Will of Rousseau is not utilized for handing over the reins to the Government for law making but keeping it with the citizens themselves where the course of action is directly and actively made through consensus of all. The topic however is not appropriate to discuss at this stage as well as this work does not aims to discuss the nuances that may arise in the interpretation and making of 'Law' in Society 5.0. Having considered the principles of Good Governance and a basic understanding of Society 5.0 entails, we seek to study the challenges that arises in achieving the goals of Good Governance within Society 5.0.

V. STRATEGIES AND CHALLENGES

While there seems to be a positive and better realization of principles of Good Governance in Society 5.0 keeping in view that the whole idea of it is of a human-centered society, the society presents its own challenges. The challenges are addressed below:

- **Human to Human Relationship:** Human to Human relationship could become costly due to automation causing a loss of touch with the living.
- **Wearing away of Privacy:** Though the Society 5.0 forms itself based on the previous consent granted by the resident yet with time after the Society 5.0 becomes the norm there would be no such option left for the resident to protect their privacy due to no alternatives.

²¹ Ibtekr. "Regulatory Sandbox." *Ibtekr*, <https://ibtekr.org/en/cases/regulatory-sandbox/>. Accessed 27 Sept. 2024.

²² Hitachi, Ltd. "Kashiwa-no-ha Smart City: Making smart use of local energy sources to build the communities of the future." *Hitachi*, July 2017, https://social-innovation.hitachi/en-eu/case_studies/smartcity_kashiwanoha/#section1. Accessed 27 Sept. 2024.

- **Employment Loss:** Again, due to automation of many daily chores there would be a huge gap in demand of workers making competition more fierce when Japan already has the same issue.
- **Influenced Decision Making:** Everything being presented on a screen or other devices with factual information would lead to uniformed decisions rather than a diverse opinion based one.
- **Risk of Mass Surveillance:** Due to mass collection of data from every resident, there would always be a risk of mass surveillance that may be converted for ulterior motives specially during politically challenging times.
- **Cybersecurity:** Another factor that hampers technological advancements is cybersecurity and technological vulnerabilities that may be used by hostile state or non-state actors to cause disharmony and effect the law and order.
- **Anonymity:** Considering the Blackbox problem in AI that doesn't justify or provide an accurate source of information for the output provided could hamper trust in the system as AI is an integral part of Society 5.0 and defects or malicious programming could generate civil unrest.
- **Bias:** There might as well be bias in the AI training data causing a systematic discrimination in providing of services in Society 5.0 furthering the already existing inequalities.

These are some of the challenges posed by Society 5.0 that might interfere with the better realizations of Good Governance principles for a more human and humanity respecting society. To address these challenges, certain strategies may be employed while converging the physical and cyber space:

These four questions should be taken into consideration while employing and developing a technology to be integrated in Society 5.0:

- (a) Whether the employment of the technology has a fixed aim it aims to deliver?
- (b) Whether something might get lost that is dear to the human essence?
- (c) Whether the integration is for improvement of quality life or only easing of life?
- (d) Whether the adoption of the new technology enhances the human spirit?

Though, the nature of questions are of abstract nature but the challenges posed also have abstract nature of complications and implications as human life is not mechanical but rather it

needs to be realized in full spirit.

VI. CONCLUSION

Our findings show that the foundational concepts of Good Governance are well-identified, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and inclusivity. However, the drafting and planning of Society 5.0 concepts require refinement to address the ethical implications of emerging technologies. The implementation of Good Governance principles within Society 5.0 is viable, but it necessitates robust legal frameworks to adapt to rapid technological changes. Governance strategies currently face challenges in execution, indicating a need for continuous evaluation and adaptation to ensure effectiveness in addressing evolving societal needs.

Society 5.0 depicts a picture of perfect society free of human exploitation and fuller realization of human rights and freedoms. The society bases itself on the technological advancements of the Society 4.0, specifically by bridging the gap between cyber space and physical space while creating a digital twin of the real space. Technologies spearheading this realization are mainly: AI, Big Data, Robotics, Internet of Things, Deep Learning, and Machine Learning. While the fuller adoption of Society 5.0 remains, new technologies may arise that could possibly make the matters better or worse. One such eagerly anticipated and awaited technology is Artificial General Intelligence. Considering the number of technologies involved in the process there seems less possibility to regulate coercively and rather a better way is to promote good practices and incentive-based approaches.

While, SDGs timeline is nearing the goal of Japan on a nation wide level seems far away to fully implement the Society 5.0 as only few cities it has built calling them as “Smart Cities”. It is much difficult to implement the same in existing cities already due to lack of labor resources as well as the economic constraints. Though Society 5.0 allows for a better realization of Good Governance principles being a human-centric society with the aim to allow better realization of human rights and freedom, following the principles of Good Governance faces obstacles due to inherent capabilities and vulnerabilities of existing technologies. To better realization of Society 5.0 vision, Japan has to understand and resolve the inherent defects of the underlying technologies. Further, an in-depth analysis is required of how the concept of Law may change in the futuristic society and what measures may be employed to improve the quality of life.

What is of concern to Japan is not only restricted to it, but for the future of all nations as technological advancement is evident sooner or later. Concepts of ‘Industry 4.0’ or ‘Industry 5.0’ more or less focus on the same aspects of technological integration. Challenges arising in

the smart society developed by Japan should be closely observed and analyzed by nations for their own development plan. Future research should focus on AI governance, automation's social impact, and cybersecurity frameworks within Society 5.0 while ensuring that there is an ethical integration of technology and the same protects human rights. Comparative studies on global adaptation of these principles are needed. Legislators should prioritize AI accountability, privacy protection, labor rights in automated societies, and cybersecurity regulations to prevent misuse and ensure social welfare. Strengthening laws on surveillance, ethical AI, and data protection will support effective governance in a technology-driven and integrated world.

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