

Administrative Transparency in the Era of Open Governments

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ABSTRACT

Objective: This study addressed the topic of administrative transparency as one of the most important modern mechanisms for improving public administration performance and combating corruption. **Method:** The conceptual framework of transparency was discussed by defining it, explaining its elements and dimensions, in addition to highlighting its importance in enhancing trust between the administration and citizens and achieving good governance. The study also examined the role of transparency in reducing administrative corruption by establishing the principles of disclosure, accountability, and participation. Furthermore, it addressed the relationship between transparency and the concept of open government, which is based on promoting openness and expanding citizen participation in decision-making, benefiting from technological development and modern means of communication. The requirements for applying transparency and the obstacles that may confront it within administrative institutions were also highlighted. **Results:** The study concluded that activating administrative transparency represents an urgent necessity for achieving sustainable development, by improving the quality of administrative performance, consolidating the principle of accountability, and enhancing citizens' trust in state institutions. **Novelty:** Furthermore, it addressed the relationship between transparency and the concept of open government, which is based on promoting openness and expanding citizen participation in decision-making, benefiting from technological development and modern means of communication.

INTRODUCTION

Administrative transparency is considered a relatively modern concept in the world of public administration. Its importance has grown significantly with the increasing challenges related to administrative corruption and weak governance, particularly in developing countries. Corruption has ceased to be merely a secondary phenomenon and has instead become a primary obstacle hindering economic and social development, due to the resulting waste of resources and disruption of public interests, which leads to the erosion of citizens' trust in state institutions.

In this context, transparency has emerged as a key tool to combat this phenomenon by promoting the principles of clarity, disclosure, and accountability, thereby enabling citizens and oversight bodies to review how decisions are made and public policies are implemented. The adoption of transparency also reflects a shift towards modern management methods based on openness and participation rather than closedness and secrecy.

With the evolution of the concept of "open government," transparency has become an essential element in strengthening the relationship between the state and society. It contributes to improving the quality of decisions, enhancing community participation, and building trust between the citizens and the administration. Therefore, the study of

administrative transparency is no longer merely a theoretical option but has become a practical necessity for understanding the mechanisms of administrative reform and achieving sustainable development.

Importance of the Study:

The Importance of administrative transparency is evident in several aspects, the most prominent of which are:

- Combating administrative corruption by exposing Illicit practices and limiting the abuse of power.
- Enhancing trust between the citizen and the administration by providing information clearly and transparently.
- Improving the quality of administrative performance as a result of clear objectives and procedures for employees.
- Supporting community participation in decision-making, which contributes to achieving justice and equal opportunities.
- Establishing the principles of good governance based on accountability and answerability.
- Contributing to the achievement of development by raising Institutional efficiency and reducing resource waste.

Objectives of the Study

This study aims to achieve a set of objectives, the most Important of which are:

- Identifying the concept of administrative transparency and its various dimensions.
- Highlighting the role of transparency in reducing administrative corruption.
- Analyzing the relationship between transparency and open government.
- Determining the requirements for applying transparency in administrative institutions.
- Identifying the most prominent obstacles facing the application of transparency.
- Proposing mechanisms to enhance transparency and improve administrative performance.

Problematic of the Study

The problem of the study revolves around the following main question:

To what extent does administrative transparency contribute to reducing administrative corruption and enhancing good governance under the trend towards open government?

The following sub-questions branch out from this problematic:

- What is meant by administrative transparency and what are its most important elements?
- What is the relationship between transparency and combating corruption?
- What is the role of open government in enhancing transparency?
- What are the most Important obstacles that limit the application of transparency?
- What are the mechanisms for activating transparency within the administration?

RESEARCH METHOD

This study is based on:

- The Descriptive Analytical Approach: By describing the concept of administrative transparency and analyzing its dimensions and Importance.

- The Inductive Approach: By tracing legal texts and previous studies related to transparency and open government.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

First Topic

The Conceptual Framework of Administrative Transparency

Corruption exists in nearly every country; however, its destructive impact is particularly severe in developing nations, as it hinders the achievement of economic growth and obstructs the consolidation of democratic foundations. Corruption leads to the waste of resources by diverting public policy away from serving the interests of the majority and from fulfilling its intended objectives. It redirects the energies and efforts of both public officials and citizens toward quick gains rather than productive activities, undermines the development of a competitive spirit, frustrates efforts aimed at poverty reduction, and fosters a sense of apathy and mistrust. Therefore, it has become essential to establish mechanisms for its prevention and control, among which the principle of transparency stands out—a concept whose theoretical framework we will attempt to explain online [1].

First Requirement:

The Concept of Administrative Transparency and Its Importance

Every phenomenon in society has underlying foundations. What, then, are the foundations upon which transparency is based, and which ultimately led to its emergence in its current form, prompting many states to adopt it and enshrine it in their legal systems? Is its basis philosophical, legal, or rooted in religious principles?

To understand the legal foundation of transparency, it is necessary to identify the sources from which this principle has been derived. This is because transparency does not stem from a single source, but rather from multiple ones. It is considered one of the most Important principles followed by public administration in pursuit of good governance. In order to present a clear picture of it, we must examine its definition, significance, and dimensions [2].

First Branch:

Definition of Administrative Transparency

The term transparency – when examined in Arabic dictionaries and lexicons – does not have meanings closer to it than words such as honesty, truthfulness, sincerity, justice, and Integrity. In Arabic, the word is derived from the verb (shaffa – yashiffu – shafāf). A “transparent garment” (with either a fatha or kasra on the letter shīn) refers to something through which what lies behind can be seen. Thus, transparency in Arabic denotes the ability to perceive what lies beyond an object, enabling one to see things clearly and understand their true nature [3].

The concept of transparency is also associated with the term (bayān), meaning “that by which something becomes clear or evident.” It is said bāna al-shay’ bayānan, meaning the thing became clear and apparent; Istabantu-hu means “I came to know or understand it” [4].

In English, according to the Macmillan Dictionary, transparency refers to a method of conducting affairs in a way that enables people to know exactly what is being done. It is linked to the terms Trans (meaning “beyond”), Transparency (the state of being transparent), and Transparent (clear, explicit, and evident). In physics, transparency refers to a material – such as glass – through which objects can be clearly seen.

Thus, in both Arabic and English linguistic usage, as well as in scientific meaning, transparency denotes something that allows clear vision through it. Its opposite is opacity, which implies concealment, ambiguity, obscurity, and obstruction of understanding and perception.

Second: The Terminological Definition

Transparency refers to the condition in which information related to public policy is clear, visible, and understandable to the public. Governments are therefore required to adopt policies that move away from authoritarianism and toward broader democratic practices [5].

It also implies that governments are subject to oversight and accountability through the participation of all relevant stakeholders in the political process, holding them responsible for failures. The International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) defines transparency as:

“The disclosure by supreme audit Institutions, in a timely, reliable, clear, and useful manner, of their legal status, activities, financial management, operations, strategy, and performance, as well as making the results of audit processes and their conclusions publicly available, and enabling the public to access information about these institutions”.

Transparency has also been defined as:

“A principle that creates an environment in which information related to conditions, decisions, and current actions is available, visible, and understandable – more specifically, through systematic provision of information and making policy decisions known to all through timely publication and openness to all stakeholders.” [6].

Moreover, transparency is considered:

“One of the most Important elements of good governance, the clearer and more present transparency is, the better governance and stability are achieved. It entails openness between the government and the public through elected representatives, civil society Institutions, political parties, unions, associations, and the press.” [7].

Transparency also signifies:

“Clarity of legislation, ease of understanding, consistency, objectivity, clear language, flexibility, and adaptability to economic, social, and administrative changes, along with simplification of procedures, dissemination of information, and ease of access for all”.

The United Nations defines transparency as:

“The free flow of Information in its broadest sense, meaning the provision of information and operating In an open manner that allows stakeholders to obtain the

necessary Information to safeguard their interests, make appropriate decisions, and detect errors”.

Finally, transparency has been described as:

“Clarity, rationality, adherence to work requirements and standards, equal opportunities, simplicity and ease of procedures, prevention of unjustified delays or circumvention, and Integrity in implementation” [8].

Second Branch:

The Importance of Administrative Transparency in Modern Administration

Transparency represents a communication channel between Individuals and the administration. It clarifies the administration's mechanism of operation and the methods it follows in issuing its decisions. It also serves as a tool for uncovering administrative corruption, particularly in Third World countries. Since these nations are relatively new to democracy and have not granted their people the right to access and understand administrative operations, this would undermine their efforts to build trust in the hearts of citizens for their own benefit. The importance of transparency is highlighted by the fact that it publicly reveals administrative actions. There are different types of transparency applied differently from one country to another, classified according to specific criteria.

First: The Importance of Transparency: Today, transparency has become a modern and advanced administrative concept and a requirement that all states strive to implement and present as a facet of democracy and a concept of civilization. It represents an element of trust in the administration by imposing state oversight on administrative actions to prevent the spread of administrative corruption. For this reason, it has been adopted at the local, regional, and International levels due to its significant practical importance. Its importance can be elucidated as follows [9]:

1. It works to eliminate ambiguity in administrative actions and enables employees to understand the goals the administration seeks to achieve. Opaque or dark operations weaken employees' sense of belonging. Candor, disclosure, and clarification of Information increase employee loyalty and productivity, as this makes them feel they are an Important part of the administration because they are aware of what Is happening within it.
2. Transparency represents one of the most Important elements for the success of development in a state. It increases the quality of personal and institutional performance. Providing citizens with the opportunity to participate in decision-making leads to Increased awareness and knowledge of available options and works to achieve justice, guiding the administration towards an open administrative system [10].
3. Transparency represents a pillar for achieving accountability, which works to prevent government errors, combat corruption, facilitate administrative procedures, and expedite their completion, away from personal interpretations of regulations and instructions [11].
4. Transparency reveals the credibility of the administration before the government and public opinion by adopting honesty in its actions, announcing its activities, objectives, funding sources, and opening the administration's doors to the people.

Work quality increases and opportunities for corruption decrease whenever elements of disclosure and clarity are present, whereas the opposite occurs when the administration shrouds its actions in secrecy.

5. Transparency aims to support the principle of legitimacy (meaning the submission of both rulers and ruled to the rule of law), activate it, and protect it from transgressions. The availability of information to Individuals about how decisions are made reduces the opportunities the government might seize to issue laws and decisions that affect them.
6. Transparency assists in selecting leadership to manage the administration and ensures that these leaders possess objectivity and a sense of belonging, and aim to achieve the public good in their work.
7. Transparency contributes to the success of the development plan and the changes the administration seeks to achieve. It ensures the clarity and openness of work mechanisms and emphasizes that the primary purpose of change is to serve the interests of the administration and the individuals dealing with it.
8. Transparency represents a means of imposing self-control. Administrative bodies that apply transparency have employees who enjoy greater freedom while performing their tasks, as they are more aware of the scope of their authorities and duties, thereby saving the government time, effort, and money.

Second: Forms of Transparency: Due to transparency entering all fields and its application not being limited to administrative work, various types have emerged. Scholars have divided transparency into two main categories [12]:

This division is based on each scholar's perspective. The first category depends on the administration's structure, and the second depends on its nature. We will detail each category as follows:

First Category: Forms of Transparency According to Administrative Structure: Transparency is divided according to the structure of the administration into [13].

1. Internal Transparency: This refers to the behaviors followed within administrative work to provide an organizational climate through clear interaction between the administration and its employees, with no minimum level of secrecy. This results in their participation in decision-making and policy formulation and achieves a type of administrative democracy. It consequently ensures the flow of Information to individuals and employees alike, while adopting equality in dealing with individuals.
2. External Transparency: This refers to the organizational process linking the administration with the external community. This is achieved by the administration publishing accurate and correct information about its provided services and stating the obstacles and failures it faces in its work, by presenting them to public opinion for discussion in a democratic manner that enhances the administration's standing with the external community. This method ensures the proper functioning of the administration first and the interests of individuals second.

Second Category: Types of Transparency According to Nature [8].

Transparency is not of one single type; rather, some have an Imitative character, some have a deceptive nature, and others are selective. Therefore, scholars have classified transparency based on its nature into:

1. Imitative Transparency: This is applied in a field different from its original one in a way that is inconsistent with the specific nature and circumstances of administrative work, "such as transferring private sector transparency to government or transferring transparency applied in government to the private sector".
2. Deceptive Transparency: Some jurists call this "ideologized" transparency. It is the opposite of true, Integrated, creative transparency. "It works to achieve the Interests and ideology of a specific group, often those who are its source and the designers of its mechanisms, not those who benefit from it or have access to its output".
3. Selective Transparency: This adopts a method of carefully selecting results, no matter how modest, and presenting them in an open and clear manner. It is often accompanied by advertising campaigns if its application leads to positive results, by presenting the numbers and events related to its application to society, and providing justifications in case of failures [14].

Second Requirement:

Elements and Requirements of Administrative Transparency

By examining the concept of transparency and its definition, it is considered one of the most fundamental mechanisms for comprehensive and sustainable development across all fields. It has become Imperative for all forward-thinking administrations to adopt it as a general principle in all their activities, in order to create a healthy work environment characterized by progress and innovation, and consequently achieve the desired objectives.

Given the significance of administrative transparency, it has become essential to work towards providing the appropriate conditions and environment for its establishment and promotion [15].

First Branch:

Elements of Administrative Transparency

Based on the analysis conducted under the title Definition of Transparency, it can be observed that transparency is founded on a set of elements or principles, such as clarity, disclosure, participation, oversight, and the arrangement of sanctions. These can be grouped into two main components.

The first component is openness and objective disclosure of Information in a timely manner. This is considered an obligation upon the administration, which must ensure its provision through all lawful means. Such disclosure enables transparency for employees, stakeholders, ordinary citizens, as well as oversight bodies and authorized authorities.

The second component lies in the necessity of having a legal framework and adhering to its implementation. By this, we refer to a legal text that incorporates and protects the first component – namely, a stable and robust legal provision that guarantees both the availability of transparency on the one hand and the exercise of oversight rights on the other [16].

Accordingly, the existence of a regulatory legal framework governing how transparency is practiced and established ensures its protection, necessitates its implementation, and imposes sanctions for violations. It thus serves as both a foundational and protective element.

Building on these two components, we conclude that administrative transparency should be studied or evaluated at two levels: internal and external.

At the first level, Internal transparency is defined as “a natural outcome of communication behaviors characterized by effectiveness and the free flow of information within the organization. It reflects the extent to which employees have access to the necessary information to carry out their responsibilities [17].

This relates to the legal and organizational framework that governs and regulates the professional path of employees within administrative bodies, including their rights and duties, as well as their democratic participation in decision-making processes that concern them. Through this, an organizational environment can be created In which ideas are discussed openly, trust and credibility are fostered, and continuous communication is maintained among all members of the administration – both staff and management. It also Involves the optimal utilization of human resources and competencies to achieve the desired outcomes.

At the second level, external transparency refers to the framework within which legal provisions regulate the relationship between the administration and the beneficiaries – individuals and institutions – from the broader community. The administration must provide them with accurate information regarding the services It delivers, how these services are performed, their success or failure rates, and the obstacles they encounter, while also demonstrating openness to criticism. Additionally, it involves informing the public about relevant laws and regulations governing their relationship with the administration and the functioning of the sector.

In this regard, the Coalition for Integrity and Accountability (AMAN) defines transparency as follows [18]:

Accordingly, transparency means disseminating Information to the public in a timely manner and providing necessary data – especially to targeted groups, beneficiaries of the organization’s activities, researchers, and donors. In other words, It involves enabling the public to access accurate and reliable information about completed activities, ensuring compliance with governing legislation, and removing bureaucratic obstacles in communication with the administration. It also entails encouraging the public to play an active role and assume a degree of responsibility by involving them in evaluation, expressing opinions, and exercising oversight.

In this sense, the administration opens channels of communication and access to information for the public, effectively consulting them on matters that concern them, with the aim of Identifying weaknesses to address and correct, as well as strengths to reinforce and build upon.

Second Branch:

Requirements of Administrative Transparency

Numerous conditions and requirements must be met to establish transparency. Their availability in a given process makes it describable as sound and good. The most prominent of these are considered as follows [19]:

1. Transparency must be practiced by disclosing Information at the right time, to all actors simultaneously, eliminating disparity. Delay in disclosure or restricting it to one group while excluding another renders it merely a fulfillment of formal procedure and nothing more.
2. Providing the public with the opportunity to learn about the administration's activities and programs, how to benefit from its services, and how the public service is performed.
3. The information must be clear, as specific as possible, and explained, either intrinsically or through Its attachments and references.
4. It should lead to the creation of a clear public policy for publishing and documenting all instructions, decisions, and regulations, and allocating specific bodies responsible for managing communication channels, without prejudice to the duty of professional secrecy stipulated as a general principle in various internal or regulatory laws.
5. Availability of clear documents presented to the public regarding the objectives of the public service and its program.
6. Avoiding stalling tactics, steering clear of routine, bureaucracy, and mediation in management, while working to simplify procedures and ensure flexibility in transactions.
7. Working to upgrade and Improve leadership competencies, while simultaneously adopting oversight and accountability methods by strengthening the role of administrative and accounting control bodies.
8. Ensuring legislation Is well-established and capable of keeping pace with developments, as change and updating must follow their correct course.
9. The administration must establish written standards for protecting human resources, such as employment and promotion conditions, selection and recruitment mechanisms, training, job analysis, performance evaluation, and other topics related to monitoring the professional careers of its members.
10. The administration Is obliged to engage with various media outlets to bring the administration closer to the citizen.

The administration's commitment to preparing the conditions for practicing transparency by providing these requirements and foundations gives those dealing with It a reassuring impression that the public interest prevails, by involving them in Information, planning, and management. Here, It can be said that the novelty lies only In reformulating ideas with new terminology, whereas the idea Itself has its roots in our societies, stemming from the teachings of Islamic Sharia. The Almighty said: "So by mercy from Allah, [O Muhammad], you were lenient with them. And If you had been rude [In speech] and harsh in heart, they would have disbanded from about you. So pardon them and ask forgiveness for them and consult them In the matter. And when you have decided, then rely upon Allah. Indeed, Allah loves those who rely [upon Him] [20].

Nevertheless, despite the efforts made In this regard, certain obstacles remain that prevent administrative actions from achieving transparency. These include inaccurate disclosure, failure to prioritize the objectives to be achieved, adherence to administrative custom – which can sometimes be a negative legacy in specific areas where It is applied while legal texts are ignored – as well as the prioritization of personal Interests over the public interest by some, ignorance, and loyalty to the supervisory authority.

Second Topic:

Administrative Transparency Under Open Governments

Open government responds to this simple yet powerful Idea: government work becomes more effective when It is transparent, participatory, and accountable. The modern origins of open government often trace back to the Age of Enlightenment, as many schools of thought revolved around press freedom and access to information.

Open government represents a relationship with this core value of good governance, without conflating the two; It is also a valuable value for making better decisions. Open government is generally considered to encourage better decision-making in the field of government work. On the one hand, there Is a general sense that openness erases the worst excesses of power and encourages responsible and fairer decisions, for fear of exposing decisions that do not meet these standards to the public. This aspect is linked to the goal of combating corruption. On the other hand, there is growing recognition that citizens and other actors can contribute to decision-making processes through their personal experiences, by offering some Ideas, expertise, or through monitoring. Studies show that decisions are better when the composition of the groups making them is broader and more diverse [21].

First Requirement:

The Concept of Open Governments and Their Relationship to Transparency.

The role and functions of the state have been redefined as a result of globalization policies and rapid technological development, particularly in the field of providing public services to citizens and policymaking. Several approaches have emerged that seek ways to facilitate citizen participation in public policymaking by relying on Information and communication technology (ICT). This is achieved by advocating for mutual empowerment between the state and society, activating the transition towards governance, and adopting Its applications In order to achieve efficiency In government agencies, improve public service, and establish a cooperative relationship between the state and society based on interaction and mutual influence. This Is accomplished by developing mechanisms and processes to increase societal participation, as this helps identify basic needs and contributes to the effectiveness of public policies.

Among these approaches Is the open government approach, which the United Nations and Its various bodies have developed into several applicable models aimed at enabling citizens to participate In and influence policymaking [22].

First Branch:

Definition of Open Governments

The concept of open government Is conceptually linked to demands for transparency in political governance. The term "open" to describe government is almost synonymous with "transparency." Its roots lie In historical efforts to combat corruption. The first adopted law related to open government dates back to Sweden: a law concerning the right to information, adopted in 1766 and Incorporated into the Swedish Constitution, which granted residents the right to access all official documents except those containing classified Information.

More recently, many countries have enacted similar laws. The first among these was the Freedom of Information Act issued in the United States of America in 1966. This followed increasing pressure on the US government in the aftermath of World War II to abandon its policy of secrecy regarding various governmental activities and demands to disclose its activities and operations to the public, the press, and other governmental bodies [23].

Beginning in 2009, the debate on "open government" gained momentum in the United States after then-US President Barack Obama announced the launch of the White House Open Government Initiative on his inauguration day. The United Kingdom was the first to take up this topic in 2014. In 2011, the concept acquired an international dimension with the establishment of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), initiated by the United States and other countries, aiming to secure concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens to access information, combat corruption, and harness new technologies to enhance governance. By mid-2020, this initiative included seventy-eight (78) countries, among them three Arab countries: Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia [24].

It is evident from the above definitions that open government is closely linked to the use of technology in various government activities, as this usage achieves the following:

Ensuring a greater degree of transparency, openness, and inclusiveness in governmental procedures and processes.

Encouraging the engagement and participation of relevant stakeholders from civil society and the public and private sectors in the design and implementation of public policies and services.

- Establishing a data-driven culture in the public sector.
- Adopting a risk management approach to address digital security and privacy issues, and implementing effective and appropriate security measures to increase trust in government services [25].

This intensive reliance on technology brings the term "open government" close to other terms such as "open government data" and "e-government:"

- **Open Government:** A government that focuses on promoting transparency, accountability, and participation as core objectives, thereby providing practical approaches to enhance good governance.
- **Open Data:** Data that is freely available, accessible, machine-readable, and openly licensed.
- **Government Data:** Data that is produced, stored, and provided by the government or public sector institutions. This may also be referred to as public sector information.
- **Open Government Data (OGD):** Government data that is provided freely, widely accessible, machine-readable, and openly licensed in an attempt to promote transparency, accountability, participation, and innovation. It is not concerned with service delivery.

- E-Government: Concerned with delivering services and exchanging information between government and citizens using Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Thus, the concept of government data extends beyond the scope of open government. While the former focuses on providing access to Information related to governance—such as information about how the government is managed—the latter covers all types of Information held by the government, including both governance-related and non-governance-related information. This has led to open government being defined to some extent as political and governmental data, as it combines the political and non-political aspects of Information held by the government [26].

Second Branch:

The Role of Open Governments In Enhancing Transparency

The recent revolutions witnessed in a number of Arab countries highlighted citizens' dissatisfaction with their relationship with their governments and their aspiration to redefine it. However, this often led to these uprisings devolving into violent conflicts due to the governing bodies' clinging to power and refusal to relinquish their dominant position. They also refrained from reforming power structures, even upon reaching a tipping point.

From this perspective, open government can represent the optimal solution helping these and other countries mitigate the risks of political and social instability and internal conflicts [27].

On the other hand, governments whose activities and procedures are transparent, encourage public participation, and meet their citizens' demands can deliver better performance. Their commitment to this reflects their readiness to be held accountable, whether they succeed in fulfilling their obligations or fail. Generally, the overarching goal of open government, in addition to making decision-making and policy-setting more open to non-governmental actors, is to promote the right to access information and achieve quality in public services by granting citizens a greater role in decision-making and choosing appropriate methods to meet their needs. This includes how public services such as water, health, education, and housing are provided, how infrastructure projects are established and where they are located, and budget allocation – all of which ultimately contribute to achieving good governance [28].

A frank and comprehensive shift towards openness and citizen inclusion in decision-making processes requires integrated efforts within a comprehensive action plan. This can only be achieved through essential stages for the gradual transition towards open government, focusing on one of its dimensions at each stage:

1. Preparatory and Introductory Steps: This stage aims to improve countries' readiness for an actual transition towards open government and to raise awareness of the importance of this transition in achieving development at various levels [29].

Accordingly, preparatory measures are taken, such as designing a general framework for open government, developing necessary legislative and regulatory frameworks (e.g., enacting laws related to the right to access information), in addition to developing technological infrastructure (e.g., expanding internet accessibility and

reducing communication costs to make them available to all). This also involves promoting this strategy and establishing a government policy outlining the general framework for open government and defining the foundations and principles upon which its application is based. This stage also requires, on the other hand, launching training programs for public officials to enhance their ability to learn how to use data dissemination tools [28].

2. **First Stage: Openness:** This stage aims to achieve the first principle of open government: transparency. Decision-makers are responsible for launching and implementing the open government initiative, ensuring the use of appropriate technologies while guaranteeing the quality of published data. Raising awareness among all – both the public and employees – about the importance of open data and its role in achieving development cannot be overlooked [30].
3. **Second Stage: Participation:** This stage aims to consolidate a culture of participation and enhance its practices by encouraging interaction between the government and citizens. Decision-makers at this stage are responsible for providing citizens with opportunities to present their ideas and suggestions regarding public policies and services through electronic platforms. Conversely, the government is responsible for responding to these Ideas, publishing, and disseminating them.
4. **Third Stage: Collaboration:** This stage aims to strengthen collaboration between the government on one hand and citizens, civil society organizations, and the private sector on the other, relying on available technical means. During this stage, governments are required to embody serious collaboration and the exchange of information and data with citizens, and to consider their opinions and proposals regarding policy-setting, decision-making, and legislation enactment. This stage relies heavily on social media platforms as a tool for collaboration.
5. **Fourth Stage: Full Engagement:** This stage is based on the full and complete engagement of citizens and other stakeholders (civil society and the private sector) in shaping public policies and decision-making to achieve a transparent, accountable government, thereby realizing the objective of this stage and the primary goal of open government. Accordingly, decision-makers at this stage are required to enhance transparency by ensuring full access to all data and encouraging free expression of opinion. This stage also requires working towards achieving full engagement by reinforcing the previous three stages and advancing transparency, participation, and collaboration to the level of full citizen engagement and involvement in administrative and governmental work. This stage also aims to establish an accountable government that makes the citizen the focus of Its concerns and priorities in line with achieving sustainable development goals [28].

Second Requirement:

Pillars of Open Government and Their Impact on the Right of Access

The purpose of Implementing the right of access to information has an impact on open government, In terms of Improving government efficiency and effectiveness and the quality of services provided, increasing citizen engagement in public affairs and decision-making procedures, and enhancing transparency and accountability.

This means that Its implementation requires fundamental prerequisites related to open government, the most Important of which are: public awareness-raising about open government and Its importance, capacity building (especially for government employees), Improving internet and information networks, and formulating laws and

legislation—particularly the right of access to information law and ensuring the protection of personal data.

The right of access to Information is one of the conditions for the establishment of a modern state, as this communication facilitates public discussions and provides protection against the abuse of power and corruption. It also benefits governments, as openness and transparency can lead from sound decision-making processes to developing citizens' trust in government actions [31].

Based on the above, It becomes clear to us that the right of access to information is a democratic entitlement that establishes the right to participate. This is because it grants freedom and responsibility to various actors in civil society and citizens to obtain information, which Is the most important criterion for good open governance. This confirms that the relationship between them Is one of mutual Influence within a functional integration framework, such that this right cannot be applied and promoted except In an atmosphere of openness and transparency, which are the foundations upon which open government is built.

First Branch:

Transparency:

It Is defined as "seeing things, knowing their truth, and acting In an open manner that allows stakeholders to obtain the necessary information to protect their interests and make appropriate decisions in a timely manner." It is also "the credibility of an organization before the public and the government, achieved through honesty, declaring Its activity, objectives, and funding sources, and opening Its doors to everyone." Therefore, it is considered the most Important element of sound governance. Whenever it exists and Is clear, governance Is good and stability exists, because it signifies good governance between the government and the people [32].

Some jurists consider that a distinction must be made between transparency as an Ideal value and transparency as a procedural means. The former constitutes part of the value system of every liberal democracy and part of human rights. It grants every citizen the right to access or follow public affairs at the government level. It also creates the referential framework regarding governments' commitment and responsibility to act in favor of promoting Its principles. The latter, meanwhile, aims to Improve the performance of the government apparatus and is therefore considered a stimulating factor for the concept of governance through preventing corruption and strengthening legitimacy [33].

Al-Kayyid argues that It involves the free flow of Information so that institutions and processes are accessible to those concerned, whether institutions or those dealing with them. Transparent systems have procedures for how decisions are made and possess open communication channels in all directions. As for transparency in its administrative dimension—what is termed administrative transparency, relating to the relationship between public administration and the citizen—it means: "Sharing information, openness In policymaking, systems, and legislation, and specifying government procedures and Instructions, in accordance with published, written legal

rules that define the information to be provided, the deadlines for publishing It in detail and accurately, and the legal responsibility for non-publication, provided that this Information is sufficient to understand the work of government sectors and monitor their performance, and that it is equally accessible to the citizen and any interested party".

Increasing transparency significantly contributes to Increasing the degree of trust citizens place In individuals working in the government sector. Moreover, increasing the level of transparency In administrative processes means clarity of work procedures, moving away from routine and complex procedures, and facilitating citizens' access to the services they want. It also leads to a lower level of corruption and administrative atrophy, and increased efficiency and effectiveness. Transparency Is beneficial as it embodies disclosure, clarity, and participation, which intersects with the right of access to Information. Transparency within the framework of open government emerges in providing citizens with Information about what the government is doing, reinforced through the following objectives:

1. Focusing on open data, publishing it, and ensuring Its quality.
2. Raising public awareness about the Importance of government openness and accountability.
3. Building a culture of collaboration among government entities.
4. Using information and communication technologies.

In this context, communication has been linked to transparency from the perspective that open Institutions use appropriate and diverse communication channels, ensure the accuracy, credibility, and volume of information to be published, avoid treating all related parties with secrecy, and are characterized by openness and clarity In their communication system [34].

Additionally, there is a link between transparency and accountability, especially in the field of decision-making, as accountability is considered a fundamental pillar of good governance upon which open government is based.

Based on the above, enhancing transparency with respect to the right of access to information lays the cornerstone for open participation and collaboration between government and citizens, In addition to rationalizing and making administrative work effective, thereby contributing to the democratization of public administration – the true goal of exercising this right.

This cornerstone is further reinforced by activating the most Important principles of the right of access to Information, namely:

- Maximum Disclosure: Obliges public authorities to disclose all information they hold, subject only to a specific set of exceptional rules.
- Obligation to Publish: Public authorities must make available to the public, proactively and not upon request, Information related to their activities and that concerns the public Interest.
- Ease of Access to Information: Requests for Information should be handled efficiently and quickly within specified timeframes.
- Oversight and Review Bodies: In the form of courts, commissions, state audit bodies, and complaints offices – all should monitor transparency and ease of access to Information.

- Free Access to Information as a Right: Citizens should obtain information free of charge. Often, the state budget should cover any resulting fees or costs.

However, despite the Importance of transparency for the right of access to information within the framework of open government, the public interest may not always align with transparency, and state security and strategic interests may be threatened. This means that secrecy is not always a threat to transparency, as there are exceptions to information disclosure that necessitate adherence to confidentiality. Here, the rule and principle is transparency, while the exception is secrecy – not the opposite – within an open and good governance framework whose pillar is transparency.

To activate this cornerstone, It also grants great Importance to participation as a fundamental pillar of open government and a guarantee of the strength and continuity of this transparency in the field of the right of access to Information [35].

Second Branch:

Participation:

This is embodied through the citizen's right to participate In the exercise of administrative authority through expertise or Ideas, in order to enable the government to enact laws, decisions, and policies within the framework of activating participatory democracy. Participatory democracy means readjusting the nature of the relationship between the administration and the citizen by building trust between them, and shifting from the concept of the submissive citizen – whose relationship with the administration only entails rights related to the use of public facilities – to the concept of the participating citizen, who enjoys the right to participate In the exercise of administrative functions. Therefore, It aims to enhance citizen participation in government work through the following general objectives [36]:

- Enhancing interaction with citizens and civil society organizations, and receiving suggestions and observations.
- Intensive use of Information and communication technology (ICT), especially social media. The primary advantage of improving open participation is activating the practice of the right of access to Information through continuous dialogue based on communication.
- Training on mechanisms for constructive interaction.
- Obtaining diverse, real-time feedback and the government's ability to benefit from it.
- This cornerstone is reinforced by rebuilding trust between the citizen and the state and activating democratic oversight mechanisms, such as open avenues for citizen appeals, as a fundamental requirement for the right of access to information within the framework of open government.

Promoting open government from the perspective of the right of access to information necessitates the following [37]:

- Educating citizens about their rights to access Information and promoting a culture of openness.
- Providing all necessary resources to implement the right to access information.
- Training government employees to practice openness and abandon the culture of secrecy.

From the above, we can say that the right of access to Information in general is part of the right to communication and is based on the recognized ability of citizens to obtain Information, whether that which directly concerns them or that related to public affairs. In this, It offers numerous advantages for promoting open government by deepening administrative transparency and activating the principle of participatory democracy, manifested in [28]:

- Recognizing the right of access to Information improves relations between the administration and the citizen, allowing a transition from the classic authoritarian relationship (power vs. freedom) to a more balanced relationship between them.
- The right of access to Information today lies at the heart of political and ideological debates because It relates, on one hand, to a set of fundamental rights, such as the right to oversight and the right to participate, thus representing a genuine opening of the administration to its external environment. On the other hand, It reflects an administrative democracy based on Improving relations between the administration and citizens.

CONCLUSION

Fundamental Finding : At the end of this study, It becomes evident that administrative transparency is considered the cornerstone of building a modern administration based on the principles of openness, accountability, and participation. It is not merely a theoretical Idea but an effective practical tool for combating administrative corruption and enhancing the quality of institutional performance. Moreover, the adoption of transparency strengthens citizens' trust In public administration and consolidates the values of good governance. The study has shown that there is an integrative relationship between transparency and the concept of open government, as transparency forms the foundation upon which policies of openness and the expansion of community participation in decision-making are built. Administrative transparency Is considered one of the most effective tools in reducing administrative corruption. There is a close relationship between transparency and the achievement of good governance within institutions. Transparency contributes to Improving the quality of administrative performance and increasing work efficiency. Transparency is directly linked to enhancing citizens' trust in public administration. **Implication :** Therefore, achieving administrative transparency requires genuine political will, legal and regulatory reforms, as well as raising community awareness of its importance, all of which contribute to achieving sustainable development and building an effective administration that meets the needs of citizens. The need to strengthen the legal framework that regulates transparency and guarantees the right of access to information. Work on spreading a culture of transparency within administrative institutions through training and awareness. Developing oversight and accountability mechanisms to ensure the effective application of the principle of transparency. Employing modern technology to support the concept of open government and facilitate the exchange of information. Encouraging the participation of citizens and civil society organizations in monitoring government performance. **Limitation :** However, the application of transparency faces numerous

challenges at the legislative, institutional, and cultural levels, which necessitates the concerted efforts to overcome these obstacles. The application of transparency faces multiple challenges, includein cludeing weak legislation and a lack of institutional awareness. **Future Research** : The study has shown that there is an integrative relationship between transparency and the concept of open government, as transparency forms the foundation upon which policies of openness and the expansion of community participation in decision-making are built.

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