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## Sustainability of Human Development Through Governance: A Qualitative Comparative Analysis of Countries

Yönetişim ile İnsani Gelişmişliğin Sürdürülebilirliği: Ülkelerin Nitel Karşılaştırmalı Analizi

Murat ERKOYUNCU<sup>1</sup>, Volkan AŞKUN<sup>2</sup>

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**Abstract:** This study examines the sustainability of human development (HD) through various governance configurations using a qualitative comparative analysis of countries from a complex adaptive systems perspective. The World Bank's six governance dimensions are used, and 11 unique configurations are identified for different levels of human development. The research reveals that the relationship between governance and HD is complex and context-specific, with different governance models contributing to different outcomes. The results suggest that a universal governance approach is not effective in promoting HD, and it is crucial to customize policy interventions based on the specific governance dynamics of each country. This study emphasizes the importance of governance in sustainable development and emphasizes the need for tailored strategies considering the complex relationship between governance dimensions.

**Keywords:** Human development, Governance, Qualitative comparative analysis, World Bank, Complex adaptive systems

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**Öz:** Çalışma, karmaşık uyarlanabilir sistemler perspektifinden ülkelerin nitel karşılaştırmalı analizini kullanarak çeşitli yönetim konfigürasyonları aracılığıyla insani gelişmişliğin sürdürülebilirliğini incelemektedir. Dünya Bankası'nın altı yönetim boyutu kullanılmış ve farklı insani gelişmişlik seviyeleri için 11 benzersiz konfigürasyon belirlenmiştir. Araştırma, yönetim ve insani gelişme arasındaki ilişkinin karmaşık ve bağlama özgü olduğunu, farklı yönetim modellerinin farklı sonuçlara katkıda bulunduğunu ortaya koymaktadır. Sonuçlar, evrensel bir yönetim yaklaşımının insani gelişmişliği teşvik etmede etkili olmadığını ve politika müdahalelerinin her ülkenin kendine özgü yönetim dinamiklerine göre özelleştirilmesinin çok önemli olduğunu göstermektedir. Bu çalışma, sürdürülebilir kalkınma bağlamında yönetimin önemine ilişkin mevcut literatüre katkıda bulunmakta ve sürdürülebilir insani gelişmeye etkili bir şekilde teşvik etmek için farklı yönetim boyutları arasındaki karmaşık ilişkiyi dikkate alan özel stratejilere duyulan ihtiyacı vurgulamaktadır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** İnsani gelişmişlik, Yönetişim, Nitel karşılaştırmalı analiz, Dünya Bankası, Karmaşık uyarlanabilir sistem

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Öğr. Gör., Murat Erkoyuncu, Hitit Üniversitesi, [muraterkoyuncu@hitit.edu.tr](mailto:muraterkoyuncu@hitit.edu.tr).

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Öğr. Gör., Volkan Aşkun, Akdeniz Üniversitesi, [volkanaskun@gmail.com](mailto:volkanaskun@gmail.com). (Sorumlu Yazar)

## 1. Introduction

The pursuit of sustainable human development has been a prominent objective in global policy for an extended period, as evidenced by the inclusion of this goal in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN General Assembly, 2015). The pursuit of sustainable human development remains a persistent and intricate endeavor, as it is influenced by a multitude of intricate economic, social, political, and environmental dynamics. Among these factors, the level of governance within a nation emerges as a pivotal determinant of human development (Kaufmann, Kraay, & Mastruzzi, 2010). Governance can be defined as the systematic way authority is wielded, decisions are formulated, and public resources are administered in order to fulfil the requirements and aspirations of a given society (World Bank, 1992). There is an increasing agreement among scholars that the presence of effective governance is crucial for the achievement of sustainable human development. However, the specific correlation between various aspects of governance and human development is still not fully understood (Fukuyama, 2013).

According to Kaufmann et al. (2010), the World Bank has identified six governance dimensions that are deemed essential for attaining favorable development outcomes. The dimensions being referred to are assessed through the utilization of the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) by the World Bank. These indicators offer a comprehensive evaluation of governance quality on a global scale. The Human Development Index (HDI) is a commonly employed metric for assessing human development, which encompasses three fundamental dimensions: longevity, educational attainment, and standard of living (UNDP, 2018). HDI can be regarded as a valuable metric for assessing comprehensive human development, facilitating cross-country and temporal comparisons.

The present study employs a complex adaptive systems (CAS) framework to examine the correlation between dimensions of governance and outcomes in human development. The theory of CAS acknowledges the dynamic nature of social systems, such as nations, which are comprised of diverse and interconnected elements that interact and adapt to their environment (Aşkun, 2022; Levin, 1998; Miller & Page, 2007). By adopting this viewpoint, we can comprehend human development as a multifaceted system that arises from the interplay among diverse entities, organizations, and socio-political dynamics. This study recognizes the intricate and context-specific nature of the interactions between governance dimensions and human development outcomes, as it analyses them through the framework of CAS. The acknowledgement of the impact of feedback loops, self-organization (Kauffman, 1993), and emergent (Holland, 2014) properties on governance systems emphasizes the importance of recognizing the dynamic and adaptive characteristics of governance to effectively foster sustainable human development. The adoption of this perspective enhances our comprehension of the inherent intricacy of governance configurations and offers valuable insights for the development of effective policy interventions in the context of CAS. Considering the intricate and multifaceted characteristics of governance and human development, the utilization of Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) (Ragin, 2008) proves to be an advantageous approach for investigating the interplay between these intricate phenomena. The utilization of QCA enables a more intricate comprehension of the correlation between governance and human development, as it facilitates the identification of diverse combinations of governance dimensions that are linked to different human development outcomes.

The objective of this study is to make a scholarly contribution to the current body of literature on governance and human development. This will be achieved by utilizing country-level data to identify various combinations of governance dimensions and examine their association with outcomes related to human development. This analysis investigates the six governance dimensions of the World Bank in relation to the HDI and identifies 11 distinct configurations that are linked to varying levels of human development. The findings of this study have important implications for policymakers, development practitioners, and researchers as they underscore the need for context-specific strategies that take into account the complex interplay of governance dimensions to promote sustainable human development.

## 2. Conceptual Framework

The traditions and institutions a nation uses to exercise its authority constitute its governance. This includes the way governments are elected, vetted and replaced; the government's ability to successfully develop and implement appropriate policies; and the respect individuals and the state have for the institutions that regulate their interactions with each other at the social and economic levels. Governance refers to the way in which public officials and institutions acquire and exercise authority to shape public policy and provide public goods and services (Fiszbein, Ringold, & Rogers, 2011).

Good governance is essential for human development as it contributes to accelerating overall development, including human development, and its role in the effective delivery of social and public services is crucial. Despite the assumption that the world has sufficient resources to meet the basic needs of people, it is also true that there are enormous problems in the exploitation, equitable sharing, and distribution of available resources. In particular, factors such as poverty, unemployment and crime are the result of gross injustice in this distribution and threaten even the most basic human right, the right to life. Therefore, it will be important for individuals to reach a state of well-being, to solve their problems and to meet their basic needs by providing social support when necessary (Yolcuoğlu, 2012), and it will be important to make a broader perspective assessment by looking at the interactions with the social environment, not only the individual causes of the problems experienced (Erkoyuncu, 2023). In addition, the emergence and development of new relations at the global level has transformed organizations from mechanical structures into organic structures that can act faster, more innovatively and flexibly, and are compatible with their internal and external environments.

The concept of governance and human development emerged in the 1980s after the failure of economic growth-based development to reduce poverty and inequality (Chaudhary, 2020). Good governance is characterized by principles such as rule of law, participation, public accountability and responsiveness, transparency, equity and inclusiveness, efficiency and decentralization (Chaudhary, 2020; Fiszbein et al., 2011). These principles are structured as performing well for set goals and objectives, making transparent decisions, focusing on the goals and outcomes of the organization, building capacity, and managing and mitigating risk factors. The literature on human development attaches great importance to the quality of governance and there are studies assessing the impact of governance on human development (Khan, 2015; Zulfiqar et al., 2023).

The following section provides a conceptual framework for the World Bank's six governance indicators, which provide a comprehensive assessment of the quality of governance across countries.

### 2.1. Voice and Accountability

Both the notions of voice and accountability (VOICE) are critical to human development and are key elements of successful government. The interaction between these factors is intricate since it affects several facets of social, economic, and political life. Voice, according to Sen (1999), is the capacity of individuals and organizations to communicate their ideas, take part in the decision-making process, and have an impact on laws that have an impact on their daily lives. By fostering social inclusion, eliminating inequality, and optimizing resource allocation, increased voice and involvement support human development (Gaventa & Barrett, 2012). People are more likely to achieve their basic requirements and have a greater quality of life when they have the opportunity to actively shape their surroundings (UNDP, 2013). According to Schedler, Diamond, and Plattner (1999), accountability is the responsibility of institutions, organizations, and governments to defend their decisions and respond to public requirements and concerns.

The efficient and effective use of public resources is guaranteed through accountability measures including transparency, monitoring, and assessment (Kaufmann & Kraay, 2002). These mechanisms promote the rule of law, reduce corruption, and increase trust in governance systems by holding institutions and officials responsible for their actions (Holmberg, Rothstein, & Nasiritousi, 2009). In conclusion, the partnership

between VOICE is essential for human development because it fosters inclusive and participatory governance, enhances resource allocative efficiency, and fosters institutional trust. For inclusive growth and the transition to democracy, it is also crucial that civil society organizations and women participate in decision-making processes. By guaranteeing non-discrimination, participation, the empowerment of beneficiaries, and the responsibility of duty bearers, human rights-based initiatives support sustainable development.

## 2.2. Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism

Human growth is significantly influenced by elements such as political stability and an absence of violence/terrorism (STABILITY). While the absence of violence and terrorism ensures a secure atmosphere for residents to seek their well-being, a stable political climate enables efficient government, economic progress, and the delivery of fundamental services (Hegre & Sambanis, 2006). Governments may concentrate on long-term goals and programs that advance human development when there is political stability (Barro, 1991). According to Alesina et al. (1996), stable political regimes are more likely to distribute resources effectively, make investments in infrastructure, health, and education, and foster favorable circumstances for economic growth. As a result, human development metrics like life expectancy, literacy rate, and per capita income are positively correlated with political stability (Chauvet & Collier, 2008). To ensure a safe and secure atmosphere where people may prosper, violence and terrorism must be eliminated. Violence and terrorism impede human development by causing destruction, loss of life, displacement, and psychological trauma (Fearon & Laitin, 2003). It also leads to increased government spending on defense and security measures, diverting resources away from critical areas such as education, health, and social welfare (Collier & Hoeffler, 2004). Thus, societies devoid of violence and terrorism possess a greater propensity to attain elevated levels of human development.

According to Aytekin (2022), in the absence of STABILITY, especially developing countries are far from the necessary conditions for human development. When the data on countries are analyzed, it is revealed that countries with poor performance in terms of governance variables in general also have low GDP per capita. In addition, Lin et al. (2012) reported that governance indicators such as VOICE, STABILITY and government effectiveness as well as urbanization are inversely related to national under-five mortality rates. Moreover, a lack of STABILITY has a significant impact on tourism. Gaberli et al. (2022) find a positive long-run relationship between the change in the number of tourists and the political stability-non-violence index. According to Piazza and Walsh (2010), terrorism is seen as a major threat to political stability in many countries. The adherence to internationally recognized human rights constitutes an intrinsic obligation incumbent upon national governments. In the realm of counterterrorism efforts, it is imperative for governments to undertake measures that effectively combat acts of terrorism, all the while ensuring the preservation and upholding of fundamental human rights.

## 2.3. Government Effectiveness

Government effectiveness (GOVERNMENT) encompasses the quality of public services, policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of government commitment to those policies (Kaufmann et al., 2010). This overview emphasizes the importance of efficient and effective governance, making the relationship between GOVERNMENT and human development important. The effectiveness of a government directly affects the well-being of its citizens by influencing various aspects of human development such as education, health, and social protection (Rajkumar & Swaroop, 2008). Effective governments are more likely to design and implement policies that meet the needs of the population, reduce poverty, and promote equitable distribution of resources (Fukuyama, 2013). As a result, higher levels of GOVERNMENT are associated with better human development outcomes, such as better life expectancy, literacy rates, and overall quality of life (Besley & Persson, 2010). A strong and effective government can create an environment where businesses thrive, jobs are created, and citizens have access to opportunities to improve their lives (Acemoglu & Robinson, 2013).

GOVERNMENT is an important factor in the socio-economic development of a country. Good governance and effective government are essential for human development as they ensure the quality and capacity of

public services, policymaking, and the credibility of the government's commitment to those policies. The implementation of e-government policies, leadership commitment, and the development of the state apparatus as human resources significantly affect the performance of public services (Hardiyansyah, Koesharijadi, & Akbar, 2020). Government spending on education, health, and social protection has a positive impact on the growth rate of human development (Mailassa'adah, Pudjihardjo, & Burhan, 2019). Government capacity at both national and local levels is crucial for the success of post-decentralization development (Dzimbiri, 2016). The quality of public services in different sectors, such as tourism, is important to support human development growth in the sector (Dadang, 2021). The quality and capacity of public services, policymaking, and the credibility of government commitment to these policies are crucial for development success.

## **2.4. Regulatory Quality**

Regulatory quality (QUALITY) refers to the government's ability to formulate and implement sound policies and regulations that promote private sector development, protect the public interest, and balance various stakeholders (Kaufmann et al., 2010). High QUALITY is characterized by transparent, efficient, and predictable rules that promote an enabling environment for economic growth and social development (Djankov et al., 2002). There are several ways in which QUALITY and human development are related. Regulations that are thoughtfully crafted and effectively put into place give businesses a stable and predictable environment that promotes innovation and investment (Aşkun, Çizel, & Çizel, 2021), which in turn generates job opportunities and aids in economic growth (Rodrik, Subramanian, & Trebbi, 2004). To enhance the funds available for government expenditure on health care, education, and other essential aspects of human development, this economy must grow. Additionally, good laws guarantee the preservation of public interests, such as consumer rights, environmental protection, and labor standards, which are essential for enhancing the general welfare (Levi-Faur, 2005). Regulations in the fields of labor and the environment, for instance, can enhance working conditions and lessen economic inequality while also reducing pollution and improving public health outcomes, all of which are beneficial to human development (Acemoglu & Robinson, 2013). In sum, QUALITY plays an important role in promoting human development by stimulating economic growth, protecting the public interest, and providing a stable and predictable environment for both businesses and citizens.

QUALITY is also a critical determinant of the volume of private sector investment (Pargal, 2003). As QUALITY reinforces private sector-led growth and macro-managed local currency appreciation, it is largely dependent on the role played by government institutions through their regulatory and policy-making functions. The study conducted in the Nigerian context (Charles & Orji, 2023) aimed to look into the relationship between foreign exchange management and economic growth, taking into account the influence of institutional quality. The findings of this study revealed a noteworthy and inverse association between the nominal effective exchange rate and economic growth, which can be attributed to a decline in institutional quality. The effectiveness of regulatory frameworks is a critical factor in any regulation of small-scale enterprises, and the regulatory system chosen by the government can significantly affect the business environment and consequently determine the competitiveness of private intermediaries and their ability to do business efficiently. The efficacy of governance is contingent upon the pivotal role assumed by governmental institutions in executing their regulatory and policy-making responsibilities, thereby fortifying the trajectory of private sector-driven expansion and the maintenance of a well-managed local currency valuation, both of which are intrinsically linked to the advancement of human development.

## **2.5. Rule of Law**

The concept of the rule of law (LAW) encompasses the fundamental tenet that every individual, institution, and organization must adhere to and be held responsible under the legal framework. This framework is characterized by its equitable application and enforcement, marked by transparency, predictability, and impartiality (WJP, 2021). LAW is essential for creating a stable and secure environment that promotes sustainable human development (Carothers, 1998). By fostering equal protection and access to justice, the

law contributes to social inclusion and reduces disparities between various population segments. This improves the general welfare and allows individuals to reach their utmost potential (Sen, 1999). By providing a stable environment for businesses, investors, and entrepreneurs, the law also promotes economic growth (North, 1992). Individuals and organizations are more likely to invest in productive activities when property rights are protected and contracts are enforced (Acemoglu, Johnson, and Robinson, 2001). This results in an increase in employment and income opportunities. This economic growth facilitates the allocation of resources to critical human development sectors such as education, health care, and social security. In addition, LAW strengthens accountability and prevents corruption, ensuring that public resources are utilized effectively and efficiently for the public's benefit (Kaufmann, Kraay, & Mastruzi, 2004).

LAW contributes to improved governance, which is essential for attaining positive human development outcomes (Fukuyama, 2011) by fostering greater transparency and confidence in public institutions. On the other hand, law is acknowledged as a critical element of economic development (Ochoa, 2015; Ohnesorge, 2007). The concept of LAW includes property rights and contract enforcement, which are directly related to economic growth. The United Nations recognizes that law, democracy, human rights, and development have mutually reinforcing effects (Ochoa, 2015). The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development acknowledges that access to justice and the law are essential for the preservation of the environment and human rights (Harrison, 2018). The LAW, as a constitutional and common European value, should be bolstered through preventative and promotional measures, as it is a crucial factor in safeguarding human development, economic growth, personal liberty, and the general welfare.

## 2.6. Control of Corruption

Corruption, which is defined as the abuse of public power for private benefit, undermines the efficient allocation of resources, erodes public trust in institutions, and exacerbates social and economic disparities (Transparency International, 2023). Control of Corruption (CONTROL) is essential for creating an environment that promotes equitable and sustainable human development (Kaufmann et al., 2004). By reducing corruption, governments can allocate resources to critical sectors such as education, health, and social protection, which are essential for enhancing human development (Mauro, 1995). Reducing corruption in the education sector, for instance, can result in improved education quality and greater access to education for vulnerable groups, thereby enhancing human capital overall (Gupta, Davoodi, & Tiongson, 2001).

Additionally, CONTROL promotes economic growth by levelling the playing field for businesses and investors, boosting competitiveness, and fostering innovation (Svensson, 2005). This economic growth generates additional funds for public expenditure on human development initiatives and contributes to the improvement of the population's welfare through the expansion of employment opportunities (Lambsdorff, 2003). In addition, CONTROL strengthens LAW, accountability, and transparency in public institutions, which are essential for good governance and increased trust between citizens and the state (Rose-Ackerman, 1999). This trust is crucial for the legitimacy of public policies aimed at social cohesion, stability, and human development. In sum, CONTROL plays a crucial role in promoting human development by ensuring the efficient allocation of resources, stimulating economic growth, and enhancing good governance.

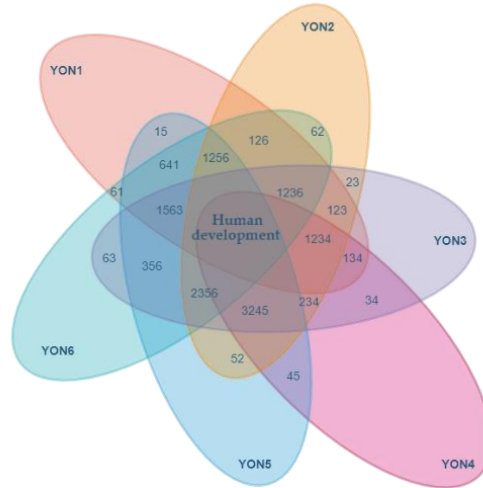
The empirical findings presented by Fagbemi et al. (2022) demonstrate a noteworthy correlation between corruption and the development of human capital. Moreover, their research underscores the significance of the frequency of corruption as a crucial determinant in the process of human capital development. The available evidence supports the notion of a bidirectional causality between corruption and human capital development, indicating a reciprocal relationship wherein low levels of corruption and human capital development are intricately connected and mutually reinforcing. Corruption is recognized as a strong barrier to economic growth and development and is a problem for all countries and therefore for world economic development (Chiricu, 2019). Corruption affects democracy, sustainable development, and human rights. In this context, it is concluded that controlling corruption is essential for human development.

### 3. Theoretical Framework, Research Model and Methodology

Human development is analyzed through the lens of complex adaptive systems (CAS) theory. A CAS is a system of multiple, interdependent agents (individuals, groups, organizations) that adapt their behavior to the behavior of other agents in the system (Miller & Page, 2007). The CAS perspective emphasizes non-linearity, interaction and deterministic outcomes that cannot be predicted from the characteristics of individual agents (Holland, 2014). In our study, the CAS perspective is applied to human development. Here, the agents are VOICE, STABILITY, GOVERNMENT, QUALITY, LAW, CONTROL, which are included in the concept of governance. Each of these variables does not act alone, but in a system where the elements interact and harmonize with each other, producing a higher-level result: Human Development. The CAS perspective is in line with recent calls for more dynamic and holistic models in human development research (Çizel, Aşkun, & Çizel, 2022). Such models recognize the complexity of human development and the interplay between different influences such as individual characteristics, social life, and broader societal changes.

In the depicted research model, denoted as Figure 1, it is posited that the emergence of human development is contingent upon the dynamic interplay among various governance elements. Our hypothesis posits that these interactions have the potential to generate diverse configurations that result in elevated levels of human development. This proposition is grounded in the theory of CAS, which posits that the outcomes of a system are contingent upon specific arrangements of interacting agents (Kauffman, 1993, 1995). Hence, the employment of Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) is especially suitable for our investigation, given that this approach is specifically devised to discern patterns of circumstances that result in a particular outcome (Ragin, 2008). The utilization of the QCA approach enables the comprehensive examination of intricate and non-linear connections between governance dimensions and human development, which may be disregarded in conventional variable-centered analyses.

Figure 1: Research Model



This research employs QCA to investigate various combinations of governance dimensions that have an impact on human development across diverse nations. The QCA research method is a comprehensive approach that integrates the advantages of qualitative and quantitative methodologies, enabling a methodical examination of intricate and context-specific connections among variables (Ragin, 2008). The primary strength of this approach lies in its capacity to offer a comprehensive comprehension, utilising the depth of qualitative data for contextualization while upholding the precision of quantitative analysis. QCA demonstrates its strength in comparative research by enabling the identification of patterns and the development of theories across a wide range of cases. Nevertheless, this integrative approach is not without its inherent complexities. The undertaking necessitates a substantial investment of time, resources, and expertise, presenting a formidable challenge for researchers. The introduction of subjectivity through the

interpretation of qualitative data can present a potential drawback, while the concerns surrounding the limited generalizability of findings from small samples are also worth noting. However, when implemented meticulously, QCA serves as a robust approach to tackle complex research inquiries that can leverage the advantages of both qualitative and quantitative perspectives. In this particular scenario, the utilization of QCA enables us to discern particular amalgamations of governance dimensions that exhibit a correlation with elevated levels of human development across diverse contexts. WGI dataset in Table 1 is utilized for the purpose of conducting QCA. This dataset, as outlined by Kaufmann et al. (2010), offers annual data pertaining to six fundamental dimensions of governance. The dataset provided by WGI encompasses a comprehensive range of over 200 countries and regions, spanning from the year 1996 to 2022. This study's analysis centers on the year 2022, as it represents the most current data accessible.

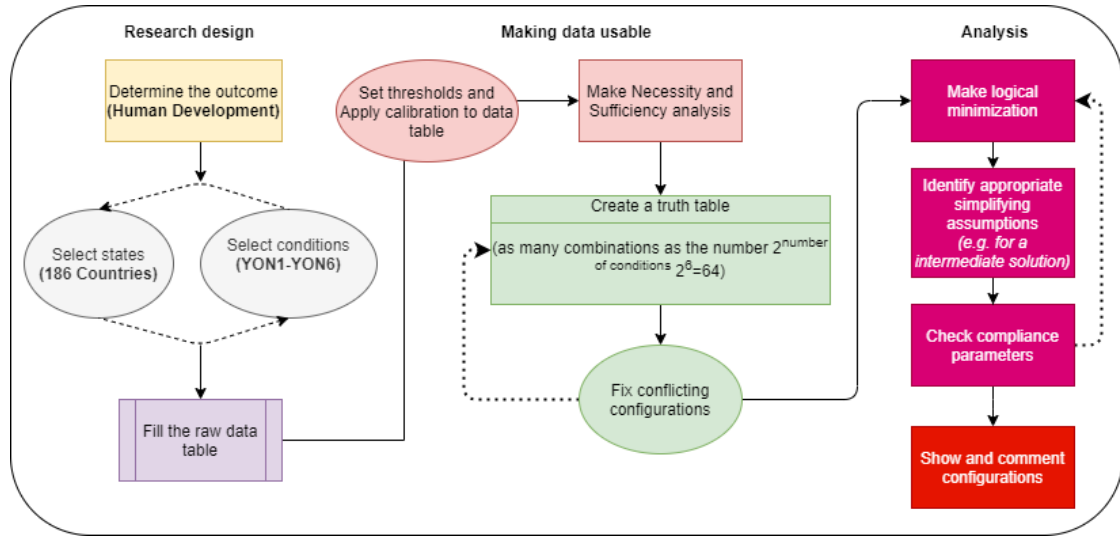
**Table 1:** Conditions: Worldwide Governance Indicators

Cod	Conditions
YON1	Voice and Accountability (VOICE): Measures the extent to which citizens can participate in the process of electing their government, freedom of expression, freedom of association and the existence of a free media.
YON2	Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism (STABILITY): Political instability measures the likelihood of politically motivated violence or terrorism and the overall stability of the political environment.
YON3	Government Effectiveness (GOVERNMENT): Assesses the quality and capacity of public services, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of government commitment to those policies.
YON4	Regulatory Quality (QUALITY): Measures the government's ability to create and implement sound policies and regulations that allow and encourage private sector development.
YON5	Rule of Law (LAW): Reflects the extent to which actors trust and abide by the rules of society, the quality of contract enforcement, property rights, police, and courts, as well as the likelihood of crime and violence.
YON6	Control of Corruption (CONTROL): Measures the extent to which public power is used for private gain, including both petty and grand forms of corruption, as well as the "capture" of the state by elites and private interests.

To measure human development, we use the Human Development Index (HDI), a composite index that covers three key dimensions of human development: health (measured by life expectancy at birth), education (measured by average years of schooling and expected years of schooling) and standard of living (measured by Gross National Income per capita) (UNDP, 2022). The HDI ranges from 0 to 1, with higher values indicating higher levels of human development. To harmonize both HDI and WGI data, 186 countries in Annex 1 were included in the study. After data collection, we calibrate the governance dimensions and HDI values into fuzzy sets using appropriate membership functions (Ragin, 2008). Fuzzy set calibration allows us to capture nuanced variations in the data and facilitates the identification of causal configurations leading to high human development. For the sake of this calibration and other steps, we perform QCA using fsQCA version 4.1 (Ragin, 2018), a specialized software to identify specific configurations of governance dimensions that are associated with high human development across countries. QCA generates a list of configurations, each representing a unique combination of governance dimensions associated with high human development.



Figure 2: fsQCA Implementation Steps



Source: Adapted from Çizel et al. (2022)

The configurations are presented in terms of necessary and sufficient conditions; necessary conditions are those that must be present for high human development to occur, while sufficient conditions are those that, when present, are sufficient to result in high human development. In this study, we adopt the implementation steps in Figure 2 of Çizel et al. (2022). Accordingly, after the research design step is carried out within the above information, the steps of making the conditions and results data available and analyzing them are included in the analysis and findings section.

Throughout the analysis, we carefully consider the issue of causal complexity, recognizing that there may be multiple pathways to high human development and that different configurations of governance dimensions may lead to similar outcomes (Ragin, 2008). We also acknowledge the possibility of equality, which refers to the idea that different configurations can produce the same outcome under different conditions (Aşkun, Çizel, & Çizel, 2021). In conclusion, the methodology used in this study combines the strengths of qualitative and quantitative approaches, allowing us to systematically examine the complex and context-dependent relationships between governance dimensions and human development.

#### 4. Analysis, Findings and Discussion

Variable calibration is a specific process of fsQCA and helps to transform the original variables into continuous membership fractions in the range 0-1 (Aşkun et al., 2021; Çizel et al., 2022; Fiss, 2011; Greckhamer et al., 2018). In this study, we sought to identify the fully connected and fully unconnected intercepts between six condition variables and one outcome variable, namely human development. To accomplish this, we examined the maximum, mean, and minimum values of the participants' descriptive statistics. Subsequently, a comprehensive examination of the normal necessity and sufficiency was undertaken for every condition in the context of human development. A sufficient condition, in the context of scientific inquiry, denotes the existence of a condition that possesses the capability to accurately predict the anticipated outcome, albeit not being the exclusive causal factor responsible for the said outcome.

According to Schneider and Wagemann (2012), it is postulated that a necessary condition possesses the ability to forecast the ultimate result when combined with other conditions. Furthermore, it is asserted that a necessary condition invariably manifests itself in all instances of such combinations. The assessment of necessity or sufficiency between conditions and outcomes is often guided by two key indicators, namely consistency and coverage (Ragin, 2006). The inclusion of a superset of outcomes is an essential prerequisite. When a requirement is incorporated into the truth table for analysis, it can be succinctly expressed as a "logical remainder term" in order to facilitate simplification. Prior to conducting a truth table analysis, it is imperative to thoroughly examine and analyze the requirements, as emphasized by Çizel et al. (2022).

The six conditions depicted in Figure 3 are deemed to be valid for the purpose of scrutinizing the fundamental components that encompass the phenomenon of human development. The graphical representation clearly demonstrates that the conditions required for the formation of human development exhibit necessity values of 0.7 and above, as well as sufficiency values of 0.5 and above. These values surpass the acceptable thresholds, indicating a significant correlation between the conditions and the process of human development (Çizel et al., 2022; Rihoux & Ragin, 2008).

**Figure 3:** Necessity and Sufficiency of Conditions for Human Development

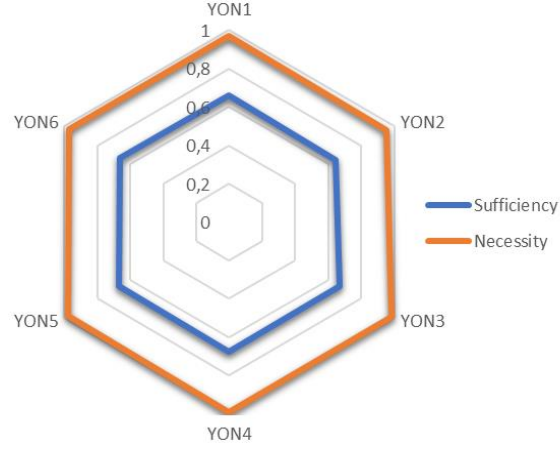


Table 2: Truth Table

YON1	YON2	YON3	YON4	YON5	YON6	Number of Countries	Human Development	Raw Consistency
1	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	0,974
1	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	0,971
1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0,967
0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0,966
1	1	1	1	1	1	49	1	0,964
0	1	1	1	1	1	9	1	0,962
1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0,960
1	0	1	1	1	1	3	1	0,953
1	1	0	1	1	1	4	1	0,949
0	0	1	1	1	0	2	1	0,947
0	0	1	1	1	1	4	1	0,947
0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0,944
1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0,943
1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0,942
0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0,940
1	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	0,939
0	0	1	1	0	0	4	1	0,934
0	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	0,934
1	1	1	0	1	1	3	1	0,933
1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0,931
1	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	0,927
1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0,922
0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0,916
1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0,907
1	1	0	0	1	1	3	1	0,892
1	1	0	0	0	1	3	1	0,890
1	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0,883
1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0,883
0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	0,870
0	1	0	0	0	0	4	1	0,857
1	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0,838
0	0	0	0	0	0	60	0	0,542

In the realm of QCA, it is imperative to acknowledge that the quantity of condition combinations experiences exponential growth as additional conditions are introduced into the analysis (Rihoux & Ragin, 2008). Truth tables serve as a valuable analytical instrument rooted in the principles of formal logic, enabling the comprehensive display of all conceivable condition combinations and resultant states within a given result set. Additionally, truth tables provide a succinct account of the quantity of states present in each configuration. When creating a truth table, the condition configurations that will form the result in the form of  $2^{\text{number of conditions}}$  are analyzed. In the case of 6 conditions in the study, there are  $2^6 = 64$  possible configurations. By using 0.80 (Rihoux & Ragin, 2008) as the consistency threshold in the truth table analysis, which is quite high (Rihoux & Ragin, 2008), 32 meaningful configurations were reduced to 32 meaningful configurations as shown in Table 2 by correcting the conflicting configurations.

Out of 186 countries, six countries showed nonsignificant results, while 60 countries out of the remaining 180 countries received zero under all conditions, in other words, they were excluded from the configurations because they did not reach the human development level. At this point, the last 11 configurations were found by using the logical configuration minimization feature of the fsQCA version

4.1 program and by evaluating intermediate solutions. Finally, the fit parameters of these 11 configurations were checked and left as they are.

**Table 3:** Configurations of Human Development

	Human Development										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
YON1	•	•		⊗	⊗	•	•		•	⊗	•
YON2	•			⊗	⊗				⊗	•	⊗
YON3		⊗	⊗	•	•	•	⊗	•	⊗		
YON4		⊗	⊗	•		•		•		⊗	⊗
YON5	•	⊗	⊗		•		•	•	⊗	⊗	⊗
YON6			•			⊗	•	•	⊗	⊗	•
Consistency	,89	,82	,85	,93	,93	,94	,88	,95	,84	,86	,87
<b>Solution Consistency</b>	,83										
<b>Solution Coverage</b>	,91										

The causal configurations for the realization of human development are shown in Table 3, produced as a result of the analysis following the configurations in the truth table. The symbol "⊗", which should be used here, represents the rarity or absence of any outcome, while the symbol "•" indicates the high realization of the outcome. The blanks, on the other hand, indicate that its presence or absence in the configuration is insignificant. In this sense, as a result of the analysis, there are 11 potential configurations to achieve human development.

In Configuration 1, the countries of New Zealand, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Japan, Portugal, Andorra, Austria, Czech Republic, Kiribati, Netherlands, Denmark, Canada, Malta, Ireland, Uruguay have high human development when VOICE, STABILITY and LAW are high (independent of other conditions). In Configuration 2, the countries of Timor-Leste, Argentina, São Tomé and Príncipe, Belize, Solomon Islands, Guyana, Ecuador, Malawi, Mongolia, and Ukraine can be somewhat humanly developed even when VOICE is high, but GOVERNMENT, QUALITY and LAW are low. In Configuration 3, the countries of São Tomé and Príncipe, Timor-Leste, Cuba, Burkina Faso, Solomon Islands, Benin, Guyana, and Belarus show human development when GOVERNMENT, QUALITY and LAW are low, but CONTROL is high. Configuration 4; Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Philippines, Azerbaijan, Serbia, Turkey, Morocco, Georgia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan, Philippines, Azerbaijan, Serbia, Turkey, Morocco, and Georgia have human development when GOVERNMENT and QUALITY are high while VOICE, STABILITY are low.

In Configuration 5, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Thailand, China, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and Georgia have human development when VOICE and STABILITY are low, but GOVERNMENT and LAW are high. With Configuration 6, the countries of Panama, the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Colombia, North Macedonia, Albania, and India have human development when VOICE, GOVERNMENT, and QUALITY are high, and CONTROL is low. In Configuration 7, Tuvalu, Marshall Islands, Vanuatu, Ghana, Tunisia, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Bulgaria, and Romania have human development when VOICE, LAW, and CONTROL are high, and GOVERNMENT is low. In Configuration 8, human development is observed when GOVERNMENT, QUALITY, LAW, CONTROL are high in Denmark, Finland, Singapore, Sweden, Netherlands, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Norway, Canada, Liechtenstein, Iceland, Australia, Ireland, Japan, Estonia, Hong Kong, Andorra, New Zealand, Germany, United Kingdom. In Configuration 9, the countries Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, Malawi, Ukraine, Argentina, Moldova have high VOICE and low STABILITY, GOVERNMENT, LAW, CONTROL, but somehow human development is observed. In Configuration 10, Lao PDR, Gambia, Gambia, Zambia, Paraguay, Maldives, although VOICE, QUALITY, GOVERNMENT, LAW, CONTROL are low, some form of human development is observed when STABILITY is high. In the countries of Senegal and Guyana in Configuration 11, some form of human development is observed when VOICE and CONTROL are high, but STABILITY, QUALITY, LAW are low.

### *Configuration 1*

It found that countries with high levels of human development, including New Zealand, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Japan, Portugal, Andorra, Austria, Czech Republic, Kiribati, Netherlands, Denmark, Canada, Malta, Ireland, and Uruguay, tended to score high on VOICE, STABILITY and LAW. This finding supports and extends existing literature that emphasizes the importance of these dimensions of governance in promoting human development. If you want people to have a say in government and hold it responsible, you need to create a climate where they feel welcome to speak up (Kaufmann et al., 2010). Results for human development can improve when people have a greater say in shaping public policy and resources are distributed more fairly (Besley & Burgess, 2002). Similarly, the absence of violence and terrorism is crucial to establishing a safe and nurturing setting for human growth. Long-term planning and investment in human capital, infrastructure, and social services are made possible by political stability (Alesina et al., 1996; Barro, 1991), which in turn improves the quality of life for residents. Furthermore, studies have shown that violent conflict may have severe and long-lasting repercussions on human development, including loss of life but also damage to infrastructure, population relocation, and interruption of social services (Gates et al., 2012). Last but not least, LAW is crucial to effective government because it ensures that laws and contracts are really enforced. Higher levels of human development may result from a more stable and open legal system that makes it easier for people to go about their daily lives and do business (Acemoglu et al., 2001; Rodrik et al., 2004).

Overall, these findings are consistent with and build on existing research highlighting the importance of good governance in promoting human development. In this configuration, the strong performance of countries such as New Zealand, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Japan, Portugal, Andorra, Austria, Czech Republic, Kiribati, Netherlands, Denmark, Canada, Malta, Ireland, and Uruguay on these governance indicators suggests that these dimensions of governance may be particularly relevant for promoting human well-being and sustainable development.

### *Configuration 2*

It shows that countries such as Timor-Leste, Argentina, São Tomé and Príncipe, Belize, Solomon Islands, Guyana, Ecuador, Malawi, Mongolia, and Ukraine can achieve some level of human development even when VOICE is high and GOVERNMENT, QUALITY and LAW are low. High levels of VOICE, characterized by increased citizen participation, freedom of expression and media freedom, can lead to more responsive governments even when GOVERNMENT, QUALITY and LAW are relatively low (Kaufmann et al., 2010). One possible explanation for this result could be that the pressure exerted by an informed and active civil society can force governments to address certain aspects of human development, such as access to basic services like education and health, even in the absence of robust institutional frameworks.

Complementing local resources and supporting the execution of human development programs, external assistance, such as foreign aid or international collaborations, can help certain nations attain some degree of human development (Clemens et al., 2012). One country whose human development indices have improved despite continuous governance issues is Timor-Leste, which has received considerable international backing for its development efforts since its independence in 2002 (La'o Hamutuk, 2013). Human development results are influenced by a wide variety of variables, not the least of which are governance indices. Developmental paths may also be influenced by a country's economic and population growth, its natural resource endowment, its cultural and historical circumstances, and other variables (Acemoglu et al., 2001; Rodrik et al., 2004). Thus, the cases of Timor-Leste, Argentina, São Tomé and Príncipe, Belize, Solomon Islands, Guyana, Ecuador, Malawi, Mongolia, and Ukraine highlight the importance of considering the broader context and interactions between different factors when examining the relationship between governance and human development. Overall, they show that human development can be achieved in these countries even with high VOICE and low GOVERNMENT, QUALITY and LAW.

*Configuration 3*

It reveals that countries such as São Tomé and Príncipe, Timor-Leste, Cuba, Burkina Faso, Solomon Islands, Benin, Guyana, and Belarus can achieve human development when GOVERNMENT, QUALITY and LAW are low, but CONTROL is high. CONTROL is a critical aspect of good governance that can significantly influence a country's development trajectory (Kaufmann et al., 2010). Corruption at epidemic proportions has been shown to damage the efficiency of government, erode public trust, and drain funds from vital programs and investments (Mauro, 1995; Tanzi & Davoodi, 1998). Therefore, measures to combat corruption can aid in human development by facilitating the distribution of public funds more fairly and efficiently (Keefer, 2007). São Tomé and Príncipe, Timor-Leste, Cuba, Burkina Faso, Solomon Islands, Benin, Guyana, and Belarus are all examples of countries where effective anti-corruption policies have been implemented despite challenges in other areas of government. This might be because people are more likely to have access to fundamental services like healthcare and education if public funds aren't being frittered away on corrupt practices (Gupta et al., 2001). We should not generalize from these countries' experiences, but rather use them to illustrate the potential role that CONTROL may play in fostering human growth under particular circumstances.

Since other governance characteristics, such as GOVERNMENT, QUALITY, and LAW, tend to be relatively low in these nations, this finding underscores the potential relevance of eliminating corruption as a fundamental driver of human development. It emphasizes that policymakers and development practitioners in these countries should prioritize anti-corruption efforts and implement targeted interventions aimed at curbing corruption in order to promote more inclusive and sustainable human development outcomes.

*Configuration 4*

It shows that countries such as Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Thailand, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, Azerbaijan, Serbia, Turkey, Morocco, and Georgia can show human development when VOICE and STABILITY are low, but GOVERNMENT and QUALITY are high. This finding highlights the potential role of effective state institutions and sound regulatory frameworks in driving human development, even in the presence of limited political freedoms and stability. GOVERNMENT and QUALITY are important facets of governance that may have a significant impact on public service delivery, private sector efficiency, and societal progress as a whole (Kaufmann et al., 2010). Improvements in health, education, and infrastructure are all crucial to human development, and a high standard of GOVERNMENT, characterized by effective public institutions and credible policy execution, may help bring about these changes (Rajkumar & Swaroop, 2008). In a similar vein, Besley and Persson (2010) argue that a high-QUALITY environment is conducive to private sector growth and job creation, both of which in turn improve human development outcomes. Despite a lack of political openness and stability, strong state institutions may be able to maintain the delivery of fundamental services and create an atmosphere favorable to economic growth, as seen in Turkey and other countries (Helliwell & Huang, 2008).

What they went through is not a panacea, but rather an illustration of how GOVERNMENT and QUALITY may help advance human growth in certain contexts. Therefore, even in situations of restricted political liberties and stability, these nations show the potential value of GOVERNMENT and QUALITY in boosting human development. The research emphasizes the need of strengthening government institutions and enhancing regulatory settings in order to create equitable and sustainable human development outcomes, which policymakers and development practitioners should prioritize.

*Configuration 5*

Human development has been achieved in nations with low levels of VOICE and STABILITY but high levels of GOVERNMENT and LAW, such as Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Thailand, China, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and Georgia. With restricted political freedoms and stability, this research underscores the potential importance of good state institutions and strong LAW in encouraging human development. Improvements in health, education, and infrastructure are all crucial to human development, and a high level of GOVERNMENT—one with efficient public institutions and trustworthy policy implementation—

can help bring about these changes (Rajkumar & Swaroop, 2008). The trust of players in social rules, contract enforcement, property rights, and the legal system are all crucial to economic growth and social cohesion (Acemoglu & Robinson, 2020; Acemoglu & Robinson, 2013) that may be fostered by a robust rule of law. These cases illustrate how solid-state institutions, and the rule of law may contribute significantly to human development even in contexts with constrained political freedoms and instability. One argument is that, even in the absence of political openness and stability, strong state institutions may continue to offer fundamental services and an atmosphere favorable to economic growth (Helliwell & Huang, 2008).

The examples of these nations are meant to show the possible role that GOVERNMENT and LAW can play in fostering human development in some contexts, rather than as a universal answer. In sum, these nations prove that, even in politically unstable environments, strong state institutions and effective LAW may help advance human development. This might be due to the fact that, even in the absence of political openness and stability, competent state institutions can continue to supply fundamental services and generate an atmosphere favorable to economic growth.

#### *Configuration 6*

Human development may be seen in places like Panama, the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Colombia, North Macedonia, Albania, and India despite having low levels of CONTROL, thanks to high levels of VOICE, GOVERNMENT, and QUALITY. Corruption is not always fatal to human progress when combined with robust political freedoms, strong state institutions, and a well-functioning regulatory framework. Besley and Burgess (2002) argue that good governance is possible when citizens have a VOICE, which includes the ability to participate in politics and express themselves freely. Health care, schools, and roads are all essential to people's well-being and society as a whole, and they may all benefit from better government (Rajkumar & Swaroop, 2008). Stimulating economic expansion and new job creation, QUALITY is a measure of the government's success in encouraging the growth of the private sector (Dollar et al., 2005). Corruption, however, has been shown to have long-term negative effects on human development and the efficiency of governing institutions (Mauro, 1995; Tanzi & Davoodi, 1998).

Human development in these nations despite poor CONTROL may be the result of other mitigating variables or the interaction between other characteristics of governance. Additional study might investigate the underlying processes connecting governance dimensions to human development and the contextual elements that may affect the efficacy of these governance dimensions in various contexts. The relative relevance and interconnections of other governance characteristics, such as CONTROL and other governance metrics, in fostering human development might also be investigated. In conclusion, these nations demonstrate that human progress may be seen even in the absence of central control by maintaining high levels of VOICE, GOVERNMENT, and QUALITY. However, corruption's ability to weaken government institutions and slow human development must be taken into account.

#### *Configuration 7*

Tuvalu, the Marshall Islands, Vanuatu, Ghana, Tunisia, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Bulgaria, and Romania all have low levels of GOVERNMENT, but high levels of VOICE, LAW, and CONTROL, which means that their citizens are able to exercise a high level of agency and flourish as a result. This study shows that other governance elements, including as political freedoms, judicial independence, and anti-corruption measures, can contribute considerably to human development, in addition to a good regulatory environment and competent government services. Increased government responsiveness to the demands of its population is one result of high VOICE, which includes political engagement and freedom of expression (Besley & Burgess, 2002). By providing a stable and predictable environment for individuals and enterprises, VOICE—which reflects the quality of contract enforcement, property rights, police, and courts—can support economic growth and human development (La Porta et al., 1997). Investment and economic growth can be boosted by stricter CONTROL, which can make government agencies more effective and level the playing field for firms and individuals. But weak government can hinder progress in areas where it matters most for people's well-being: health and education (Rajkumar & Swaroop, 2008).

This result highlights the significance of judicial independence, political freedom, and anti-corruption measures in fostering human growth. Recognizing the possible contrasts and synergies between various elements of governance and their effect on human development is also essential.

#### *Configuration 8*

Denmark, Finland, Singapore, Sweden, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Norway, Canada, Liechtenstein, Iceland, Australia, Ireland, Japan, Estonia, Hong Kong, Andorra, New Zealand, Germany, and the United Kingdom are all examples of countries with high levels of GOVERNMENT, QUALITY, LAW, and CONTROL, all of which contribute to a high level of human development. When it comes to providing essentials like healthcare and education, GOVERNMENT plays a pivotal role since it reflects the quality of public services and decisions. Improved health, education, and income are all crucial to achieving positive human development outcomes. Djankov et al. (2002) found that a more QUALITY-oriented approach to government and industry can help spur economic expansion. In turn, higher incomes and more positive results in human development are a byproduct of economic expansion. By giving people and businesses the safety and predictability they need to make long-term investments in education, health, and other forms of human capital, the law, including contract enforcement, property rights, and the quality of courts, can have a major impact on human development (Knack & Keefer, 1995). By guaranteeing that everyone has the same chances to succeed, a well-crafted law may also help bring about more fair results in human growth. The level of CONTROL indicates how much of the government's resources are being exploited for private gain. Better health, education, and economic growth outcomes, as well as more effective allocation of public resources, have all been linked to lower levels of corruption (Gupta et al., 2001; Mauro, 1995). Increased prosperity and better living conditions for all of society might result from these reasons.

The high levels of human development in these nations are a direct result of their excellent performance in the areas of GOVERNMENT, QUALITY, LAW, and CONTROL. Improved health, education, and income are all hallmarks of a developed society, and they are made possible by the conditions created by good government. Human growth relies on effective governance across numerous dimensions, and future studies might investigate the relationship between these aspects and their effects on people's lives.

#### *Configuration 9*

Despite having poor STABILITY, GOVERNMENT, LAW, and CONTROL, the countries of Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, Malawi, Ukraine, Argentina, Moldova, Ukraine, Peru, Ecuador, Ecuador, Malawi, Ukraine, Argentina, and Moldova all show signs of human development. While the analysis's circumstances are often linked to greater human development, it's worth noting that there may be country-specific contextual variables that account for the reported results. Even in places with poor ratings on some governance indices, natural resource riches may nonetheless play a role in human advancement. Corruption can hinder progress towards human flourishing because it causes people to lose faith in government and causes valuable resources to be misallocated (Mauro, 1995). However, in some situations, economic development or social welfare programs can make up for corruption's ill impacts (Khan & Sundaram, 2000). As an analogy, while the rule of law is crucial to any functioning government, informal conflict resolution procedures and community-based norms can sometimes serve as adequate substitutes (North, 1992).

#### *Configuration 10*

When VOICE, QUALITY, LAW, and CONTROL are low, but STABILITY is high, like in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Gambia, Zambia, Paraguay, and the Maldives, some amount of human development can be observed. Although there is an interdependence between the aspects of governance, the influence on human development may vary from nation to country, and some characteristics of governance may have a greater impact on human development than others. High STABILITY can pave the way for economic development and the delivery of public services (Alesina et al., 1996). Improvements in health, education, and living standards are all possible when governments are free to focus on policy



implementation and resource allocation (Ghobarah, Huth, & Russett, 2004). In addition to fostering human progress, a calm setting is conducive to investment and increases social solidarity. The existence of poor VOICE, QUALITY, LAW, and CONTROL, however, might impede human development in the long term, and this is something that must be taken into account. Lack of VOICE can lead to ineffective government that fails to meet the demands of its population (Kaufmann et al., 2010). Inadequate governance due to poor QUALITY and LAW can have negative effects on human development. Corruption has a detrimental impact on human development because it leads to inefficient public resource allocation and less access to fundamental services.

#### *Configuration 11*

Human development may be seen in nations like Senegal and Guyana with low STABILITY, QUALITY, and LAW, but high VOICE and CONTROL. Human development outcomes can be affected by each of these facets of governance, notwithstanding their interconnected nature. VOICE, which measures individuals' engagement in politics and their power to keep their government in check, helps people thrive by making it more likely that their leaders will address their concerns (Kaufmann et al., 2010). Even in the absence of political stability, individuals may assist develop policies that prioritize public welfare if they have a say in decision-making and can hold their leaders responsible (Glaeser et al., 2004). How much governmental authority is used for private gain is an issue of CONTROL. Better health, education, and economic growth are only some of the results that may be achieved with less corruption in place (Gupta et al., 2001; Mauro, 1995). Long-term human growth can be hampered in the lack of stability, quality, and the rule of law. Lower life expectancy and lower levels of education and training are associated with lower levels of political stability (Alesina et al., 1996). As with inadequate governance, weak QUALITY and LAW can have a negative impact on human development results (Chaudhury et al., 2006). Thus, in nations like Senegal and Guyana, where VOICE and CONTROL are relatively strong, low STABILITY, QUALITY, and LAW may still be major obstacles to obtaining optimal human development results. To guarantee long-term human development gains, policymakers should work to resolve these governance issues.

## **5. Conclusion**

The study presents a QCA using a complex adaptive systems perspective to show how different combinations of indicators can lead to favorable results for human development. Strong VOICE, STABILITY, GOVERNMENT, QUALITY, LAW, and CONTROL have been linked to advanced civilization in some cases. However, sometimes a country's human development can be supported by strengths in other areas despite poor scores on some metrics. This highlights the need for a comprehensive development method that considers various circumstances and settings. Human development is highest in Configuration 1, where countries with strong VOICE, STABILITY, and LAW achieve high human development. This aligns with the literature highlighting the importance of good governance and high-quality institutions for sustainable development goals. However, other configurations show that nations with varying levels of governance variables can still achieve high human development. For these nations to realize their potential, robust citizen engagement and bolstering democratic systems are crucial.

In Configurations 3 and 4, nations with low levels of some governance elements can still achieve high human development as long as other components of governance are robust. This highlights the importance of customizing policy interventions to individual requirements and conditions and the need for a nuanced understanding of the role of governance in achieving sustainable human development. The study's findings reveal the complex relationship between different facets of governance and the consequences of human development in different countries. New Zealand, Luxembourg, Switzerland, and Iceland are among the countries with high human development, which is crucial for effective governance to foster human growth. Countries like Timor-Leste, Argentina, and São Tomé and Príncipe have shown some human growth despite having low levels of voice, stability, law, and control. This suggests that certain aspects of governance may play a more important role in propelling human growth in different settings. Other nations, such as Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan, have managed to advance their citizens' quality

of life while having low levels of voice and stability but high levels of governance and quality. This indicates that robust government structures and laws can help people flourish even when political freedom and stability are lacking. Countries like Brazil, Peru, and Ecuador also showed human progress while having low ratings on major governance measures. Even if STABILITY, GOVERNMENT, LAW, and CONTROL were all low, but VOICE was strong, these countries nevertheless exhibited signs of human growth.

The findings from the QCA demonstrate how nuanced and situation-dependent the connection between good governance and human development really is. Policymakers must acknowledge that there is no universally applicable model of government and should consider the multidimensionality of governance when designing and implementing development interventions. By deepening our knowledge of these relationships, we can inform more effective policies and interventions aimed at promoting human development and well-being around the world. To achieve human development and well-being, we must also pay attention to the development dimension. To achieve this, we should create a ground where people can increase their economic, social, cultural, and political options so that they can freely make decisions. A holistic perspective should be put forward by bringing together concepts based on sustainability such as empowerment, equality, justice, rights, and efficiency. Sustainable development is essential for the conservation of natural resources, sustainable economic stability, and intergenerational equity. Social equality, fulfillment of health and education needs, and participatory democracy are crucial elements of development and are closely related to sustainability (Özmete, 2010). Solutions to macro-level problems will only be possible if they are addressed with a multidisciplinary approach, including disciplines such as psychology, sociology, and social work (Özmete & Gök, 2015).

Policymakers and international development practitioners can learn from the study's findings on different governance factor configurations. Configuration 2 demonstrates how increasing VOICE may be especially useful in nations with poor governance, quality, and legal aspects. Such knowledge can be used to create development initiatives and programs that prioritize citizen engagement and democratic procedure. Policymakers may then prioritize improving the precise governance characteristics that are most important to their country's configuration using the study's findings, which can guide the establishment of targeted capacity building programs.

In conclusion, the study highlights the importance of human development, sustainable development, human rights, and social welfare for societies. It emphasizes the need for context-sensitive approaches to governance and development policy, as well as the close relationship between meeting the ideal of a healthy, sensitive, respectful, safe society, caring about social justice, and ensuring the rule of law.

### **Limitations of the Study**

Notwithstanding the invaluable insights rendered by this study, it is imperative to acknowledge certain limitations.

**Cross-sectional design:** The study is predicated upon a cross-sectional design, thereby imposing constraints on its capacity to establish causal inferences pertaining to the relationship between governance factors and human development outcomes. A longitudinal analysis has the potential to offer a more comprehensive and rigorous comprehension of the causal relationships and temporal dynamics that exist among these variables.

**Restricted applicability:** The QCA methodology concentrates on distinct arrangements of governance variables observed within the nations encompassed in the examination, thereby potentially constraining the extensibility of the outcomes to alternative settings. Subsequent investigations may endeavor to broaden the purview of this study by incorporating a more expansive and heterogeneous array of nations, thereby delving deeper into the external applicability of the discerned configurations.

**Measurement considerations:** The study employs the World Governance Indicators (WGI) as a means to quantify governance elements. However, it is important to acknowledge that these indicators may be susceptible to measurement imprecision and potential biases during the data collection procedure, as noted

by Kaufmann et al. (2010). The utilization of alternative or complementary governance indicators presents a viable approach to mitigate this constraint and enhance the robustness of the outcomes.

**Unaccounted Variables:** The present investigation centers its attention on six pivotal governance conditions; however, it is plausible that additional unobservable variables, encompassing cultural, social, or economic factors, may exert an influence on human development outcomes. The incorporation of supplementary variables within the analysis has the potential to yield a more all-encompassing comprehension of the factors influencing sustainable human development.

**Interpretation of Configurations:** The utilization of Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) enables the discernment of diverse governance factor configurations. However, it is important to acknowledge that the interpretation of these configurations may be influenced by the subjective judgement of researchers. Future investigations may potentially derive advantages from the incorporation of supplementary methodologies, such as case studies, expert interviews, or a combination of both (Aşkun & Çizel, 2020), in order to enhance the validation and refinement of interpretations pertaining to the identified configurations.

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Yazar(lar) çıkar çatışması bildirmemiştir.

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Conceiving the Study: Author-1 (%25), Author-2 (%75)

Veri Toplanması: Yazar-1 (%50), Yazar-2 (%50)

Data Collection: Author-1 (%50), Author-2 (%50)

Veri Analizi: Author-1 (%25), Author-2 (%75)

Data Analysis: Author-1 (%25), Author-2 (%75)

Makalenin Yazımı: Yazar-1 (%50), Yazar-2 (%50)

Writing Up: Author-1 (%50), Author-2 (%50)

Makale Gönderimi ve Revizyonu: Yazar-1 (%50), Yazar-2 (%50)

Submission and Revision: Author-1 (%50), Author-2 (%50)

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**Annex-1: 186 Countries Covered in the Study**

Countries					
Afghanistan	Central Africa	Germany	Lesotho	Oman	Switzerland
Albania	Chad	Ghana	Liberia	Pakistan	Syrian Arab Republic
Algeria	Chile	Greece	Libya	Palau	Tajikistan
Andorra	China	Grenada	Liechtenstein	Panama	Tanzania
Angola	Colombia	Guatemala	Lithuania	Papua New Guinea	Thailand
Antigua and Barbuda	Comoros	Guinea	Luxembourg	Paraguay	Timor-Leste
Argentina	Congo	Guinea-Bissau	Madagascar	Peru	Togo
Armenia	Congo, Representative.	Guyana	Malawi	Philippines	Tonga
Australia	Costa Rica	Haiti	Malaysia	Poland	Trinidad and Tobago
Austria	Côte d'Ivoire	Honduras	Maldives	Portugal	Tunisia
Azerbaijan	Croatia	Hong Kong Sar,	Mali	Qatar	Turkmenistan
Bahamas	Cuba	China	Malta	Romania	Tuvalu
Bahrain	Cyprus	Hungary	Marshall Islands	Russian Federation	Turkey
Bangladesh	Czech Republic	Iceland	Mauritania	Rwanda	Uganda
Barbados	Denmark	India	Mauritius	Samoa	Ukraine
Belarus	Djibouti	Indonesia	Mexico	Sao Tomé and Príncipe	United Arab Emirates
Belgium	Dominika	Iran, Representative of Islam.	Micronesia	Saudi Arabia	United Kingdom
Belize	Dominican	Iraq	Moldova	Senegal	United States of America
Benin	Ecuador	Ireland	Mongolia	Serbia	Uruguay
Bhutan	Egypt	Israel	Montenegro	Seychelles	Uzbekistan
Bolivia	El Salvador	Italy	Morocco	Sierra Leone	Vanuatu
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Equatorial	Jamaica	Mozambique	Singapore	Venezuela, RB
Botswana	Guinea	Japan	Myanmar	Slovak Republic	Vietnam
Brazil	Eritrea	Jordan	Namibia	Slovenia	Yemen, Representative.
Brunei	Estonia	Kazakhstan	Nepal	Solomon Islands	Zambia
Darussalam	Eswatini	Kenya	Netherlands	South Africa	Zimbabwe
Bulgaria	Ethiopia	Kiribati	New Zealand	South Sudan	
Burkina Faso	Fiji	Korea, Rep.	Nicaragua	Spain	
Burundi	Finland	Kuwait	Niger	Sri Lanka	
Cambodia	France	Kyrgyz Republic	Nigeria	Sudan	
Cameroon	Gabon	Lao PDR	North Macedonia	Suriname	
Canada	Gambia	Latvia	Norway	Sweden	
Cape Verde	Georgia	Lebanon			