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## **GOOD GOVERNANCE IN FOOTBALL: AN ASSESSMENT OF FEDERATIONS IN SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL CORPORATION (SAARC) COUNTRIES**

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### **Abstract**

This paper is concerned with an assessment of the governance concept, and in particular evaluating good governance in member Federations of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Corporation) countries. For the purpose of this study, a case study approach is adopted, focusing on seven members of SAARC, such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The researcher has developed questions to evaluate the present level of governance of the organization, then investigate what space among Federations in SAARC countries that has to be improved in parallel with good governance theoretical framework and can offer basic set of recommendations on good governance practices. This research clearly reveals that no researches were conducted in South Asian Countries in the subject area. The researcher used document analysis as a research method in order to examine the level of governance practices. Desktop research was conducted for collection of the data for this study. The federations' websites, statutes, internal regulations, and any other relevant available documents were analyzed thoroughly. Scoring took place on the basis of publicly available data. The researcher basically used the Sport Governance Observer (SGO) as groundwork to measure governance in Football Federations in SAARC (Geeraert, A. 2015). The SGO survey is a combination of the four most important dimensions of good governance principles; transparency, democracy, checks and balances, and solidarity. The analysis has indicated that the results of football Federations in SAARC countries on good governance are dissatisfactory. The average score is 1.91 and overall SGO index of Federations in SAARC is 22.75% respectively. Out of seven countries, India has the highest SGO index with 29.375% where as Bhutan has lowest with 18.125 %. The overall SGO index of the SAARC countries Football Federations is 22.75%, which is accumulated from the average of Transparency (27.5%), Democratic process (29%), Checks and Balances (17.5%) and Solidarity (17%) of all countries. This overall score point clearly indicates that Football Federations in SAARC have severe governance problems with all the dimensions. Therefore, it is imperative that the Football Federations focus on improving Transparency, Democratic Process, Checks and Balances and Solidarity so as to improve good governance and thereby sustainability in football growth is possible in the near future among these countries.

**Keywords:** Governance, Transparency, Democratic Process, Checks and Balances, Solidarity.

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### **Reference:**

Geeraert, A. (2015). Sports Governance Observer 2015: the legitimacy crisis in international sports governance. Copenhagen: Play the Game.