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# Exploring the Determinants of Public Trust in Government in Somalia: An Empirical Analysis

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ABSTRACT

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Keywords:

public trust, citizen satisfaction, public services, participation, transparency, police services Whether in a democratic or non-democratic system, public trust is a fundamental component for the survival and development of any political system. Using a comprehensive representative survey, this study examines and assesses the factors influencing public trust in the Somali government. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire completed by 354 Somali residents in Mogadishu. The data were examined using a quantitative structural equation modeling approach with SmartPLS 4. Additionally, our analysis of the study findings revealed that the quality of public services, Participation in government, and Transparency all have positive and significant effects on public trust in government; in contrast, citizen satisfaction with police services has a negligible impact on public trust in government. However, citizens believe in and trust their governments regarding responsiveness, top-notch public services, and government openness. As a result, citizens fulfill their obligations honestly and fairly. By identifying the factors influencing public trust in the government, this study contributes to the empirical knowledge base used to develop targeted and practical initiatives to enhance public trust.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

A fundamental component for the survival and development of any political system, democratic or not, is public trust [1]. A functioning authoritarian government demands more confidence than one that is democratically administered [2]. Taxpayers' investment in public goods must lead to better efficiency, effectiveness, and responsiveness to the people's requirements for institutions to serve the citizens as customers appropriately [3]. Due to concerns over the lack of public trust and negative perceptions of the government and public sector, Western nations have been compelled to implement modernization strategies for their public services. This approach is predicated on the notion that improving public services will increase customer happiness and public trust in the government [4].

Public trust in the government has decreased during the past 40 years. Politicians, public administrations, and people face complex challenges due to the deterioration, which shows widespread dissatisfaction with public services and a loss of confidence in political and administrative competence [5]. Public trust has considerably declined in affluent nations and regions like Canada, Japan, and the EU. Many theories and studies in the US and other developed countries have concentrated on reversing the drop in public confidence in government by looking at its pertinent factors [6]. Somalia, located in the Horn of Africa, frequently comes up in global discussions about public trust. According to the most recent Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) report, Somalia is ranked

180th out of 180 countries, with a score of 10 out of 100, making it the most corrupt nation in the world [7]. A fragile state cannot carry out basic tasks, such as preserving security and promoting economic progress. Somalia is ranked at the top of the list of fragile states [8]. In recent decades, many governments have faced increasing challenges in performing traditional governmental duties.

Since the fall of the Siad Barre administration in 1991, Somalia has been characterized as the most persistent and utterly failed state in the world. When the state collapsed in 1991, militants overran the nation, seizing control of the military infrastructure and significant arsenals that belonged to the Somali government. A substantial portion of the soldiers that fled with their weapons formed fresh clan militias [9]. Since 1991, Somalia has been embroiled in several wars, including a civil war, a battle on the ground, and insurgency and counterinsurgency. Three-quarters of Somalis under 35 cannot remember when their country had an official government that functioned [10]. After the government fell in 1991, the secular legislation of the state was no longer applied in most localities. In Somalia, the lack of a centralized government gave rise to the archetypal signs of state collapse: corruption, incompetent administration, lack of political will and effort, and exploitation of resources for private gain [11]. The government is regarded for providing public amenities, including roads, schools, and law and order. Due to the protracted wars, the nation is impoverished and corrupt and unable to do even the most basic tasks, such as supplying its population with essential amenities like health and education

## [12].

Examining citizen satisfaction and people's trust in government, as well as the fact that public trust in government is an essential tenet for the survival and growth of the nation, demonstrates that the public's trust in political institutions is a foundational component of their legitimacy and long-term viability [13]. Additionally, people who have a high level of trust in their government are more likely to follow the law, grant demands made of them, and engage in public affairs. While disgruntled people are more likely to cease backing their government [14]. Numerous academics have examined the innumerable variables connected to public trust in government to determine what elements influence it. Wu et al. [15] said that improved general satisfaction has resulted in improvements in the public's trust in both municipal and federal governments. In Indonesia, Lanin and Hermanto [16] 's research shows that citizen satisfaction with services significantly influences public trust in the regional administration. According to the findings of the study of Van Ryzin [17], the pleasure of a citizen can predict future attitudes and actions related to trusting their local government. On the other hand, research by Romero-Subia et al. [18] indicates that the extent to which an individual is satisfied with the public services provided by the government strongly determines that person's loyalty to government officials. Researchers, such as He and Ma [19], argued that increasing the proportion of contented individuals will significantly boost public sector confidence. However, no study had evaluated how citizen satisfaction with "quality of public services," "transparency of government," "participation in government," and "police services" affected public trust in Somalia's government. Therefore, this study aims to comprehend Somali public trust. The Micro-performance theory will be used in this study to assess the connection between citizen satisfaction with "quality of public services," "transparency of government," "participation in government," and "police services" and public trust in the Somali government.

The rest of this study is organized as follows. In the following section of this study, the literature review and the formulation of hypotheses will be covered along with the research methodology. Then the study discusses the results and the discussion and highlights the research conclusion and implications. Finally, the study's limitations are discussed, providing starting points for further investigation.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW AND HYPOTHESES DEVELOPMENT

Public trust in the government is often considered crucial for fostering successful governance in any democratic system [20]. Almuqrin et al. [21] assert that public trust is typically seen as a determinant of the efficiency of government services, whereas a lack of confidence in the government results in the breakdown of social cohesiveness. Eliminating uncertainty among residents promotes trust and facilitates the coordination of social expectations and interactions. Lang and Hallman [22] and Gracia and Arino [23] suggest that public trust in the government should be considered to enhance the long-term connection between citizens and the general administration. According to the definition of trust at the personal level, trust is "having faith in someone, feeling that they are good, real, and honest, and believing that something is accurate, correct, or reliable." [24]. Zhi et al. [14] public trust in government is the citizens' faith or confidence in the government to provide results that live up to their expectations. Public trust in government is also defined by Gozgor [25], and Vu [26] as a dependable measure of social capital, which enhances economic performance and leads to more effective decisionmaking, coordination, and regulations. It is generally acknowledged that citizens are losing faith in the government and its representatives. Several theories have been proposed to explain the lack of trust, and both scholars and observers have suggested various explanations for this decline or questioned the extent to which it is happening [27]. Public confidence in governance has received significant attention from political science and public administration researchers during the past 40 years [28]. The importance of factors like public service quality, service delivery, government performance, citizen participation, Transparency, health system performance, democratic governance, financial regulation, political attitudes, and legitimacy, among others, has been highlighted in numerous studies, including Rhee and Rha [29] who explored the factors that influence public trust in government. Furthermore, Welch et al. [5] argued that a variety of elements involved in perception and expectation aspects impact the degree of public trust in governmental performance. Additionally, Kim and Lee [30] suggest that interactions between citizens and states, political culture, changing citizen behaviors and attitudes, and the institutional environment are essential factors in determining the degree of confidence in government.

## 2.1 Theoretical background

Trust is significant in studying public organizations from a theoretical and practical standpoint [31]. Some academics say high performance is the foundation of public trust in government, whereas low performance is predominantly associated with mistrust [32]. According to the microperformance theory, variations in confidence are driven by changes in the quality of public services or how residents perceive those services, according to the micro-performance theory [33]. Micro-performance theory states that more substantial public service delivery would increase public trust in the political system, which the foundation of good government [34]. On the other hand, several academics have heavily relied on the micro-performance theory to illuminate the causes of institutional trust and institutional mistrust in public institutions [35]. This suggests that people will have higher confidence in the government, for example, if the level of public services they get is up to par [36]. Numerous studies have identified several critical parameters for assessing the micro-performance of every organization. For instance, Morgeson and Petrescu [37] examined the components of citizen-perceived performance as drivers of citizen satisfaction, trust, and confidence using a model based on micro-performance theory. They argued that good government performance will increase citizen satisfaction, which will then increase citizen trust, by extending the ideas of microperformance theory into several sub-elements, including service quality, information dissemination, e-government, and citizen demographic variables. Based on those mentioned above, the Micro-performance theory may support our paradigm. By substituting conceptual government transparency, Participation in government, and police services for the sub-elements of information distribution, egovernment, and citizen demographic data, we can build upon themodel more easily [37]. Therefore, we apply the Microperformance theory to study Somalia's public trust in government about citizen satisfaction with the "quality of public services," "transparency of government," "participation in government," and "police services."

### 2.2 Hypotheses development

## Citizen's satisfaction with the quality of public services and trust in government

The level of satisfaction with public institutions' goods and services is called citizens' satisfaction with public services. It also concerns how well residents perceive that the government is meeting their needs [38]. The definitions and metrics of citizens' satisfaction with public services have been explicated by several academics, including [39]. According to Engdaw [40], providing people with services that meet their preferences and are provided at the most reasonable cost are two ways to ensure that they are satisfied with the public services they get. These include the following services: government, public works, health, education, social welfare, and tourism [41]. Assessing the quality of governance in terms of the public services that governments create and provide to citizens has long been a significant issue for political scientists and many other social scientists [42]. Citizens' satisfaction with public services is frequently utilized as critical performance data [43]. Romero-Subia et al. [18] argues that the effectiveness of the government's operations is greatly influenced by the quality of the public services it offers. Numerous studies, for example, Abdelkader Benmansour [44], indicate that a citizen's satisfaction with the quality of public services plays a crucial role in influencing that person's level of trust in the government. According to Mishra and Attri [45], citizens' confidence in the government increased due to using public services and interacting with the government. Byaro and Kinyondo [46] showed a substantial correlation between individuals' increased satisfaction with public services and their trust in the government. According to a study by Kim [24] in both Japan and South Korea, public confidence in the government is highly correlated with how well the government performs in terms of the quality of public services. In light of the evaluations mentioned in the above literature, we hypothesize:

H<sub>1</sub>: Citizen satisfaction with the quality of public services is positively associated with trust in government in Somalia.

### Citizen's satisfaction with the transparency of government and trust in government

Citizens' trust in the government's overall performance is significantly influenced by their satisfaction with the Transparency of their government [47]. Today, transparency in government is believed to be crucial for sound decisions and equitable resource distribution [48]. Transparency is commonly thought to strengthen democracy, public trust in the government, and the development of an accountability, fairness, and justice system [49]. The definitions and metrics of people's satisfaction with government transparency have been explained by several experts, including Yang [50]. Transparency is commonly characterized by the open exchange of information [51]. In the context of governance, Venkatesh et al. [52] defines transparency as the level of a citizen's understanding of how a particular government functions. Transparency, as described by Grimmelikhuijsen [53], is the extent to which an institution makes relevant information regarding its decision-making, operations, and performance available to the public. Numerous studies have demonstrated that a person's faith in their government is significantly influenced by their contentment with the openness of their government. For instance, Song and Lee [54] discovered that views of government openness are positively and substantially associated with confidence in government using 2009 National E-Government Survey data from the Pew Research Center. Grimmelikhuijsen and Klijn [55] assert that judicial transparency does enhance public confidence in the government. In two survey studies conducted by Grimmelikhuijsen et al. [56], samples of US individuals were given basic knowledge about the availability of accessible government data. They ultimately discovered that widespread belief in transparency had a favorable impact on the public's confidence in their government. According to Porumbescu [57], citizen use of public sector social media favorably correlates with opinions about the government's dependability. In light of the evaluations mentioned in the above literature, we hypothesize:

H<sub>2</sub>: Citizen's satisfaction with government transparency is positively associated with trust in the government in Somalia.

## Citizen's satisfaction with the participation in government and trust in government

A key component of democratic governance is the involvement of the citizens in the political process. Some individuals are horrified by the idea of an isolated government that does not involve any citizen engagement. No one would logically respect or believe in such governments [58]. Additionally, it is widely accepted that citizen engagement enhances democracy, is crucial for obtaining ideas and support, and aids governments in problem-solving [59]. Many academics, notably Rosilawati et al. [60], have clarified the definitions and metrics of citizens' satisfaction with their engagement in government. According to Lee and Schachter [61], civic engagement is a proactive action in which people try to persuade the government to act in a way that is more favorable to them. Xu and Zhu [62] defined Participation in government as Participation in formulating and implementing public policy. There is a consensus that encouraging citizen involvement in government can boost public confidence and inform people about what the government does [63]. Numerous studies have also demonstrated that citizens' confidence in the government is significantly influenced by their happiness with its engagement. For instance, a survey experiment in Buenos Aires, Argentina, indicated that giving residents precise information on public engagement in government affected their perception of political trust and the effectiveness of their government [64]. To increase the public's impression of government trust, Hu et al. [65] showed that activities like boosting local election participation and cultivating a stronger sense of social justice are viable options. Similarly, Hooghe and Marien [66] shows that emphasizing citizen engagement in government favorably connects with political trust and that non-institutionalized Participation is inversely correlated with political confidence. According to the research of Fennema and Tillie [67], there is a significant relationship between the level of political trust in Amsterdam and the level of involvement among people of the city's numerous ethnic groups. In light of the literature mentioned above evaluations, we hypothesize:

H<sub>3</sub>: Citizen satisfaction with Participation in government is positively associated with trust in government in Somalia.

## Citizen's satisfaction with the police services and trust in the government

A key element in shaping how people perceive public safety and police operations is citizen confidence, which is directly tied to police performance [68]. Numerous academics, including [69], have examined discussions regarding citizen satisfaction with police services over the last few decades. According to Merenda et al. [70], public perceptions of the police have reportedly been a significant focus of research in criminal justice literature for a long time. Furthermore, in a democracy, the public's contentment with police work is crucial. It fosters support for the effort to maintain order and lends institutional legitimacy to the organization due to the appreciation of citizens [71]. According to Bouranta et al. [72], police should also strive to improve residents' perceptions of safety in their communities, as these perceptions are crucial factors in determining residents' satisfaction, thereby enhancing the quality of life in the neighborhood. Numerous studies have shown that citizen satisfaction with police services is a critical factor in determining their level of trust in the government. For example, public trust is closely connected with community satisfaction with the performance of the South African police, according to data from the 2014-2015 South African Victims of Crime Survey [73]. Using information from the 2016 "Collaborative Multiracial Post-Election Survey" to assess public opinion on confidence in local government, Silva et al. [74] discovered that financing regional programs to decrease police violence should boost public trust in local government. According to Bradford et al. [75], raising positive perceptions of police competence will raise interaction standards and potentially even boost public confidence in the government. In light of the evaluations mentioned in the above literature, we hypothesize:

H<sub>4</sub>: Citizen satisfaction with the police services is positively associated with trust in the government in Somalia.

The following factors were examined to determine what factors influence public trust in government: (1) Public service quality; (2) Government transparency; (3) Participation in government; and (4) Police services.

## **3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

We employed a cross-sectional survey methodology to collect the data for this study. Questionnaires were distributed to residents of Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, to gather the data. Between January and March 2023, the survey was distributed through various platforms, including WhatsApp, Facebook, emails from responders, and others, in addition to the Google document form. Each survey question was translated into the appropriate local language for easier comprehension. A total of 400 people freely participated in the survey. After 46 surveys were deleted due to excessive blank replies, there were 354 accurate responses.

### 3.1 Study measures

The survey instrument was designed with 20 items covering

five constructs (four on public trust in government, four on citizen satisfaction with the quality of public services, four on citizen satisfaction with government transparency, four on citizen participation in government, and four on citizen satisfaction with police services), as well as some questions about the respondents' demographics. A variety of literary works had an impact on how the question items were formatted. The first of four questions to gauge public trust in the government was, "Do you trust the federal government?" [76]. The second item was "To what degree are you satisfied with the government's public works construction projects?" [51], third item was "How much do you satisfy your Country's Parliament council?" [77]. The fourth item was "Please state your satisfaction with the public institution's ability to always act in the public's best interest." [78]. The quality of public services was measured with 4-items; the first item was "How would you rank the general quality of governmental services in light of your most recent experiences?" [79], the second item was " How satisfied are you with the local public schools, housing, etc.?" [80], the third item was "Are you pleased with the government's services, such as parks, street cleaning, police protection, and rubbish collection?" [77], and the fourth item was "How satisfied are you with the nine elements listed below, such as housing, health care services, etc.?" [44]. The transparency of government was measured with 4-items, the first three items which are "Plans and programs for government administration are carried out openly", "Transparency is maintained throughout the administrative procedures", and "Residents can monitor development and general administration if enough information is made available" [81]. The fourth item was "Your government is constantly actively engaged in disseminating to the public government information, such as expenditures, through a website or other channels." [6]. Participation in government was measured with four items [81]. The police services were measured with four items [82]. Close-ended questions on a 5point Likert scale (1- Not at all satisfied, 2- Slightly satisfied, 3- Moderately satisfied, 4- Very satisfied, 5- Completely satisfied). Respondents provided demographic data, including their gender, age, marital status, and educational background.

#### 3.2 Data analysis and results

Utilizing structural equation modeling with SmartPLS4 to evaluate the measurement and structural model presented by Henseler et al. [83], the authors of this study investigated the hypothesized paths and verified the study's findings. Structural equation modeling with SmartPLS4 is a collection of statistical methods that may be used to explore one or more independent variables and one or more dependent variables to see whether there are any relationships between them [84]. Formally, it may be defined by two sets of linear equations: the structural model, which describes the connections between the constructs, and the measurement model, which depicts the interactions between a construct and its observable indicators [85]. It has been utilized in the social sciences and psychology for a long time and in various business fields like marketing [86]. The authors chose SmartPLS for two key reasons: first, PLS is a more effective technique for this study since it is exploratory [87], and second, it has lately attained tremendous respect in the domains of business research and other scientific disciplines [88]. Using hypothesis testing in research to determine causal linkages was widely considered suitable [89].

#### 3.3 Respondents' demographic profile

According to the characteristics of the respondents, 36.4 percent of the sampled respondents are women, whereas 63.6 percent of all respondents are men. Regarding age categories, 79.7% of the total respondents, or the majority of respondents, were between 18 and 29. At the same time, 15% of responders are between 30 and 39. Only 1.4 percent of respondents were above 50, compared to 4% of those in the 40 to 49 age. Regarding marital status, single respondents comprised the majority of the study's sample, 78.8% of all respondents, while married respondents comprised just 21.2% of the total. According to their educational background, most research participants—58.8% of all respondents—had bachelor's degrees. The next largest group, at 13.6 percent, had diplomas, followed by 10.7% in secondary school and 16.9% with master's or above, as depicted in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Demographic characteristics of respondents (N = 354)

Character	Frequency	Percent	
Gender			
Male	225	63.6	
Female	129	36.4	
Age (in years)			
18-29	282	79.7	
30-39	53	15	
40-49	14	4	
50+	5	1.4	
Marital status			
Single	279	78.8	
Married	75	21.2	
Education			
Secondary	38	10.7	
Diploma	48	13.6	
Bachelor	208	58.8	
Master's	60	16.9	

#### 3.4 Assessment of the measurement model

To confirm the validity of the psychometric properties of the instruments, confirmatory factor analysis was carried out using SmartPLS 4. The measurement model was evaluated using the average variance extracted (AVE), composite reliability, discriminant validity, and convergent validity. All data showed that factor loadings for each item used to measure variables were more than 0.70, as shown in Table 2. Additionally, for all study variables, the "average variance extracted (AVE)" and "composite reliability (CR)" of latent variables exceeded 0.50 and 0.70, respectively.

The authors chose the Fornel-Larcker criteria to evaluate discriminant validity in the research. A comparison is made between the AVE root square and all inter-construct correlations. Each concept's AVE must be more than its squared correlation with any other construct to pass the model's test of discriminant validity [90]. Given that the Fornel-Larcker criteria are satisfied and no cross-loadings exceed the corresponding loadings, the discriminant reality is preferable in this investigation, as shown in Table 3.

Additionally, researchers claimed that the Heterotrait-Monotrait (HTMT) ratio is the most reliable indicator of discriminating validity when employing SmartPLS4 [83]. Since the HTMT ratio should be less than 0.9, all the values for the complete model in this investigation were less than 0.9, as shown in Table 4 and Figure 1. Table 2. Factor loadings, reliability, and validity

Constructs	Factor	CR AVE		
	Loadings			
Public trust in the				
government				
PTG1	0.745	0.846	0.579	
PTG2	0.787			
PTG3	0.762			
PTG4	0.751			
Quality of public services				
CSQPS1	0.741	0.825	0.541	
CSQPS2	0.710			
CSQPS3	0.710			
CSQPS4	0.778			
Transparency of				
government				
CSTG1	0.812	0.867	0.619	
CSTG2	0.796			
CSTG3	0.771			
CSTG4	0.767			
Participation in				
government				
CSPG1	0.766	0.883	0.654	
CSPG2	0.848			
CSPG3	0.847			
CSPG4	0.771			
Police services				
CSPS1	0.789	0.868	0.623	
CSPS2	0.801			
CSPS3	0.835			
CSPS4	0.728			

 
 Table 3. Inter-construct correlation (Fornell-Larcker Criterion)

	CSPG	CSPS	CSQP	CSTG	PTG
CSPG	0.809				
CSPS	0.670	0.789			
CSQPS	0.608	0.539	0.735		
CSTG	0.707	0.636	0.636	0.787	
PTG	0.622	0.499	0.666	0.595	0.761

Table 4. Heterotrait-monotrait ratio (HTMT)

	CSPG	CSPS	CSQP	CSTG	PTG
CSPG					
CSPS	0.823				
CSQPS	0.793	0.717			
CSTG	0.872	0.802	0.838		
PTG	0.784	0.632	0.895	0.757	

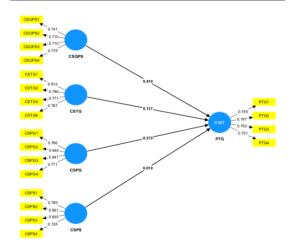


Figure 1. Measurement model

#### 3.5 Assessment of the structural model

The structural paths were evaluated using the Bootstrapping method, and 5,000 sub-samples were used to examine the hypothesized linkages. The  $\beta$ -coefficient, t-value, and p-value were noted to verify the hypothesized correlations. The total model fitness was determined using the coefficient of determination,  $R^2$ . According to Figure 2, the  $R^2$  revealed a 52.7 percent change in the general people's trust in government due to all the study's independent variables, such as the quality of public services, government transparency, Participation in

government, and police services. The findings of the study's direct hypotheses are shown in Table 5. Overall public trust in government is positively and significantly correlated with the quality of public services ( $\beta = 0.410$ , p = 0.000), government transparency ( $\beta = 0.137$ , p = 0.022), and Participation in government ( $\beta = 0.270$ , p = 0.000), according to the study's findings. While there is no statistically significant correlation between public trust in government and police services ( $\beta = 0.010$ , p = 0.417).

 Table 5. Hypothesis testing results

Hypotheses	Relationship	Beta (b)	STDEV	t-value	p-values	Findings
H <sub>1</sub>	CSQPS ->PTG	0.410	0.057	7.199	0.000	Accepted
H <sub>2</sub>	CSTG -> PTG	0.137	0.068	2.011	0.022	Accepted
H <sub>3</sub>	CSPG -> PTG	0.270	0.068	3.976	0.000	Accepted
H <sub>4</sub>	CSPS -> PTG	0.010	0.049	0.208	0.417	Rejected

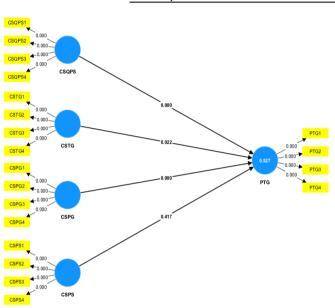


Figure 2. Structural model

#### 4. DISCUSSION

Based on data gathered from a survey asking citizens of Mogadishu about their level of trust in the government. The current study used empirical analysis to determine how public trust in government is influenced by factors such as the quality of public services, government transparency, citizen participation, and police services. In addition to confirming the study's initial hypothesis, several fascinating findings about the connection between citizens' satisfaction with the quality of public services and trust in government are revealed in this study. According to the study's findings, there is a positive correlation between public confidence in government and the quality of services provided to the people. This implies that while public mistrust is frequently attributed to poorly performing public services, it is thought that well-functioning public services help to build public confidence in the government. Along with growth and regulation, public services are the most crucial role of the government for the people [91]. The study's most recent findings are consistent with prior ones [45]. Kim [24] discovered that public confidence in government was positively correlated with the degree of perceived government performance on the quality of public services, using data from the 2003, 2004, and 2006 Asia Barometer Survey collected from individuals in Japan and South Korea. The quality of government service delivery and citizen trust was correlated in Korea [92] using structural equation analysis. Therefore, the most crucial element affecting public confidence in government is how satisfied citizens are with the quality of public services. Thus, the critical factor influencing trust in government is citizens' satisfaction with the level of public services.

Confirming the study's second hypothesis, this study finds some intriguing results concerning the link between citizens' satisfaction with government transparency and their trust in the government. According to the current research findings, government transparency often correlates positively with public trust in government. This means that government transparency is seen as a democratic ideal and a necessary component of an effective and dependable administration. By bridging the information gap between the government and the people, government transparency enhances the public's view of institutions' "responsiveness to citizens" activities. Without it, there is a decline in public confidence in government operations and acts [93]. The study's most recent results agree with those of earlier investigations. For instance, Song and Lee [54] used data from the Pew Research Center's 2009 National E-Government Survey to demonstrate that views of government transparency are positively and significantly connected to confidence in government. In contrast, Grimmelikhuijsen et al. [56] did two survey tests in which samples of US citizens were given basic knowledge regarding accessible government data and ultimately discovered that the widespread belief in Transparency had a favorable impact on the public's confidence in their government. Because of this, citizens' satisfaction with the Transparency of their local government is the primary factor determining whether they have trust in it.

On the other hand, this study provides some fascinating findings that support the third study hypothesis on the connection between citizens' satisfaction with Participation in government and trust in government. The study's central premise was that civic engagement increases people's confidence in the government. The study's findings showed that Participation in government significantly increases public trust in government. This indicates that citizen involvement in public administration and policy helps elicit preferences for public services and improve government performance; similarly, effective citizen involvement in health policy aids in reestablishing trust between citizens and the government, strengthening accountability and policy legitimacy [19]. The most current findings of the study are consistent with prior ones. For instance, Wang et al. [94] Using path analysis to examine the premise that greater public Participation enhances public trust. They found that public engagement raises citizens' confidence in government. Similarly, Fennema and Tillie [67] determined a strong association between the amount of political trust in Amsterdam and the degree of civic engagement among the city's diverse ethnic groups. Hu et al. [65] actions like boosting local election participation and cultivating a stronger sense of social justice are practical approaches to improve the public's view of government trust. Therefore, trust in municipal government is primarily based on how satisfied citizens are with their ability to participate in the political process.

The role of institutions, especially those related to the police, is critical and significant in a democratic society. Frontline police officers' attitudes and behavior are crucial for enforcing a country's law and order system, promoting peace, and creating unity [95]. This study shows some intriguing data on the relationship between residents' satisfaction with police services and trust in government, which is not supporting our study's ultimate premise. According to the study's findings, no statistically significant correlation exists between public trust in government and residents' satisfaction with police services. This contradicts the results of Malone and Dammert [96], who discovered a substantial positive relationship between public trust in government and citizens' satisfaction with police services. Somalia has gone over thirty years without a functional central government, one of modern memory's most extended periods of state disintegration. Even the most basic requirements, such as preserving access to safety, healthcare, and educational resources, were challenging for Somalis to meet during that time. Nearly 80% of those who responded to our survey were between 18 and 29, showing that most lacked fundamental needs, such as security services. As a result, they perceived the security services as a simple or unimportant issue.

### 5. CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

In the context of Somalia, this study explored the relevance of the relationship between public trust in government and the citizen's satisfaction with the "quality of public services," "transparency of government," "participation in government," and "police services." 354 Mogadishu, Somalia residents contributed their opinions to the study. Our research showed that public trust in government is positively and significantly correlated with the quality of public services, government transparency, and citizen involvement. However, there is no statistically significant correlation between police services and public trust in the government. Being the first thorough quantitative survey to be conducted in Somalia at the national level, this study significantly advances our understanding of how the population views the Somali government. This study is the first to identify the factors causing the Somalian public's loss of trust in its administration.

The current study gives some thoughts on the practical implications. Somalia's administrative, governmental, and policymaking organizations should consider the main factors related to public trust and good governance practices. Based on the factors that affect public confidence in government, the government needs to think about developing practical solutions to boost public trust. The administration should closely monitor the difficulties the public's faith in the government brings. Governments may maintain the public's trust by communicating effectively and efficiently, earning the public's confidence, and providing the public with important information, especially during emergencies. The Somali government should develop strategies at all administration levels and ensure accountability, responsiveness, and transparency to guarantee the prompt delivery of critical information to the public and to promote the highest level of public trust in local government. Citizens believe in and trust their governments. Consequently, they carry out their duties honestly and fairly, especially regarding responsiveness, highquality public services, and government openness. In conclusion, by identifying the variables that influence public trust in government, the current study contributes to empirical research to create concrete and valuable solutions to increase public confidence.

#### 5.1 Limitations and future research directions

The current study contains various limitations and merits, such as the following: Firstly, the authors go to Mogadishu to perform this empirical investigation. It has geographical restrictions as a result. Future research may be done on Somalia's rural areas and other cities to understand the public trust in the government better. Second, the study's factors that might affect confidence in the government are few; as a result, future researchers can offer additional, pertinent information, such as demographic data, that may have an impact on public trust in government (e.g., age, health, status, education, etc.). Third, quantitative research methods were employed; however, future researchers might use a mixed-method approach by combining quantitative and qualitative approaches to find other factors involved in fostering public confidence in government. As a result, suggestions for more research might be made, such as looking at how different factors like corruption, economic stability, or historical context affect public trust.

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