

The Impact of Decentralization on Regional Local Development

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Abstract: This paper deals with the theoretical background of urbanization and regional development, accordingly the main objective of the this research is to achieve a scientific basis for the method of regional development decentralized to address the problems left by the phenomenon of rapid urbanization, this requires the following, study and analyze the basic implications of this method in local development, and to benefit from the presented international experiences in order to enhance the process of decentralization and attempt to figure out the mechanisms of managing and running the public interests in addition to the realization of the principle of local independence which is to enhance efficiency in the utilization of resources and ensure social equity in the distribution of development revenues and achieving comprehensive development in various regions and areas of the country.

Keywords: Urbanization; Regionaldevelopment; Decentralization; Local independence; Social equity; Development;

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I. Introduction

Accordingly, this paper will focus on how to establish the new concept of regional development policies and the management of public interests in the context of decentralization and its relation to achieving comprehensive development, which provides a framework that helps the competent authorities to develop their own vision of decentralization, and to determine the priorities of these characteristics in accordance with their reality and thus achieving the best possible interactive form between the state and society.

Any progress or success in the implementation of decentralization policies reflects a great effectiveness and impact of regional planning and development in all regions and areas of the country. It is therefore necessary to know and understand the central administrative steps and procedures and should apply them through scientifically studies.

Therefore, this paper will address this method in details and its applications in order to come up with a clear and comprehensive vision that sets the course of practical work in the advanced stages of this research.

The first core of the study - decentralization and local development

Decentralization - concept and dimensions:

Within the Past years, it has been reported that there is a growing interest in the issue of decentralization of political, administrative, economic and financial dimensions. Its concern came in the context of the trend to expand the participation of citizens and their role in the governance process reducing the role of the state in production and direct management of its institutions, and give the private sector and civil society institutions a greater role in the development process. This attention has been expressed by the UN and World Bank reports on world development under such headings as decentralization and re-thinking (making the state closer to people) and (turning to localities).

The concept of decentralization

Decentralization is a form of administrative organization and is defined as an administrative method for the rule of the region, where the central authority transfers some of its legislative, judicial and executive powers to the regions. The constitution establishes the relationship between the state and the regions so that the state exercises sovereignty over it through its basic functions of maintaining security, justice and defense. It can also be said that decentralization is an act by which the central government transfers authority and responsibility formally to actors and institutions at a lower level in a political, administrative and spatial hierarchy [1] Moreover, transfers a large part of the responsibility for planning and the management then collecting and distributing money from the central government to subordinate or semi-autonomous government organizations that include field units of ministries, units or sub-levels of the government, Semi-autonomous public authorities or units of regional or functional powers[2]

Decentralization can also be defined as the situation correlating with the participation in decision-making given to the lower administrative levels without ignoring the right of the central authority to make the

decision [3] power and powers between the authority and other independent institutions existed in different regions and communities. This means that decentralization is to activate the role of regional and local authorities by assigning administrative and developmental planning tasks that increases their effectiveness and enhances their role in carrying out their responsibilities and powers in a manner that integrates local people into local development processes and ultimately leads to their success.

The attention to decentralization in the adoption by many countries of the world of these policies, which took one or more forms of decentralization and the trend towards decentralization at the present time, unlike the events of the fifties and sixties of the last century come under the challenges that the government has to face and focus on issues that others cannot face them as distinct from past trends in terms of the perception of the decentralization.

Economists affected by neo-liberal ideas saw it as a means of transferring power from the central state. While advocating the political pluralism for the means of giving interest groups an area of freedom the ability to organize and compete. And in some other way the dictatorial states have a secure way to gain more legitimacy and support from units at lower levels. Democratic politicians in developing countries are in their way to make the government more responsive to the needs and local priorities.

Many countries adopt a system of decentralization at the level of general government administration to achieve optimal levels of public participation in the public affairs of the country. The monopoly of power in the center cannot produce rapid and significant progress and grant wide powers to regions, cities, municipalities and communities that enable people to participate directly in Management of governance processes and merge into the national, political and economic development effort.

Decentralization will preserve the specificities of the ethnic, cultural and reconciliation regions and helps to eliminate the hotbeds of tension resulting from the central imposition policies that negate the self-specificities of local communities, which promotes peace and national coexistence and facilitates merge and participation.

The weight of the existing social, economic and political crises necessitates adjustments to the pattern of government administration of public policies, primarily the projection of the idea of central administration to the calculation of decentralization. However, the negative consequences of the fragmented, selective or indiscriminate application of decentralization should be noted. It may lead to the disintegration of the state or to the decline of the existing government administration, and the loss of capacity and expertise of the local authorities may lead to the failure of decentralized administration.

Planning, development and permanent follow-up at the central and local levels are critical importance to determine the success of decentralization, which should see the gradual transition in the country from central for the purpose of decentralization.

Dimensions of decentralization

The challenges and policy issues that must be addressed by decentralization strategies and solutions that seem to have been consolidated and established more than previous attempts can be described as a third wave of decentralization starting in the 1990s, including the increasing interest of civil society organizations in decentralized institutions particularly at the local level, the proliferation of a culture of democracy in many parts of the developing worldwide, and economic impacts, including globalization and the liberalization of economies in most of the countries, to weaken the decentralized economic decision-making process.

The scientific, economic and civilization variables have imposed new forms of management and the Central Authority can no longer maintain its traditional style of administration, which has affected its form and policy. In the context of the concepts and applications of globalization, the communications revolution, the giant economic blocs, the growing role and presence of multinational companies, Furthermore, there has been considerable expansion at the international, national and local levels in terms of seeking to improve environmental aspects and to protect the population from environmental hazards, especially as populations grow and gather in large cities (rapid urbanization) and the negative effects of population growth on natural resources, The central government can no longer manage the affairs of the country as the central government in accordance with the traditional management structures of the ability to stand up to the pressures of these factors, which deprived the authority and the ability in the formulation of policy and self-preservation

The ruling regime is a natural concept that includes complex mechanism, procedures and institutional relations through which Citizens and various civil society groups express their interest and exercise their various rights and duties. The good governance system is concerned with the provision and management of various resources to respond to the collective needs of community members at the local level and to address the issues facing them. It is characterized by participation, transparency, responsibility, rule of law, effective performance and equality for all members of society [4]

Emphasizing the principle of decentralization to accelerate the development of developmental and strategic policies that are commensurate with the social, economic and environmental conditions will lead to the

development of an efficient system that responds to the citizen's requirements and allows the role of central institutions to be reduced. It clearly defines the roles of local and central administration and helps to find and develop effective administrative bodies at the local administration level and capable of effective planning and sound decision making. This trend is confirmed by the International Federation of Local Administration in one of its policies that there is a general trend towards decentralization and democracy at the global level. National governments and international organizations on one hand, and local governments and citizens on the other, reveal an important force highly seeking a progressive creation of democratic governing system. These efforts resulted from the adoption of policies and applications in many countries towards the transfer of many powers from the central government to the local and aims to build the capacity of the local administration to play this role [5].

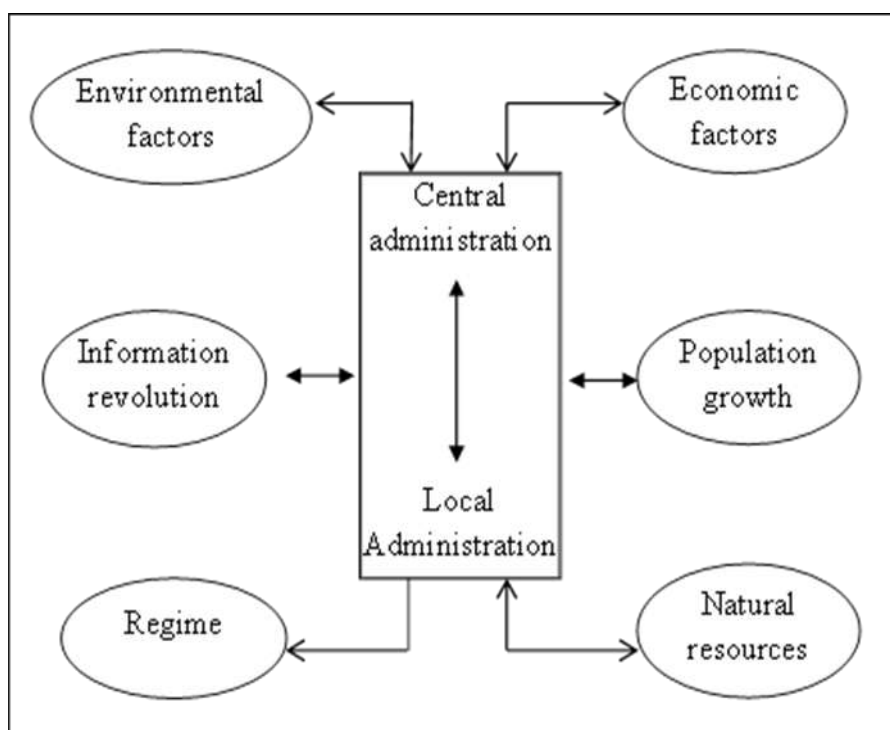


Figure: Strategic directions affecting relations between central administration and local administration

The importance of decentralization in local development

The decentralized approach in the preparation and implementation of development plans in regions in general, therefore it should be dealt with as an essential and necessary for the success of these plans to achieve its objectives, it has been indicated by the Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) that summarizes the failure of many development plans in many countries of the developing world as result from the traditional methods in the Department during the implementation of development plans and not the poverty of the content of the planning process itself [6].

On the other hand, the decentralization process will highlight the importance of regional planning compared to the sectorial planning. It is the only way to transform the sectorial goals into a general framework that serves as a regional development strategy allowing popular participation and ensures interdependence, harmony and integration between the concerned bodies and institutions by preparing and implementing the regional development plans. Therefore, the official planning bodies at the regional level must have the authority with a high efficiency to enable them to play their role properly. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to focus on the implementation of a strategy that enables the linking of planning concepts to the efficiency and managerial capacity of planning bodies and institutions at the local level [7].

Decentralization will therefore promote cooperation between the central and local agendas, allowing the population to be identified and met more effectively than the central government. As a result of this direct link, citizen control over their governments should become greater and more important, making the government more responsive to the needs of Population and are more accountable to them.

Some studies show empirical links between decentralization and various dimensions of governance. According to Anwer Shah, participation, effectiveness, human development and equity in income distribution have increased in decentralized countries [8].

The process of regional planning under decentralization is a meaning for activation of a popular participation and the role of the target groups in the process of preparing and implementing regional development plans. This is known as planning from the bottom, thus, planning in the region, not planning for the region, as in the planning style from above. James Manor emphasizes that the bottom-up planning style, which is based on decentralized bodies and institutions, is an important and essential option for achieving integrated development at the national, regional and local levels. Decentralization attracts the attention of many development actors [9].

In addition, planning from the bottom helps to identify the objectives of regional development that reflects the specificity of the region under planning. There is always a big difference between the regional development goals set by the regional planning bodies and institutions and the regional development goals set by the central planning bodies, although the first must be complementary and is consistent with the second and is not contradictory with it.

Effective implementation of decentralization in the area of regional planning and development makes it easier to adapt development programs to the needs and requirements of local people, as they allow the participation of the people of different administrative units in the process of preparing and implementing regional development policies for their regions and provide necessary support for mobilizing energies and mobilizing resources. The chances of success of these policies are to achieve their goals in a balanced manner that ensures justice and equality for all the population and in all regions of the country. This success contributes to achieving regional balance and reducing economic, social and urban disparities between regions, given that the allocation and monitoring of investments in a society is closely related to the distribution of decision-making authority.

The most important studies that emphasized the importance of decentralization in local development includes Mueller study [10], that was published in 1996, which emphasized the importance of decentralization in the regional and local planning process, in addition to KroesAbrampa study in 1996[11], and Poppe in 1997.

Decentralization also involves significant structural changes in local resource management in three main areas: political, financial and administrative. From a political point of view, decentralization involves a democratization process as well as a close link with financial and administrative decentralization. This decentralization assumes that civil society and the private sector will play a greater role in the management of the country's economy and in public life in general.

Effective political decentralization requires reformation at the constitutional level, with a greater scope for citizens' participation through the election of local councils that can be achieved by appointment. The World Bank's World Development Report 2000 indicates that local elections were held in 34 One of the 38 largest countries in the world in 1998, it was only 10 countries in 1980.

Financial decentralization involves a fundamental reform of the financial responsibilities of various official bodies. Financial decentralization is the degree of financial autonomy granted to local authorities and their central functions and responsibilities. These responsibilities range from resource mobilization to revenue, tax policy development, borrowing, grant and distribution of public expenditure and independent decision-making authority for expenditure and budget. Fiscal decentralization also means that local governments are able to negotiate with the central government, to transfer resources among themselves and to make financial decisions without the direct intervention of the central authorities.

Administrative decentralization has common aspects with political and financial decentralization. It aims to redistribute the functions of organization and planning to assign them with a part of the responsibility for financial resources to different levels of governance. The administrative decentralization is based on the independence of the administrative body on a side and its subordination to a certain degree of central control on the other side.

The independence of the administrative body is achieved with two main pillars:

- 1- To prove the legal personality of the administrative unit and the consequent establishment of an independent administrative body from the central authority.
2. The administrative body should have functions to be exercised by its own will. It should have the right to conduct its business as it has special financial resources and should conduct the right to establish the necessary sub-laws or regulations to improve the performance of the administrative function.

The rationale for the adoption of decentralization

The most important reasons that most countries rely on regarding adoption or of decentralized approach to local development are [12].

1. To find a relatively fair distribution between the local and central bodies and to achieve administrative efficiency and optimum utilization of available financial resources and investments.

2. Enhancing cooperation and objectivity of administrative decision-making leading to popular participation and decision makers close from the implementation site.
3. The investments and resources reach to the regions and territories of the State, thereby reducing economic and social disparities within a country's borders.
4. To activate coordination and integration between different local projects and between local bodies and community organizations civil society.
5. Enhance the level of local services and reduce the burden on the central organs and give them the opportunity to be considered in the strategic political matters.
6. Reduce the administrative phenomenon of inflation in the central organs.
7. Increase the capacity, speed and flexibility in decision - making and follow - up results, since decentralization is a method of granting powers to the lower departments, it will help them to take appropriate decisions flexibly in a timely manner to achieve the objectives and procedures to serve, increase as well as improve the type of service provided without reference to the Center.
8. The activation of the marginalized regions and the exploitation of their resources, where many countries suffer from the problem of uneven development and development from one region to another in the framework of one country and its economic, political, social and even security problems sometimes necessitating the actual need to revitalize the economies of these regions and raise efficiency And the improvement of the level of living to catch up with the situation of the population in the more developed regions and resulting in the spread of justice among the regions in development. This can only be achieved by the self-management in which the people of the regions participate and their choice and the resources available under interest in order to achieve progress and development in their areas.

Conditions for decentralization

In order to implement the decentralization process effectively at the level of institutions and local units, there must be several conditions [13, 14] .

1. Provides the political will of the central government to abandon part of its planning and development powers in favor of local planning institutions and these institutions must be able to perform their functions and responsibilities directly and effectively.
2. The application of the method of decentralization in a comprehensive manner cannot be achieved without accompany by a kind of financial decentralization, which is to give powers to local bodies to enable them to provide revenue within the region which ultimately enables it to carry out its development tasks in a good and effective manner.
3. The role of civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations should be highlighted within the local and regional administration.
4. The need to build awareness and public culture about the content and concept and the importance of decentralization and the goals that seek to achieve among all residents of the state.
5. The need to provide local and regional bodies with qualified scientific cadres that can implement the general objectives of decentralization at the local level effectively and accomplishing its task properly.

Ecological factors affecting decentralization

The importance of the relationship between the nature of the local organization and the localization of local units in one side, and the ability of these units to achieve the local development goals on the other, the development capacity of the local unit is affected by the nature of the relations between them and between it and the local environment. The local units are sub-systems within the central political system. They have varying levels of privacy in terms of size, capacity and population but they have common characteristics as subsystems living in their own local environments. Hence, the system of decentralization is not determined according to the administrative system, but it is also determined in the light of the direct environmental relationship between decentralization and the social system. The more decentralized the system is based on pillars that understand the ecological conditions, the greater the chances of success, and vice versa. The more the government disregards these conditions when designing a system of decentralization, the more the system will falter and lead to major crises.

We can address some of the most important ecological influences on decentralization:

Political factors

The system of decentralization in any country is a sub-system of its administrative system, which is a subsystem of the political system and so on to reach the social order. The political factors have an important role in determining the actual operation of the system of decentralization. We note in this regard a positive relationship between the negative impact of political factors and the degree of backwardness of the political system. States, at an early stage of the evolution of their political system, subject to these negative factors more

than those countries that reveal sophisticated political systems. The decentralization system can be analyzed from two main sources:

The first source: the ideology of the political system, as the ideology will determined to a large extent to get a proper decentralization form of the state.

Second, as political awareness grows and political institutions develop, the state tends to accept an advanced system of decentralization. Decentralization appears and influenced in many developing countries as a way of building the state and maintaining its unity. This approach is much needed in countries that lack such national unity. Decentralization is seen as a means of countering the dangers of regional separatist tendencies by giving the regions of the State the right to govern their affairs. Political factors, on the contrary, namely the end of any decentralization, can be considered "the most appropriate approach to political evolution towards democracy. Giving the regions of the country more decentralization (political, administrative and financial) is a correct step in the direction of democratic development.

Social and cultural factors

The dominant social system of power in society is one of the most important factors influencing decentralization.

There are two types of social systems of power that can be compared in this field:

The first type is the systems of central authority, as the social structure is rigidly controls the upper levels in a manner that does not accept discussion and review, here, social culture is characterized by features which lead to widespread fear of power and evasion of responsibility. These effects are therefore reflected in the system of decentralization, as there is a fear in local councils and units of the men of power at higher levels. Here, even if the objectives of the officially declared decentralization system are towards political decentralization, the regime must face the most serious problems in those negative factors, India as an example has suffered great suffering as a result of the widespread culture of anti-development towards local administration when the adoption of decentralized system.

The second type is the democratic power systems, here the social structure is flexible and dynamic and allowing the spread of positive culture from the point of view of the development of decentralization.

Social and cultural factors that influence decentralization also include language, customs and traditions. These factors play a large role in some countries. One state encompasses more than one style and method of social-behavioral thinking, customs, traditions and social relations, as well as differences in levels of culture and education. With these differences in mind when designing the decentralization system and determining the administrative divisions of the localities.

Educational and demographic factors

We refer to the educational structure of the society in terms of the proportions of learners, their social groupings, the types and levels of education. Demographic is related to the population density and their professional, literal and spatial distribution, and these factors have a significant impact on the decentralization system. One of the most important problems in the design and development of decentralization, which happens due to educational and demographic factors, and related to the appropriate size in the division of localities.

The appropriate size of the local administrative divisions is one of the most important topics in the studies of decentralization. It is called the catchment area. It means the appropriate area in terms of population and economic size to feed the institution so that it has the minimum importance to continue without asking for aid or without incurring huge losses. The process of determining the appropriate size of the local units is influenced by purely geographical factors and historical factors. The terrain often determines the natural regional boundaries of the local units. History also presents other definitions of the regions. Indeed, there is a fundamental demand for justice in determining the different regions in terms of population strength, resources and economic and social progress.

There are three methods adopted in determining the size of local units:

1. Determining a purely quantitative basis on the sense of dividing the state into their respective units of a relatively fixed size. The disadvantage of this method is a control method that it is arbitrary and disregards geographical and social considerations. 2. Determination of the basis needed for work and the functions of local administration by dividing the state into educational - health and other areas according to the scope of operations and the possibilities of management and regulation in force, and this technique is difficult to coordinate between the different service units.

3. Determination on a natural and geographical basis that takes into consideration the natural division in circulation, and may result in unfair distribution of natural resources, unless the State Constitution guarantees

these crops in a fair and proportionate manner with percentage of population Which came in the first paragraph of Article 109 of the Iraqi Constitution of 2005.

II. Conclusion

The regional development policies are based on the decentralized method of expanding participation in decision-making. The decentralized approach to development is based on dividing the government into vertical levels on a logical basis, taking into account the spatial, economic, social and administrative data and then dividing the responsibilities and authorities between these levels based on economic and political factors taking into account how to perform that responsibility and the ability of that level of government to perform its functions. The decentralized development approach aims to broaden the decision-making base by dividing responsibilities into levels and categories that depend on the scope of their influence, thus facilitating local decisions that affect the daily lives of citizens by the local administrations directly, thus speeding up the performance of services and efficiency. Moreover, the decentralization model, by its very nature, poses a major challenge and responsibility to the local administrations and requires the organizational readiness and management capacity necessary to win the bet of local development, independence of resources, gradual withdrawal of central funding, development of local components and capabilities, Human. Through the proposal of the concepts of the theory of global experiences on the application of this technique it shows us that there are three types of institutional settings required for the success of decentralization option, namely:

1 - Civil control: It means the need to effectively control the local public politically and technically what is being planned and the implementation of programs and clear systems of accountability and accountability as the path of transformation towards decentralization and the new structure of the state directly affects the pattern and nature of the relationship between institutions and levels.

2 - Organizational regulation: The need for organizational control between local institutions and central institutions should establish a clear legislative system for the independence of the local administration and determine responsibilities and levels of expenditure, resources and disbursement at all levels, and distribution of the central budget according to indicators and criteria that take into account the demographic, economic, social and spatial conditions for each region or region.

3 - Administrative control: In the management of public sector institutions and state agencies, in the sense of ensuring the establishment and application of flexible and transparent administrative systems and in such a way as to ensure the increase of the level of production efficiency and disposal of the traditional structure of bureaucracy disabled and find new formats of regions with administrative and organizational resources.

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