Case Study :Significance of Devolution in the Current Society

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Course

Due date

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Devolution ,the process of transferring political power and decision-making authority from a

central government to regional or local authorities,offers numerous advantages that promote

better governance, improved representation and enhanced socio-economic development

Devolution has improved service delivery to the people in that the local government may be

more to the local demands raised by the local residents. This results in better living standards

of the people, improved healthcare services, education and infrastructure that the residents can

afford (Pranab Bardhan,2002)

The political stability of a country is improved at a higher rate. Devolution can accommodate

diverse interests and reduce conflicts that arise as a result of central control from a central

government (Merilee S Grindle,2007)

There is a massive economic development in the local regions as a result of devolution. It

stabilizes economy of the region and management of resources. Local leaders may have a

better understanding of what their specific regions of governance needs and also they can

reach out to the local residents of their areas (Anne Booth,1998)

Devolution has brought accountability to the governance as it makes it easier for citizens to

hold local authority and leaders responsible for their actions.At some point elected leaders are

subjected to audit by the government auditors. Impeachment of corrupt leades takes place

should a leader be found to have misused the public funds and office. This has indeed brought

transparency and reduced corruption cases (Paola Sapienza & Andrei Shleifer,2003)

Devolution has enabled the cultural and linguistic preservation of that local region by

allowing regions to promote and support their culture and unique heritage and languages.

(Gabrielle Lynch,2011)

Devolution has brought local empowerment and decision making as it allows the local

authority to make decisions that are better suited to the unique needs and preferences of their

communities. It empowers local leaders and citizens to have a more direct say in governance

(John R Davies)

Devolution has brought proper way of conflict resolution. In regions with historical conflicts,

devolution can provide a mechanism for conflicts resolution and reconciliation by granting

autonomy and self-governance to affected communities(Jagannath Adhikari,2007)

It has also improved the social inclusion by ensuring that marginalized and underrepresented

groups have a voice in decision-making processes. This has brought the the sense of national

belonging feeling by the local residents of marginalized regions (T.S Jayne &Duncan Boughton,2002)

In addition it has stabilized the democracy as devolution aligns itself with democratic

principles by distributing power and promoting citizen engagement.It can therefore foster a

stronger sense of citizenship and participation in the democratic processes like voting and

census (Larry Diamond,1999)

While presenting certain advantages, devolution also carries notable disadvantages such

as the potential for fragmentation,unequal resource distribution and the risk of exacerbating

regional disparities

It can lead to fragmentation of country or state , potentially leading to secessionist

movements .The movements express concerns on the break up of the state into smaller

units.This may lead to civil wars when the situation get worse due to competition of resources

(Roger Scully,2009)

Devolution can also undermine national identity and unity as regions gains more

autonomy that a particular region belongs to them and not other people of other regions.This

can devide certain nation (Michael Keating,2001)

Critics have raised the issue of cost of administration as a result of its intense activities.

Expenses associated with devolution can be substantial as it needs funds to maintain different

levels of government that could be spent on development projects (David Heald,2003)

Devolution can lead to inefficiency and duplication when multiple layers of government are

involved .It can lead to waste and increased bureaucracy as there is inter-govenmental conflicts

between local government and the higher governing board , leading therefore to delays and

insufficiencies in the project implementation (Ruth Dixon,2013)

Devolution can also lead to loss of accountability where by it makes less easier to judge

who is responsible for government actions .Citizens may be unsure which level of government

should be held accountable for specific issues (Martin Laffin,2005)

It can also lead to political gridlock and instability especially when there is disagreement between levels of government. Devolution has also been used to reward political allies with

positions in the government irrespective of their level of competency thus leading to focus on

political patronage rather than merit-based appointments (Paul Chaney,2014)

In conclusion,while devolution can bring about positive changes in governance,it is important

to consider and address the disadvantages to ensure that the benefits are maximized and

potential pitfalls are mitigated .The success of devolution depends on careful planning, effective

oversight and commitment to promoting both regional autonomy and national cohesion.

**References**

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