**CENTRALIZATION AND DECENTRALIZATION**

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**Centralization**

Centralization refers to governance in which both executive and legislative power are concentrated centrally at the higher level rather than it being more distributed at various lower government levels. In a national context, centralization is seen when power is transferred to a typically unitary sovereign state. (Foundation, 2023)

**Advantages of Centralization**

Decision-making powers are one of the advantages enjoyed by centralization. The higher level has the mandate to take away decision-making powers from its subordinate units for it to make a more logical and efficient administration. In addition, the lower cost of running a centralized administration is another advantage enjoyed. This is because functions are not duplicated. Centralization also guarantees quick action in areas that require decision-making and implementation. This is because no time is wasted on asking and weighing opinions from the subordinates, rather the central government alone comes up with a decision. (Olamide, 2022)

Another advantage is that centralization provides a flexible constitution that makes amending the constitution relatively easy. Lastly, centralization makes a government strong. This is because a centralized state is stronger compared to a decentralized one this is aided by powers being concentrated in the hands of a single central authority.

**Disadvantages of centralization**

One of the disadvantages of centralization is that it leads to rigidity and inflexible response since the subordinates are not included in decision-making which would help in proper addressing to their local needs and problems. Thus, declining the subordinates’ political participation in decision-making. It also creates a gap between the decision-making center and where the decision is to be implemented.

Another disadvantage is that the concentration of power in a single central authority may result in one party being favored which can lead to conflicts, hence the party may withdraw formally.

In addition, amendment of the constitution by the central government alone can lead to amendments that are of selfish purposes rather than for the benefit of the country and all states. Lastly, centralization can lead to stagnation at the local level since the center cannot quickly respond to arising problems that bring developments and progress to a standstill. (Olamide,2022)

**Decentralization**

Decentralization refers to the act of restructuring or reorganizing authority to come up with a system that shares responsibilities between institutions of governance at the central, regional, and local levels as per the principle of subsidiarity, which increases the effectiveness and the overall quality of the system of governance while increasing the powers and capacities of sub-national levels. (Foundation,2023)

**Advantages of decentralization**

The devolution of powers and resources to local government is key to promoting sustainable decentralization in developing countries. Local governments are granted decision-making powers and the ability to raise resources on their own allowing them to play a key role in the development process. Furthermore, citizens are involved in the local political process where the local government is given the freedom to control its affairs and make decisions affecting them. This results in improved quality of the local democratic process. (CHEEMA,2007)

In addition, decentralization increases efficiency and effectiveness. This is achieved due to a smooth flow of communication, improved information on the local conditions, quicker reaction to unexpected problems, and more support from the beneficiaries. (Foundation, 2023)

Decentralization also strengthens citizen participation by drawing the government closer to its citizen and involving them actively in the local decision-making processes. Moreover, the involvement of citizens in decision-making enables the formulation of policies that reflect their preferences. Finally, decentralization lessens incidences of corruption through the involvement of more stakeholders in decision-making processes and also by involving citizens more which makes them more attentive at local political activity.

**Disadvantages of decentralization**

Reaching a consensus here is a huge task since there are many members to consult, thus making the decision-making process a difficult task to complete. This means that due to lack of coordination sometimes, the decision-making process is stretched. Decentralization is costly since by asking the subordinates to put in more effort and be part of the decision-making process, you need to give them leverage as well. (Team 2023)

**Conclusion**

Now that both centralization and decentralization are well understood, it can be considered safe to conclude that decision-making should be valued even more. Hence the involvement of people in decision-making will lead to coming up with effective decisions which are not for personal gain. Therefore, decentralization can be termed the best form of governance.

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