

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DEVOLUTION IN OUR CURRENT SOCIETY? DISCUSS THE PROS AND CONS OF DEVOLUTION.

INTRODUCTION

Devolution is the transfer of power, resources and representation from central government down to local government. Power decentralisation has been a debatable topic among scholars in our society, a subject which motivates us to discuss pros and cons of devolution.

2.0 PROS OF DEVOLUTION.

Devolutions offer numerous advantages to our current society including;

2.1 BRINGING GOVERNANCE CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE.

Devolution gives powers to local people representatives which means government administrative services will be easily accessible by the people. This will ensure efficient and effective governance as regional government will be responding more quickly to local issues.

Decentralization of government services saves the time of local citizens because they don't need to travel to the capital to receive government services.

Devolution promotes democracy by ensuring local people participates directly in decision making of their problems because they have influence on their leaders.

2.2 PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY AND POLITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY.

Devolution ensures people scrutinize their leaders effectively, because they are able to participate directly into government operation becoming more aware about local government activities and decisions. Leaders are kept on check and if they fail, they will be punished in local elections. This ensures transparency in local government day to day operations.

2.3. PROMOTES TERRITORIAL INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE.

Devolution gives opportunity to the local government to prioritize their own development and needs. It allows implementation of more tailored policy decision that is precisely suitable to local needs and interests. This allows a suitable response to a specific problem.

2.4. IT TESTS AND SHOWCASE POLICY IN ONE AREA FOR THE BENEFITS OF THE ANOTHER.

Devolution encourages policy innovation and development. Devolved government use their autonomy to introduce small innovative reforms that offer proof of the concept to the rest of the country.

Different solutions to a common problem can be put into practice simultaneously in different local governments, and by evaluating the outcome of the intervention. The local government learn from each other to provide evidence-based solution to a common problem.

Devolutions act as a laboratory to test new policy.

2.5 IT BALANCE EQUAL RESOURCE ALLOCATON.

Devolution makes sure a specific local government is allocated resources according to its needs to boost national economy.

Devolution brings equity in resource allocation among different local governments. This makes sure the minority and areas with hardship are taken care of.

2.6 CULTURAL PRESERVATION.

Devolution addresses cultural diversity and grievances better, because the local government understands its people more than outside leadership. This forges a strong bond within the society.

3.0 CONS OF DEVOLUTION

Devolution disadvantages include;

3.1.IT IS EXPENSIVE.

Devolution involves creation of new institutions and creation of many posts; this increases the cost to the taxpayer pocket.

Running the devolved bodies is expensive, considering same roles are performed by different bodies and different people in different local governments.

3.2 MAY LEAD TO SECESSION.

Local government may feel too independent leading to its secession from central government.

Devolution fuels separatist sentiments related to national identity.

Kashmir in India and Catalonia in Spain is a good example where devolution is encouraging secession of a devolved region from central government.

3.3. INEQUALITY DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN REGIONS.

Devolution may result in economic and social disparities within the country. Some regions will be prosperous than others because of their strategic position, quality of leadership and available economic resources.

3.4 COORDINATION CHALLENGES.

Central government policy may contradict local government policy hence bring in confusion.

4.0. CONCLUSION

Based on devolution pro and cons, The effectiveness of devolution depends on nature of devolved power, constitution of a particular country, cohesion within a particular society and methods of conflict resolution between central government and regional government.

