Is Decentralisation in Ghana pro-poor?

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Abstract

There is a popular belief among decentralists that if local governments have the power to generate and spend revenue, without relying on central government funding, their expenditure will be pro-poor and will improve the lives of local people. Such views have influenced recent calls for greater decentralisation in developing countries in general and Africa in particular. However, evidence from Ghana casts some doubts on this view. A brief comparison of the expenditure and revenue patterns of the poorest and richest local governments there suggests that local governments are not inherently pro-poor and that locally generated funds might be used in ways that do not reflect the needs of the locality as a whole. Thus the fiscal devolution view of decentralisation appears to be out of kilter with reality. To discuss this issue, the three sections in this paper summarise the assumptions and perceived benefits of decentralisation, describe decentralisation in Ghana, and analyse the revenue and expenditure patterns of the Kumasi Metropolitan Authority and the Kasena Nankana District Assembly.

How to Cite

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In Ghana; n. Enhancing Pro-poor Decentralization; n. Two energy reform Policies. 18. SHORT LIST OF PSIAs (cont’d). Energy Reforms cover: n.
indirect employment opportunities from policies target at the. Pro-Poor Decentralization. Objectives. Provide an in-depth understanding of
the impact of alternative policy reforms on the poor. A look at resource mobilization, management and allocation. Attention to capacity
constraints of local government in the delivery of services for the enhancement of socio-economic. Data methods used include. Stakeholder/
beneficiary analysis, risk analysis, data on GPRS pilot study districts, policy documents, CWIQ, GLSS4, poverty map of Ghana and 2000
population and. housing census. Decentralization is an instrument, not a goal in itself, for efficient and participatory governance. It certainly
is not an instrument for a narrowly definable single goal and it therefore runs the risk of being over-extended and aimed at multiple goals. 1
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Services and Pro-Poor Investment. From the perspective of information and transactions costs, externalities provide an argument for
centralization if the central authority has unlimited ability to gather, process and disseminate information. The poor economic growth rate of
Ghana has also led to the increasing levels of poverty. The resources in the country are being misused to the point that the remaining
resources can't satisfy the rest of Ghana. It is up to the Government to form preventive measures to curb corruption in Ghana. Once
corruption has been dealt with, it is up to them to form policies concerning equitable distribution of resources to all Ghanaians. Food
production is one of the major social security issues in Ghana. With the ever-growing population, it has become an issue to feed the entire
country. We have recently seen in the news, the rising cases of hunger and starvation in different parts of the country. Is unemployment in
Ghana a problem of laziness or is there a real issue? Decentralisation in Ghana. Papers presented at the workshops held at GIMPA, Ghana
from 2007–2010. Munawwar Alam Roger Koranteng Editors. 15 Local Governments and Pro-poor Development: Outline of Presentation and
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