GEOG 370 00 Geography of Sustainable Development
Name ------------------------
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Q 4. Final exam.

Write an essay in which you explain one of the latest policies of development especially decentralization. Give 4 examples from peer reviewed articles.

- Since 1960s policies of development in the developing countries have changed overtime. Usually policies were setup by the "central" or "federal" governments.
- Planning and distribution of wealth and resources to the different parts of the country is done by the central governments. That means, this is the typical of the top-down approach.
- From here it came the term "Centralization". It means that the implementation of "development theory" is the responsibility of the central governments.
- With occurrence of oil crisis in the 1970s, *reduction of foreign assistance*, *inequality* within nations, application of the *absolute poverty* and the *basic need* approaches have set the stage for "decentralization".
- Decentralization means the transfer of power from the center to the districts and states.
- It means the involvement of rural people in the decision-making and taking part of the responsibility in the development of their localities and improving the life style of the local communities.
- In other words, this implies the use of people participation approach.
- Decentralization is a turning point in the history of political and development policies.
- It has started the practical experience of the transformation of policies of a "top-down to a "bottom-up" approach.
- For political and financial problems, decentralization failed. However, in few cases it has achieved a modest success.
- Success experience of decentralization is based on the implementation of small projects of education, health services and small farms and business.
- The main reason behind the failure of decentralization is the lack of financial resources in the districts and the states.
- As a result, state and district authorities were unable to provide services to the local people.
- The lack of fund comes as a result of the fact that money has not been delivered from the central governments.
- Politically, the elites in the center (The capital) were reluctant to delegate power to the rural people.
- Decentralization is a good approach but suffers from the lack of financial and human resources. Therefore, for the success of decentralization, people in states have to depend on themselves and generate local income, mainly from tax revenues.
- Democracy has enhanced decentralization.
- In the 1970s and the 1980s developing countries were dominated by dictatorship military regimes.
- In order to initiate democratic regimes and to enhance development, in the 1990s the international community opposed governments that established through military coups.
- Since 2000, development means more than economic development. It should include social goals such as reduced poverty, improved quality of life, enhanced opportunities for better education and health, and more.
- Policies of development which is set by the World Bank since 2000, is based on "**Globalization**" and "**Localization**"

- Globalization is praised for bringing new opportunities for expanded markets and the spread of technology and management expertise, which in turn hold out the promise of greater productivity and a higher standard of living.
- Globalization is the trade and development that depends on the relationship between countries and the international market.
- **Localization**—the increasing demands of local communities within the developing countries for greater autonomy

References

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Stepan, A. 2000. "Brazil's Decentralized Federalism: Bringing Government Closer to the Citizens?" *Daedalus*, 129: 145-169.

Thank you

Have a great, successful, healthy and productive life