

# Challenges Versus Prospects of Political Decentralization on the Practice of Local Participation: The Case of Sodo Town Administration, Wolaita Zone, Ethiopia

**Tamirat Dela Wotango**

Department of Civics and Ethical Studies, College of Social Science and Humanities, Wolaita Sodo University, Wolaita Sodo, Ethiopia

**Email address:**

[tamiratdela@gmail.com](mailto:tamiratdela@gmail.com)

**To cite this article:**

Tamirat Dela Wotango. Challenges Versus Prospects of Political Decentralization on the Practice of Local Participation: The Case of Sodo Town Administration, Wolaita Zone, Ethiopia. *International Journal of European Studies*. Vol. 5, No. 2, 2021, pp. 70-81.

doi: 10.11648/j.ijes.20210502.14

**Received:** November 20, 2021; **Accepted:** December 11, 2021; **Published:** December 24, 2021

---

**Abstract:** The title of this study is the challenges versus prospects of political decentralization on the practice of local participation: the case of Sodo town administration, Wolaita zone, Ethiopia. Its objective is to identify the challenges and prospect of political decentralization on local participation. This study employed both primary and secondary data. In primary data questionnaires and interview were used to collect data and various literatures on political decentralization as well as local participation would be reviewed as secondary data were used. Sample respondent were taken as sample 18 from 45 public workers. Quantitative techniques of the data were analyzed using in percents and table while qualitative techniques of the data were analyzed in word and sentence the collected data from respondents; the major finding of the research assured challenges of political decentralization on local participation increases self-interest, lack of equal distribution, corruption, maladministration. Whereas, the negative impact of political decentralization was creating secession between the villages; disagreement among the employs; lack of the quality of work or unable to work similar function. Political decentralization is important for the improvement and the development of local participation because it give for the community to elect their own representative and to solve the local problem in short time. Political decentralization played greet role to give freedom for local community to participation on their own local political economic and social issue without any discrimination and the official and the people work together to solve their local problem.

**Keywords:** Decentralization, Political Decentralization, Centralization, Local Participation

---

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Back Ground of the Study

In federal system the independence and autonomy of the constituent unit are so important that authority and responsibility are shared between the central government and other subsidiary unit of government, which can be state, region, province and chartered municipalities; such division of state function is the hall mark of genuine decentralization. World Bank defines political decentralization as aims to give citizens or their elected representatives make power in police decision-making. It is often associated with pluralistic polities and representative government. It can also supporter democratization by giving citizens or their representative more

influence in the formulation and implementation of policies [2].

Developing countries use decentralized government which has been seen as a solution to problem like economic define government in ability to find service and the demand. Minority for greater say local governance, the general weakening legitimacy of public sector, global and international pressure on countries with efficient, democratic, political decentralization refers to the territorial division of state power. It is popular government arrangement aimed at achieving complete devolution, decision –making and transferring the political equality of responsibility to sub - national government. This mode of decentralization is most often practiced in highly decentralization have its own benefit like to maintain balance between centrifugal and centripetal forces in state companies national unit and local autonomy, the right to self-government,

relieve the central legislatures and authoress form the necessity devoting time and energy to the solution of local problem is essential to large state administrative system easily, each regional state develop their own language, culture and way of life without violet other and also it is away to transfer power and increase local participant in decision-making in their place living [10].

The policy of political decentralization government relatively is new phenomena in Ethiopian political land scape because through to the most its past history Ethiopia has been centralized system of the government beyond the good decentralization system. During the emperor Haile silassie government, submitted to the Awraja local self-administration order number 43, of 1966.

The draft bill proposed to grant administrative autonomy to 50 Awraja. Government draw from the majority of country 14 province despite strong resistance from the parliament the program was implemented in 17 elected Awraja on experiment base. Each Awraja economic potential to become self- sufficient administrative area was critical consideration in the selection process [2].

The Derg had no better record than its predecessor in decentralizing the state. For the long time it so steeds to firstly held to highly centralized and unitary with the introduction of socialist policy in the mid -1970s include nationalization of ruler and urban land the regime establish the peasant association that were empowered to carry out social and economic function in defined jurisdiction [3].

The dawn fall of Derg, the transnational government established in 1991 under the leadership of Ethiopian people revolutionary democratic front. The country was derived in to 12 self-governing ethno- linguistic regional states following the controversial merger of numerous ethnic and national group into one regional government. Each regional state's government has been given considerable degree of self-rule administration. In addition each region can consider own budget and economic plan. The current Ethiopia state structure has 5 ties of government federal, region, Zone, Woreda and sub- city level. But the federal constitution only recognized the federal and regional state and it does not mention the last three more [6].

The researcher focus on the challenge versus prospects of political decentralization on the practice of local Participation the case of Sodo town administrative.

## **1.2. Statement of the Problem**

Decentralized political system is the ability to address local issue officially in a position to understand the unique problem of an area, finding the resolution to this issue. Local government in better position to adapt quickly to new situation, local governments provide distribution of power that can prevent wide spared corruption and increase the participation of local people. Political decentralization plays a great role to emphasize need of local government to make decision by sharing power and the people to achieve participation in decision making and implementing.

Voting and other activities important to the

decentralization process. But unable to implement effectively this role in Sodo town administration. Due to many challenges like lack of skilled man power, lack of resource, the stand of officials in the government institution to implement and structure effective decentralized power which delegated to the lower administrative structure and weak and dependent local administrative system which is mostly dependent on upper administrative structure may result inefficient or ineffective services may be making available to perform new local challenge especially in practicing of well performed decentralized power. The researcher inspires or tries to identify the challenges versus prospects of political decentralization in Sodo town administration and identify the possible means to address the problem.

## **1.3. Objectives of the Study**

### **1.3.1. General Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of the study was to examine the challenges versus prospects of political decentralization on the practice of local participation at Sodo town administration, Wolaita zone.

### **1.3.2. Specific Objectives of the Study**

The specific objectives of this study include the following:

- 1) To identify the challenges of political decentralization to increase local participation in Sodo Town Administration.
- 2) To evaluate the negative impact of political decentralization on local participation in Sodo town administration.
- 3) To investigate the prospects of political decentralization to promote local participation in Sodo town, in the case of Sodo sub-city administration.

## **1.4. Research Questions**

- 1) What are the challenges of political decentralization to increase local participation in practice of Sodo town administration?
- 2) What are the negative impact of political decentralization on local participation development in Sodo town administration?
- 3) What are the prospects of political decentralization in the practice of local participation the case of Sodo town?

## **1.5. Significance of the Study**

Although the study was confined to town administrator and the finding may serve as a secondary source for others who are interested to conduct and provide many information about political decentralization for reader as well as give information about Sodo town administrative and serve as model for other researcher to use this method.

## **1.6. Scope of the Study**

The study was delimited to assess the challenges versus prospects of political decentralization for local participation in Sodo town Administration.

### **1.7. Limitation of the Study**

Any research would not be free from problems but the degree of challenge varies depending up on the nature and the type of research problem. Thus, in the course of the study the most challenging problem would be like: inadequate information, shortage of time, poor response of the respondents were faced one.

## **2. Review Literature**

### **2.1. Understanding Decentralization**

Decentralization is very complex and multi-dimension definition in different angle. But one of the most accepted and universal definition about decentralization is the transfers of central government activity to the local regimes or government so called decentralization.

Decentralization is the process of redistributing or dispersing functions, powers, people or things away from a central location or authority while centralization, especially in the governmental spheres is widely studied and practiced there is no common definition or understanding of decentralization.

Decentralization is the intention to increase the responsiveness of the public service delivery system by developing resource to regionally and locally elected leaders. It was believed right because of official had better knowledge of the local condition and were accessible to their constituencies they could have incentive to be responsive. This localization provides opportunity for access to service the right of ensuring the behavior and action of the state institution of function partition in decision making process with regarded to planning resources and expenditure management etc, are complemented other set of policy such as poverty reduction capacity building program and city administration [9].

### **2.2. Goals of Decentralization**

The following goals or objectives are frequently stated in various analysis of decentralization [14].

#### **2.2.1. Participation**

Decentralization is often linked to concepts of participation, decision-making, democracy, equality and liberty from higher authority. Decentralization enhances the democratic voice. Theorists believe that local representatives authorities with actual discretionary powers are the base of decentralization that come lead to local efficiency, equity and development.

Although, the three major trends relating decentralization as: increased involvement of local jurisdiction and civil society in the management of their affairs with new forms of participation, consultation and partnerships. Decentralization brings decision-making back to the sub-national and levels. Decentralization strategies must related to the regional, national, and sub-national levels [4].

#### **2.2.2. Diversity**

Diversity plays an important role in decentralized system defined to be unique properties of entities, agents or individuals that are not shared by the large group population structure. Decentralized is defined as property of system where the agents have some ability to operate locally. Both decentralization and diversity are necessary attributes to the activity of self - organizing properties of interest [4].

#### **2.2.3. Efficiency**

Decentralization of government programs is said to increase efficiency and effectiveness-due to deduction of congestion in communications, quicker reaction to unanticipated problems, improved ability to deliver services, improved information about local conditions and move support from beneficiaries of programs. Decentralization promises to enhance efficiency through both inter-governmental competitions with market features and fiscal description which assigns tax and expenditure authority to the lowest level of government possible. It works best where members of sub-national government have strong traditions of democracy, accountability and professionalism.

#### **2.2.4. Conflict Resolution**

Political decentralization reduces intra-state conflict unless politician create political parties that mobilize minority and even extremist groups to demand more resources and power within national governments. As such, decentralization can promote peace, fit, encourages state wide parts to incorporate regional demands and limit the power of regional parties [5].

### **2.3. Types of Decentralization**

Different types of decentralization should be distinguished because they have different characteristics, policy implication and condition for success.

#### **2.3.1. Political Decentralization**

Political decentralization aims to give citizens or their elected representative more power in public decision -making. It is often associated with pluralistic politics and government, but it can also support demoralization by giving citizens or their representatives, more influence in the formulation & implementation of policies. Advocates of political decentralization assume that decisions made with greater participation will be informed and more relevant to diverse interests in society than those made only by national political authorities.

Political decentralization often requires constitutional or statutory reforms, the development of pluralistic political, the stringing of legislatures, creation or local political units, and the encouragement of effective public interest groups.

#### **2.3.2. Administrative Decentralization**

Administrative decentralization seeks to redistribute authority, responsibility and financial resources for providing public services among different levels of government. The three major forms of administrative decentralization such as de-concentration, delegation and devolution. Each have

different characteristics.

1) *De-concentration*: it is often considered to be the weakest form of decentralization. It can merely shift responsibilities from central government officials in the capital city to those working in region provinces or districts or administrative capacity under the supervision of central government ministries.

2) *Delegation*: It is more extensive form of decentralization.

Through delegation central governments transfer responsibility for decision-making and administration or public function to semi or autonomous organization not wholly controlled by the central government, but ultimately accountable to it. Government delegate responsibilities when they create public enterprises, housing authorities, transportation authorities.

Special service districts semi- autonomous school districts, regional development corporations or special project implementation units.

3) *Devolution*: It is a third type of administrative decentralization is devolution. When government devolves function they transfer authority for decision-making, finance and management to quasi-autonomous units of local government with corporate state. In a developed system, local governments have clear and legally recognized geographical boundaries over which they exercise authority and within which they perform public function. It is this type of administrative decentralization that underlies most political decentralization.

### 2.3.3. Fiscal Decentralization

Financial responsibility is core component of decentralization. If local government and private organization are to carry out decentralized functions effectively, they must have an adequate level of revenues- either raised locally or transferred from the central government as well as the authority to make decision about expenditure. Fiscal decentralization can take many formally including:

- 1) Self-financing or cost recovery through user charges;
- 2) Co-financing or co-production arrangements through which the user participate in providing service and infrastructure through monetary labor contribution;
- 3) Expansion of local revenues through property or sales taxes, or indirect charges;
- 4) Inter-governmental transfers that shift general revenues from taxes collected by the central government to local governments for general or specific uses;
- 5) Authority of municipal borrowing and the mobilization of either national or local government resources through loan guarantees. In many developing countries local governments or administrative units possess the legal authority to impose taxes, but the tax base is so weak and the dependence on central government sub-sides so ingrained that no attempt is made to exercise that authority.

### 2.3.4. Economic or Market Decentralization

The most complex forms of decentralization governments

perspective privatization and deregulation because the shift for function from the public to the private sector. Privatization and deregulation is usually accompanied by economic liberalization and market development policies. They allow function that had been primarily or exclusively the responsibility association and other non-government organization.

1) Privatization

It can range in scope from leaving the provision of goods and services entirely to the free operation of the market to public private partnerships in which government and the private sector co-operate to provide services or infrastructure. It can include in allowing private enterprises, to perform function that had previously been monopolized by government. Contracting out the provision management of public service or facilities to commercial enterprises indeed. There is a wide range of possible ways in which function can be organized and many examples form. particularly infrastructure financing public sector programs through the capital market and allowing private organization to participate and transferring responsibility or providing service form the public to the private sector through the diverse of state owned enterprises.

2) Deregulation

Deregulation reduces the legal constraints on private participation in service provision or allows competition among private suppliers for services that in the past had been provided by the government or by reregulated monopolies. In recent years privatization and deregulation have become more attractive alternatives to governments in developing countries. Local governments are also privatizing by contracting out service provision administration.

### 2.4. Advantages or Merits of Decentralization

- 1) Decentralization helps to improve the quality of decision-making at the top level management on decentralization of authority other executives at all levels the executive by saving his valuable time which he can devote to more important and long term problems.
- 2) Decentralization facilitates diversification of activities; managers of semi-autonomous product decision are able to utilize their skilled and experienced judgment. The enterprise also attains maximum possible growth. Decentralization is beneficial when new product lines or new activities are introduced in an organization. Such policy creates self-sufficient units under overall co-ordination of top levels management.
- 3) Decentralization encourages development of managerial personnel; only decentralization organization can offer such opportunities to future manager without involving additional expenditure. A decentralization organization also its managers adequate freedom to try new ideas method or techniques.
- 4) Decentralization improves motivation. An organization structure which facilitates delegation, communication and participation also provides greater motivation to its

mangers for raising the movable and motivation of sub ordinates which is use able and through better work performance.

- 5) Decentralization makes decision – making quicker and better. Decision heads are motivated to make such decisions that will create the maximum profit because they are held responsible for the effect of their decision on profits.

### **2.5. Disadvantage or Demerits of Decentralization**

Disadvantages of decentralization arrangement are as follows:

- 1) The quality of work may be poor because of lack of specialization and specialized machines.
- 2) There will duplication of efforts, equipments and machines etc. This leads to uneconomical operation.
- 3) There may not be uniformity of office procedure followed in different department.
- 4) Standardization of the office procedure equipment is not possible. The work may be done in different department in different way with different equipment.
- 5) Decentralization creates problems of co-ordination of work among the different departments.
- 6) Decentralization is costly as it raises administrated personnel to accept authority at lower levels.

### **2.6. Factor Hindering Decentralization**

On the contrary in some circumstances decentralization may lead to higher in efficiencies. Weak administrative or technical capacity at local levels may result in service being delivered less the country:

Administrative responsibilities may be transferred to local level without adequate financial resource making equitable distribution or provision of service more difficult [12].

- 1) Decentralization can sometimes make co-ordination of national policies more complex and may allow functions to be captured by local elites;
- 2) Also distract between public and private sector may undermine co-operation at the local level;
- 3) It may lead to increasing conflicts among various areas sharing the same natural resources and also between hierarchical levels if co-ordination is not effective;
- 4) Finally, decentralization may have initial high costs which in a first stage can increase government spending.

### **2.7. Basic Condition for Successful Decentralization**

In order for decentralization to be effective and sustainable number of conditions be respected. Among the most important are the following:

- 1) Sufficient financial resources to be effective the accomplishment of the takes under the responsibility of the local and decentralization in situations;
- 2) Actual empowerment of decentralization institution and enough power to influence the political system and the development activities;
- 3) Accountability mechanisms such as local elections to

improve transparency and representation;

- 4) Adequate capacities of local institution to ensure the appropriate services strong and
- 5) Administrative and Technical capacity at the higher levels; and strong political commitment at the higher levels.

### **2.8. Local Participation**

Local participation can be described as empowering people to mobilize their own capacity be social actors rather than passive subjects, manage the resource, make decision, and control the activities that affect their lives and also it mean improving strong community participation in their local issue and their day-today activities. Local participation in conservation projects impels the consistent involvement or local people in strategic project issues rather than their occasional/limited involvement in day- to day activities [15].

### **2.9. Understanding Political Decentralization**

It is very complex term and multi-dimensional definition. But, scholars has not one single definition majority definition political decentralization. It is division of power between the central and local government and make-decision separately.

Political decentralization aims to give citizens or their elected representative more power in public decision-making. It is often associated with pluralistic politics and representative government, but it can also support democratization by giving citizen, or their representative more in flounce in the formulation and implementation of policies. Political decentralization often requires constitution or statutory reforms, the development of pluralistic political parties the strengthening of legislatures, creation of local political units, and the encouragement of effective public interest groups [11].

#### **2.9.1. Ethiopian Political Decentralization System**

Decentralization promotes greater local participation community and civil society organization decision to much public with local properties. Eventually, through consolation and consensus building local authority learn from citizen and civil organization and acquire the information they need to formulate better strategies such priorities can foster development of local culture at local level and at large can be help democratic institution at national levels. Ethiopian had been test field and its takes among period of time to establish political decentralizations and federalism a form of government [9].

In Ethiopian the policy of decentralization is a new phenomena, it involves in their organization the country state structure falling 1991 regime change in characteristics by change in the state form unitary of federal and form highly centralized structure [1].

The federal form of state structure break the policies exclusion as power sharing in heart to it there by creating opportunities for absorbing the contenders of power to the political process.

Following the fall of Derg transitional government of Ethiopian/TGE/Was establish in 1991 under the leader ship of EPRDF in which the country was divide in to 14

administration reared of administrative [1].

The number latter reduced to 9/nine/regional state following the controversial merge of numerous ethnic and nationality group encompassing many regional in the south in to one regional government [1]. Ethiopia was declared a federal republic following the adaptation of other new constitution in 1995. At present Tigray, Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Gambela, Benshangul Gumuze, Harari, Somali, SNNPR and Addis Abeba and Dire Dawa constitute unit of the Federal Democratic republic of the Ethiopia.

Each regional state has been given considerable degree of self-rule include an elected regional council and executive administrative organ that can enable them to self-administration of their own affair each region can also considered as having semi sovereign state because it has constitution and flag [13]. According to Article 50 FDRE constitution regional states can establish their own government and create their administrative level that are found to be necessary and appropriate that level unit of government deposed to be provided with adequate lower of a manner that could enable the power to participate in the exercise of self-rule [6].

### 2.9.2. Local Level of Decentralization

Measure of decentralization can devolution introduced in the immediate after 1991 regime change brought about situation where by two level of government. Federal and regional become operational [7]. For nearly a decade 1992-2000/2002 the decantation devolution initiate was limited to the self-governing region in sense of exercise developed power function as stipulate in the patient provision of the federal construction and other organ in matter in resemble the structure and organization at federal level. Regional government is empowered to promulgate their own constitution without violation the privation of federal constitution. Similar branch of government instituted at lower level such as Woreda and kebele with specified power and function, zone are instituted to co-ordinate administrative activity prepare development and budget plan and extend technical assistance to the Woreda under them.

A system of dual accountability under pain the operation regional and Woreda council where by each is accountable to its respective constituencies and the council in the next upper there. Regional council is answerable to the electorate and the federal House of Representatives and enjoys a wide [7].

Region are heavily depended on federal government in the sense of receiving considerable subsidiary through inter-governmental transfers, Hence, the federal government commented significant beverage in terms word relation for the some reason. It could be argued that decentralization derived period bet you 1991 and 2001/2002 was mainly limited regional level [7].

### 2.9.3. Types of Political Decentralization

#### A. Vertical Political Decentralization

It is a types of decentralization which transfer of power, function, authority, responsibility and right form central government to the local government.

#### B. Horizontal Political Decentralization

It is a types of decentralization transfer of power, function, authority, responsibility and right between three organ of government such as legislative, executive and judiciary clearly separate without interference each other.

### 2.9.4. Types of Political Decentralization

- 1) *Local Issues*: one of the greatest benefits to a decentralization political system is its ability to address local issues. Because national government is obligation to respond to a variety of groups, it is inevitable that interests of some groups are compromised are not addressed at all. A regional government composed of local residents is in a position to understand unique problem of an area and to appropriately legislate and found the resolution to those issues.
- 2) *Efficiency*: Regional Governments are able to implement new laws faster and to respond more quickly and precisely to UN area problems than national governments can. Their small size and efficiency also mean that local governments are in a better position to adapt quickly to new situations.
- 3) *Political involvement*: part of the purpose of a decentralization government is to allow these group the opportunity for political input. A decentralization system allows those who are not adequately represented in a national system the opportunity to gain experience and to become active in local government.
- 4) *Checks and Balances*: A decentralization political system that composed of many local governments provides a distribution of power that can prevent wide spread corruption on unresponsiveness. In additional local government that become corrupted or that fail to respond to local residents are easier than national government to hold accountable due to their small size. The significant of decentralization diver to local and grass root level empowerment lay in the fact that different level of sub -national unit of government are constituted on the base of citizen participation in the political process by way of exercising electoral right. Local self-government denotes the right abilities of local authorities within the limit of the law of regulate and manage a sub-national share of public affairs under their own responsibilities and the interest of local population. Political and development police making argues that decentralization is necessary to empowerment local community to be responsive for their development. Furthermore decentralization is directly link with good governance include consensual decision-making, equity representation, accountability and responsiveness or public institution to community concerns. These positive aspects of democratic governance have added to the theoretical & practical aspect or political decentralization as attractive programs to bring government also to people [8].

### 3. Methodology

#### 3.1. Description of the Study Area

Sodo is a town in southern part of Ethiopia, located in Wolaita Zone of the SNNPR. It is 390km south west of the capital city of Addis Ababa. This town has a latitude and longitude of 74°N 37°E 42°W and an elevation of 1774 above sea level. It is the administrative center of Sodo town. It borders in the South by Sodo Zuriya, and Humbo Woreda; in the North Damot Gale Woreda; in the East Damot Pulassa; in the West Sodo Zuriya and Bayra Koysha Woreda are the neighboring places. The total population of Sodo city administration is 110,660; from this 60,500 are males and 50,160 are females according to 2007 demographic statics. The climatic condition of Sodo town administrative is Woyna Dega or subtropical savanna climate with average rainfall 1290 mm. Its land configuration is level or plane. The socio-economic condition of this city; trading is the backbone of the society to live; some others by and additionally public work is other economic job of society.

#### 3.2. Research Design

In this study descriptive form of research design was used because, it described about the main challenges versus prospects of political decentralization on local participation in Sodo town administration quantitatively.

#### 3.3. Types and Sources of Data

##### 3.3.1. Types of Data

Both primary and secondary type of data were collected and reviewed, which helped a lot to get information that fed this study.

##### 3.3.2. Sources of Data

*Primary data source*

*Questionnaires:* to collect data successfully, close ended questionnaires were used because they are the main tool to collect data at once time.

*Interview:* to ask different related issues on the topic, respondents with face to face promises as secrete about their data.

*Secondary data source:* also includes various literatures on political decentralization as well as publication of international institution like World Bank and different books were used to collect available as well as necessary data and information.

#### 3.4. Sampling Size and Sampling Techniques

Ten males and eight female public workers from Sodo town administration were selected to judge about the total decentralization. The aforementioned 18 public worker were selected by random sampling technique and purposively for the questionnaire and interview respectively selected from total public worker of Sodo town administration. The researcher selected them by hoping they have better knowledge experience, awareness and attitude about the topic.

#### 3.5. Instrument of Data Collection

In this study the researcher would be used questioner, observation, and interview. This tools of data would be analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively. Qualitative techniques of instrument of the data were expressed in terms. Sentence and words of the respondents answer and explain about the topic of question. Quantitative techniques of instrument of the data were expressed in terms of percentage, table and number of the respondents answer during questions.

### 4. Data Analysis and Interpretation

The researcher analysis and interprets the collected date from 18 public worker in Sodo town and additional information from interviewer. This was organization in to including personal back ground of respondent's level of political decentralization, the role of political decentralization and challenge of political decentralization.

#### 4.1. Back Ground of Personal Respondents

*Table 1. Description of respondent's sex.*

		Respondents	%
Sex categories of respondents	Male	10	56%
	Female	8	44%
Total		18	100%

Sources: own field survey (2021).

As it is show in Table 1 majority of respondents 56% of them were males and the rest of 44% of them were females respondents. The number of male respondents was large whereas number of female respondent was small.

*Table 2. Description respondent's age.*

		Respondents	%
Age category respondents	20-30	6	33%
	31-40	12	67%
	41-50	-	-
	51-60	-	-
	Above	-	-
Total		18	100%

Source own field survey (2021).

As it shown in Table 2, majority of respondents (67% of them) were between 31-40, 33% respondents were between 20-30.

*Table 3. Description about the respondent mortal status.*

		Respondent	%
Marital status respondent	Married	10	56%
	Unmarried	8	44%
	Divorce	-	-
Total		18	100%

Sources own field survey (2021).

As it is shown in Table 3, majority of respondents (56%) were married, 44% of the respondents were unmarried and no one respondents were divorce.

**Table 4.** Description about respondent education status.

		Respondent	%
Education status	Certificate	1	6%
	Diploma	11	61%
	Degree	6	33%
	Masters	-	-
Total		18	100%

Sources own field survey (2021).

As it is shown in Table 4, majority of respondents (61%) were diploma, 33% of the respondents were degree and 6% of the respondents were certificate and no one were masters.

**Table 5.** Description respondent's religion.

		Respondents	%
Religions respondents	Protestant	11	60%
	Orthodox	4	22%
	Catholic	1	6%
	Muslim	1	6%
	Other	1	6%
Total		18	100%

Sources: own field survey (2021).

As it is shown in Table 5, majority of respondents (60%) of them were Protestant, 22% of the respondents of them were Orthodox, 6% of them were Catholic, 6% of them were Muslim and 6% of them other in the religion of the respondents.

**Table 6.** The official represented in Sodo town.

		respondents	%
How the official respondents in Sodo town?	Through free and fair election	7	39%
	Through free base	-	-
	Through political election	11	61%
	I don't know	-	-
Total		18	100%

Sources own field survey (2021).

As it is shown in Table 6, majority of the respondents (61%) of them were through political experience, 39% respondents of them were through free and election, no one of them I don't know and no one respondents them were through ethical bases.

**Table 7.** Implementation of political decentralization.

		respondents	%
How political decentralization Implementation in Sodo town?	Through voluntary	18	100%
	Through involuntary	-	-
Total		18	100%

Sources own field survey (2021).

As it is shown in Table 7, majority of respondents or respondents 100% of them were through voluntary and no one respondents of them were through involuntary on the political decentralization implementation in Sodo sub-city.

**Table 8.** Implementation of good governance.

		respondents	%
Is Sodo town going to improve good the principle and strategy of Sodo town administration?	Yes	18	100%
	No	-	-
Total		18	100%

Source:- own field survey (2021).

As it is shown in the Table 8 majority of respondents (100%) were yes and no respondents of them were no in the improvement good governance through implementing the principle and strategy of their own Sodo sub-city administration.

#### 4.2. The Prospects of Political Decentralization

**Table 9.** The prospects of political decentralization for local participation.

		respondents	%
What is your role/prospects in political decentralization for development of our town participation?	Administration	2	11%
	Service provider	7	39%
	Problem solver	2	11%
	Environment Protector	4	22%
	Other	3	17%
Total		18	100%

Sources:- own field survey (2021).

As it is shown in Table 9 majority of respondents (39%) of them were service provide, 11% respondents were administration, 11% of respondents were problem solver, 22% respondents were environment protector and 17% of respondents were other role in political decentralization for development of our sub- city participation.



**Table 10.** Who are benefited in political decentralization?

		respondents	%
Who are benefited in political decentralization?	Ordinary (community)	18	100%
	Public worker	-	-
	Non-governmental organ	-	-
	Businessman	-	-
	Scholar	-	-
Total		18	100%

Sources:-own field survey (2021).

AS it shown in the Table 10 all of respondents (100%) of were community or ordinary people and no one respondents were public worker, and businessman, non-governmental organization and scholar were not benefited in political decentralization.

**Table 11.** Benefit of political decentralization.

		Respondents	%
What is the benefit of political decentralization?	Save time	8	44%
	Save money	1	6%
	Give freedom to elect the leader	2	11%
	Save energy	7	39%
Total		18	100%

Source:- own field survey (2021).

As it is shown in Table 11 majority respondents (44%) were save time, 6% of the respondents were save money, 11% of the respondents were give freedom to elect the leader and 39% of the respondents were save energy benefit of political decentralization.

**Table 12.** Problem of political decentralization.

		Respondents	%
What is the challenge of political decentralization in Sodo town	Lack of skilled man power	6	33%
	Lack of capital	8	45%
	Lack of equipment	4	22%
	Seeking personal interest	-	-
	Other	-	-
Total		18	100%

Source: - own field survey (2021).

As it is shown in the Table 12 majority respondents (45%) were lack of capital, 33% respondents of them were lack of skill man power, 22% respondents were lack of equipment and no one respondents were seeking personal interest and other are the challenge of political decentralization.

**Table 13.** Effect of political decentralization on local participation.

		Respondents	%
What is the negative effect of political decentralization on local participation?	Loss group right	-	-
	Long bureaucracy	-	-
	Create secession	8	44%
	Unable to work similar function	10	56%
	Other	-	-
Total		18	100%

Source: - own field survey (2021).

As it is shown Table 13 majority respondents (56%) of them were unable to work similar function, 44% respondents were create secession, no one respondents were loss. Group light, long bureaucracy and other negative effect of political decentralization on local participation.

#### *Finding from Interviews*

In additional information form interview Political decentralization played greet role to give freedom for local community to participation on their own local political

economic and social issue without any discrimination and the official and the people work together to solve their local problem. Challenges of political decentralization on local participation increase self-interest, lack of equal distribution, corruption, maladministration. The negative impact of political decentralization was creating secession between the villages; disagreement among the employs; lack the quality of work or unable to work similar function.

## 5. Conclusion and Recommendation

### 5.1. Conclusion

The investigation on the practice of political decentralization as well as analysis of data on the matter of local participation in decentralization system or governance in which Ethiopia has to practice this system as the main and with including empowers local communities. Therefore, based on the finding of the study the researcher draw the following conclusion in Sodo town administration. Political decentralization had its own cause to weaken local participation in Sodo town. Lack of skilled man power, the professional servant with their own stand and self confidence by being out of any party influence as the government bureaucratic servant, lack of capital on community awareness about their right and duty as well as backward thinking about people participation in political and economic issue.

The negative effects of political decentralization on local participation in development also include create secession, unable to work similar function and long bureaucracy on local participation in Sodo town. Generally if it had negative effect on local participation political decentralization is important in Sodo town to improve the community participation. While, political decentralization had its own effect on the development of local participation. The positive effects include save time, energy, give freedom to elect the leader, to give chance for the community and official communicate face to face on their town problem and solve by working together.

### 5.2. Recommendation

The researchers provided the necessary recommendation in order to reduce the problem of political decentralization on local participation in Sodo town administration.

- 1) The government should give awareness for the people

about the right and duty to raise the question why and how do and don't about on action.

- 2) Push each official worker hard for community by giving reward.
- 3) Try to reduce back ward thinking of female participation in social, economic and political activity by giving education on gender equality.
- 4) To give more power about the people rather than the official in decision-making that the issue then affect the whole society.
- 5) It is officially specialized in admiration strategy.
- 6) The official tries to reduce the complex bureaucracy in service deliver or distribution.
- 7) Give ethical training about the official by town administrative body.

## Conflict of Interest

There is no conflict of interest with anyone.

## Acronyms

TGE	Traditional Government of Ethiopia
SNNPR	South Nations, Nationalities and peoples Republic
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
VPD	Vertical Political Decentralization
HPD	Horizontal Political Decentralization
E. C	Ethiopian Calendar
G. C	Gregorian Calendar

## Acknowledgements

My deeply heartfelt thanks goes to the participant informants to the successful realization of this study.

## Appendix

*Title of the Research: Challenges Versus Prospects of Political Decentralization on the Practice of Local participation: the Case of Sodo Town Administration, Wolaita Zone, Ethiopia*

One of the most important information collecting mechanism is providing questioners and give the question for someone who have potential to give available information about the question on the concerning issue or the rising problem. So the researcher draft important question and give available information in order to be effective in result and provide for next generation as data.

Instruction: From the alternative select only one and explain the short answer.

*Part One: Demographic Background of the Respondent:*

1. Sex of respondents?
  - A. male
  - B. Female
2. Age of respondents?
  - A. 20-30
  - B. 31-40
  - C. 41-50
  - D. above 51
3. Marital status of respondents?
  - A. married
  - B. unmarried

C. above

4. Level of education of respondents?

A. certificate

B. Diploma

C. degree

D. masters

E. above

5. Religion of respondents?

A. protestant

B. orthodox

C. catholic

D. Muslim

E. others

*Part Two - Degree of Political Decentralization:*

1. How the official represented in Sodo town administration?

A. through fair election

B. through ethical base

C. through political experience

D. I don't know

E. if other you know identify

2. How does the political decentralization implemented at Sodo town administration?

A. by voluntary

B. by involuntary

C. if other explain?

3. Is your sue going to improve good governance for the effectively implement principle and strategy of Sodo town administration?

A. yes

B. no, why?

*Part Three- Role of Political Decentralization:*

1. What is your role in political decentralization for the development of local administrative system?

A. Administration

B. service provider

C. problem solver

D. environment protection

E. other

2. Which one is the benefits of the decentralization in Sodo town administration?

A. Save time

B. Save money

C. gives the right to free participation to elect their representative

D. save energy

3. Who are benefited from political decentralization?

A. ordinary people

B. business man

C. official

D. scholar

E. non-governmental organization

*Part Four-Challenge of Political Decentralization:*

1. What are the challenges of political decentralization at Sodo town administration?

A. lack of skilled man power

B. lack capital

C. lack of equipment

D. seeking of parson self interest.

E. identify other

2. What is the negative effect of political decentralization on local administrative system?

A. loss group right

B. long bureaucracy

C. create secession

- D. unable work similar function  
E. other

---

## References

- [1] Bahru Zewde 1994, The constraint and challenge of Democratization process in Ethiopia paper. First presented at 1994: History workshop conference on Democracy; popular precedent popular culture 13-sissuly 1994: university with waters and History work shop.
- [2] Cohen TM. 1974 local Government Reform in Ethiopia Analysis problem and prospect of Awraja self-government proposal with particular emphasis on rural change washing to 0.c, us AID.
- [3] Constitution of the federal democratic republic of Ethiopia A. A 8 December 1994, English translation and Amharic original version published in Negarit Gazeta.
- [4] Different form of decentralization, earth Institute of Columbian University accessed February 2015.
- [5] Dorown Brancati peace by design, managing intra –state conflict through decentralization, Oxford university press; 2009.
- [6] FDRE constitution, (1995).
- [7] Tasegen GE and kasahun B, 2004 decentralization in Ethiopia.
- [8] Taye Asssefa, 2007 decentralization in Ethiopia, A. A University.
- [9] Tsgaye, Teganu 2006, evaluation of oppression and performance of ethic decentralization system in Ethiopia second edition Addis Ababa University.
- [10] Agatha Clark, Demand media, the advantage of decentralization political system.
- [11] Assefa Fiseha, 2007, Federalism& diversity in Ethiopia and edition Nether lands.
- [12] Anarchism, Longon, Reaktion book, 2004; p. 8.
- [13] <http://WWW.Worldbank.org/en/topic/comm.Unitdrivendevelopment/brief/decentralization>.
- [14] Theoretical division, LOSA Lamos national laboratory for university of California Losangeles 1999.
- [15] Barihu, 2006. Transitional Government of Ethiopia /TGE/ in established 1999.