

A Study on Decentralization and Its Growth in India

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Abstract: The transfer of authority or power from central government to its subordinate government for policy implications is known Decentralization, Decentralization is considered as an efficient instrument for development as it improves the economic and social service in order to meet people's needs. They are political decentralization, administrative decentralization, fiscal decentralization and economic or market decentralization. The decentralization has a positive impact on rural India and creates accountability as a relationship between public officials and the citizens. Decentralization in India incorporated official in India by invoke of panchayat raj system on 73rd amendment act, The main aim of the research paper is to study how decentralization improves the growth of the country and regulates the village level and district level local governments, the study include study the problems of decentralization and public awareness about the process of decentralization .The research has followed the empirical research with the convenient sampling method. The sample size covered by the researcher is 200. The independent variables are age, gender, educational qualification and occupation. The dependent variables are the decentralization is effective in India, major benefit Decentralization has brought in, need for decentralization of powers in India. The statistical tool used here is graphical representation and pie chart distribution ,the major findings include ,Many of the respondents supported Decentralization and answered Decentralization is effective and the need for decentralization ,the decentralization brought people(general public) in decision making , the. Decentralization has succeeded in training local officials, on other hand it increases accountability, political stability, national unity and moreover Decentralization improves countries growth.

Keywords: Decentralization, subordinate, policy, accountability, stability.

Introduction:

Decentralization plays a major role in the development of a country. Decentralization is defined as the transfer of authority from the central government to the subordinate or quasi independent government. Decentralization can be classified into various types based on the different characteristics, policy implications, and conditions for success. They are political decentralization, administrative decentralization, fiscal decentralization and economic or market decentralization. Decentralization is considered as an efficient instrument for development as it improves the economic and social service in order to meet people's needs. Decentralisation in India effective due to panchayat raj system on 73rd amendment act .After independence, decentralization in India leads to industrialisation, economic growth and modicum of income redistribution. It also helps in poverty reduction by improving agricultural productivity through the implementation of land reforms, agricultural cooperatives and local self government. According to Mahatma Gandhi, in the vision of village Swaraj in which universal education, economic self sufficiency and village democracy would replace caste, untouchability and other forms of rural exploitation. In 1986, L.M. Singhvi committee recommended that local self government should be made as a constitutional body and the Gram Sabha should be the base of decentralized democracy in India. In order to resolve this issue, the 73rd amendment act of the Indian constitution was enacted in 1992. This amendment gives village level, block level, and district level bodies a constitutional status. The major provisions under this amendment are one third of seats are reserved for women, reservation for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) are made in proportion to their population. And individual states can make laws on the reservation for the other backward classes. PESA (Panchayat extension to schedule areas) Act , 1996 , The State Election Commission and the State Finance Commission was established in order to oversee the Panchayat level elections and revise the financial positions and the distribution of funds to the Panchayats. The factors include uniform policies not followed, problem of coordination, insufficient funding, inflexible in spending budget that are allocated and corruption. Recently in India, fiscal decentralization was made because of an economic crisis where the share of local expenditure increased and most of it went towards salaries and interest payments.

PESA (Panchayat extension to schedule areas) Act, 1996, L.M. Singhvi committee, Political decentralization was made in 1992 through the **73rd amendment** which implements a nationally standardized and decentralized system of local government. Administrative decentralization was also made by devolving the implementation of most education programmes to the State governments. The quorum appointed in local gram

sabha meeting by rural development report in 2018, before to pandemic union and state had taken measures to combat local concerns. The recent implementation of Andhra Pradesh Decentralization and inclusive development of all regions Act, 2020 .While comparing Turkey with India, the Turkey government has taken a lot of decentralization reforms which are considered as public management reforms. It has improved the efficiency of local government and the relation of people with the government. The decentralization has a positive impact on rural India and creates accountability as a relationship between public officials and the citizens.

Current Trends:

- Subnational governance ,
- Inter municipal cooperation,
- Metropolitan governance,
- Strengthening of regions ,
- Municipal fragmentation.

The **main aim** of the research paper is to study how decentralization improves the growth of the country and regulates the village level and district level local governments.

Objectives:

1. To study the process of decentralization,
2. Awareness of decentralization among the public,
3. To study the problems due to lack of governance,
4. To study how decentralization improves the growth of the country and regulates the village level and district level local governments.

Review of Literature

The author explains the issues and challenges behind constitutional status for local bodies in India, the political ideas of Gandhi and Ambedkar formed the basis for establishment of a three tier system in 1950 which introduced panchayat raj by 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment act which enhanced democratic local body governance through reservation. **(Jain and Jain 2005)**. The author briefs the transfer of responsibility by which several welfare and health programs are implemented to eradicate poverty, it will reduce corruption, improve social services and well-being whereas in conclusion the author added decentralization is dynamic social outcomes. **(Pal 2008)** .The researcher attempts a comparative analysis on India, China, Pakistan and Brazil explains participatory democracy as important elements in decentralization. The decentralization and local governance of developing countries witness institutional transformation **(Pal 2008; Raghunandan 2012)**.The Author explains decentralization in three ways: Administrative decentralization, the transfer of responsibility from central to local/small units , political decentralization transfer of electoral capacity, fiscal decentralization transfer over budgets and other financial powers. **(Prakash 2020)**. The researcher explains the devolution of powers the issues that cannot alonely handled by central need state intervention in the issues like reservation of women , Dalit, ST, poverty reduction , gender equality to implement programs and schemes regarding this major issues there need a cooperation of central and state government.**(Dick et al. 2016)**.The author explains Gandhian visualization on decentralization, Gandhi had supported gram Swaraj (self rule by village) to ensure social, economic and political equality by supporting decentralization of states in post independence time. **(Meenakshisundaram 1994)**.The Author explains the transfer of authority by central to sub national entities (state) to manage affairs and to promote the own development of state and villages by better implementation of plans and designs. **(Dube and Padalia 2002)**.In the work the author states that decentralization extends the accountability and responsiveness of government, it increases political competitions, ultimately reduces political instability, and also threatens fiscal sustainability. **(Sengupta and Corbridge 2013)**.The Author explains the planning for decentralization exhibits wider governance whereas devolution involves wider participation hereby gives greater opportunity at local levels there is multi sectoral action from central funds which is allocated to improve lower levels. **(Von den Hoff, Berden, and Schellekens 2021)**.The researcher explains there is conflict between minority and majority on political, social, economic, territorial integrity and accommodation here by the decentralization act as a tool for conflict resolution.**(Dougherty et al. 2021)**.The author explains decentralization of governance and development enhances industrial economy, accountability of central and state effects, inter community allocation, local business development, and political autonomy.**(Olsen et al. 2021)**.The Author explains Decentralization is a political process that administers over public resources that are responsible to transfer powers from central to state (lower level organs), allocate and distribute revenue and policies in a better manner. **(Walcherberger 2016)**The researcher explains the federal framework as the

government of India, states, district, taluk, cities, towns and villages to improve health, education and human capital there is need of Decentralization of powers. (Gupta 2004).The author explains Decentralization is used as a tool to promote LPG , transparency and accountability and to increase GDP in developed and developing countries that have quasi federal structure central alone cannot implement better economic policies and fail high GDP so there is need to adopt Decentralization. (Lv, Luo, and Duckett 2021) The researcher explains analysis done on 14 non specialized state data on fiscal Decentralization and its economic growth were analyzed as spending Decentralization was positive , state domestic product revenues Decentralization was negative and overall fiscal Decentralization was positive in state income. (Sahoo and Kar 2020). The paper explains around 1996 , local rural governments had limited powers by enactment of decentralized planning panchayats in which direct citizen involvement was otherwise known to be participatory democratic .(Mansour et al. 2021).The paper explains about the experience of West Bengal under panchayat system 1978, the functions of gram sansad which involves less participation of people in the planning process compared to Kerala .Moreover West Bengal lags in devolution of powers ,finances and function to panchayat. (Ricciardi and Tarricone 2021).The researcher discussed the direct democracy on gram swaraj in M.P which was introduced in 2001, it helps to strengthen institutional local governance, effective people centric development not only in state but also central. (Murad et al. 2021).The paper explains the economic gains from decentralized decision making and related issues in India. This study attempts to analyze and quantify the impact of decentralization in India on its social infrastructure that needs to be supplied by governments as they are not optimally provided by the private sector and on rural development where about 70% of the population live. (Thomson and Beale 2021). By examining constitutionally-mandated political decentralization across India, this book identifies the circumstances under which local government structures can lead to improved social services and societal wellbeing. (Ng et al. 2021)

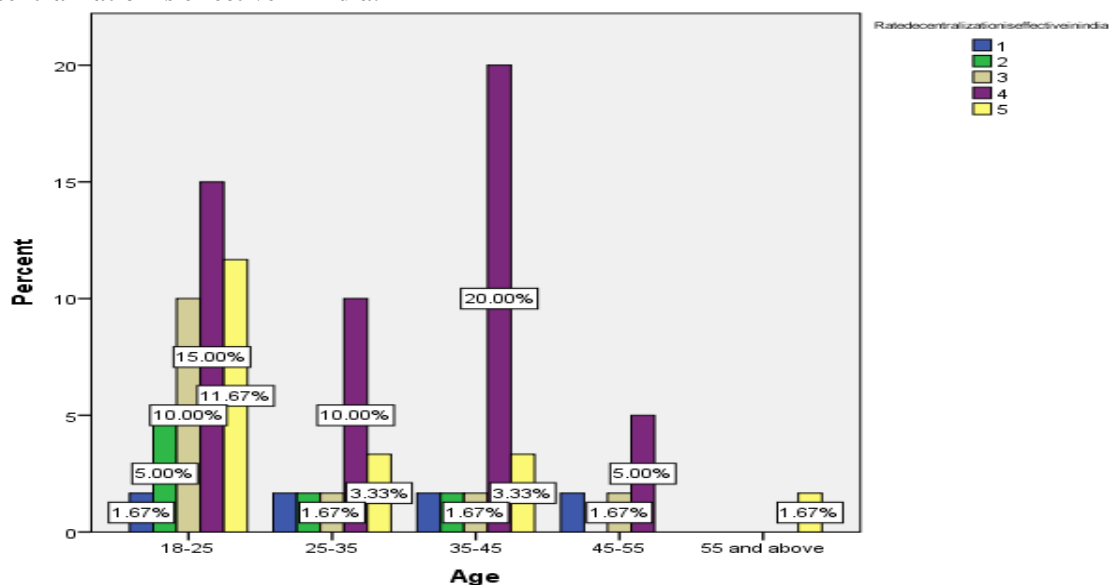
Methodology

The research method followed here is empirically research .A total of 200 samples here have been taken out of which is taken through convenient sampling. The sample form taken by the researcher online using google forms .The independent variable taken here is age, gender and occupation and education .The dependent variables are decentralization is effective in India, major benefit Decentralization has brought in, need for decentralization of powers in India. The statistical tool used by the researcher is graphical representation and pie charts.

Analysis:

Figure: 1

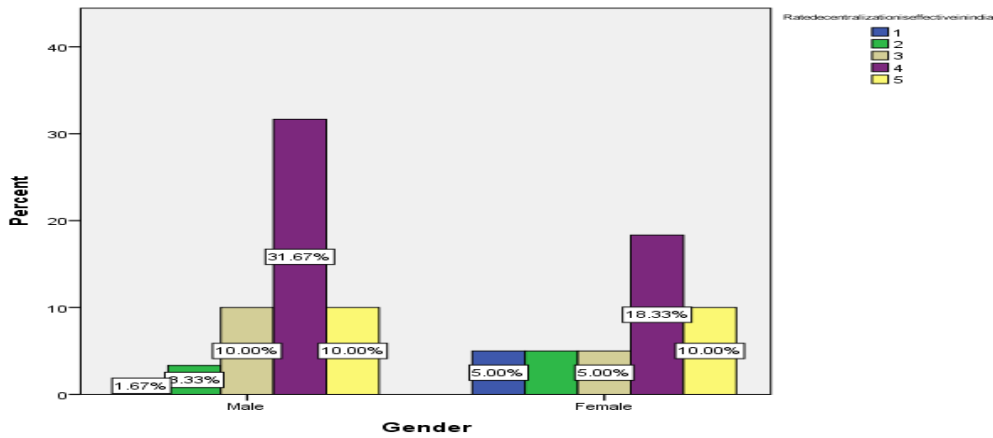
Decentralization is effective in India.



Legend: This figure deals with how decentralization is effective in India with the independent variable of age.

Figure: 2

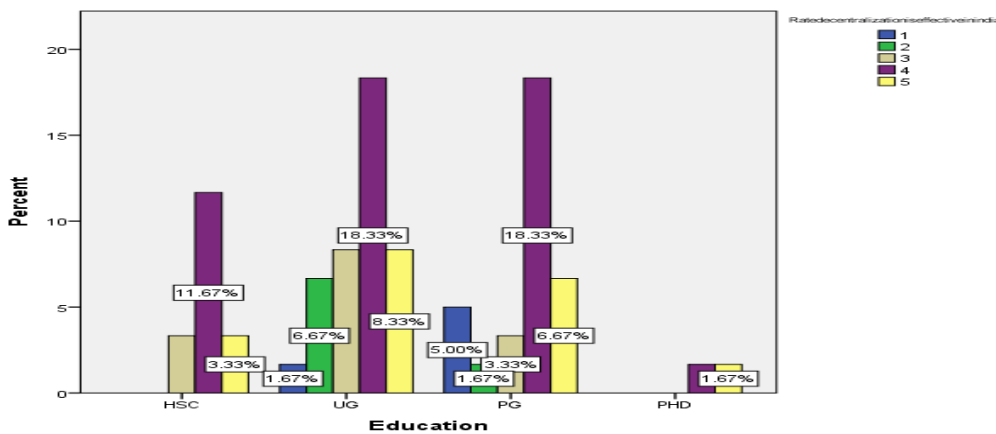
The decentralization is effective in India



Legend: This figure deals with how decentralization is effective in India, with the independent variable of gender.

Figure: 3

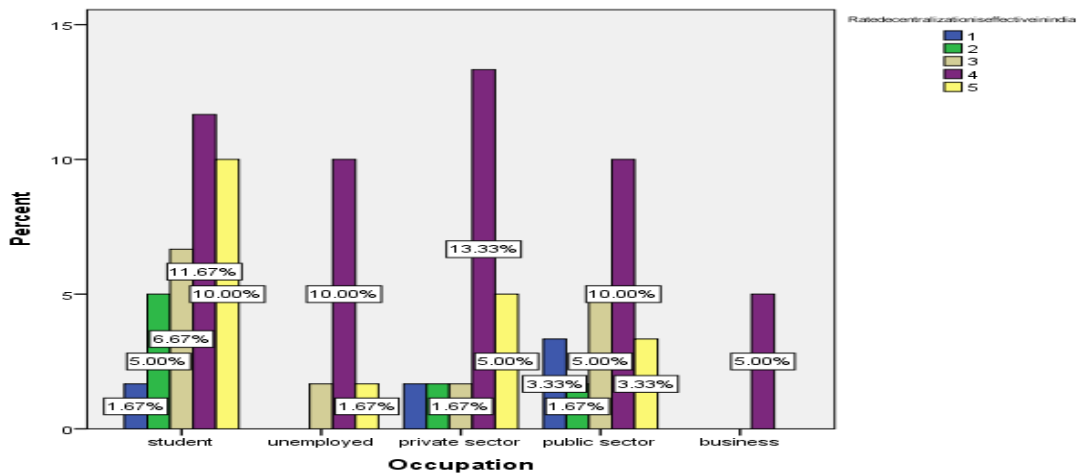
Decentralization is effective in India.



Legend: This figure deals with how decentralization is effective in India, with the independent variable of education.

Figure: 4

The decentralization is effective in India



Legend: This figure deals with how decentralization is effective in India, with the independent variable of occupation.

Crosstab

Count

		1) Decentralisation is effective in India					Total
		Agree	STRONGLY AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	
4. Educational Qualification	Illiterate	12	21	10	37	0	80
	Higher Secondary	1	10	0	0	12	23
	UG	0	30	23	0	0	53
	PG	35	9	0	0	0	44
Total		48	70	33	37	12	200

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	101.851 ^a	12	.000
Likelihood Ratio	125.155	12	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	5.883	1	.015
N of Valid Cases	200		

a. 4 cells (20.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 2.30.

Hypotheses:

Alternative hypotheses:

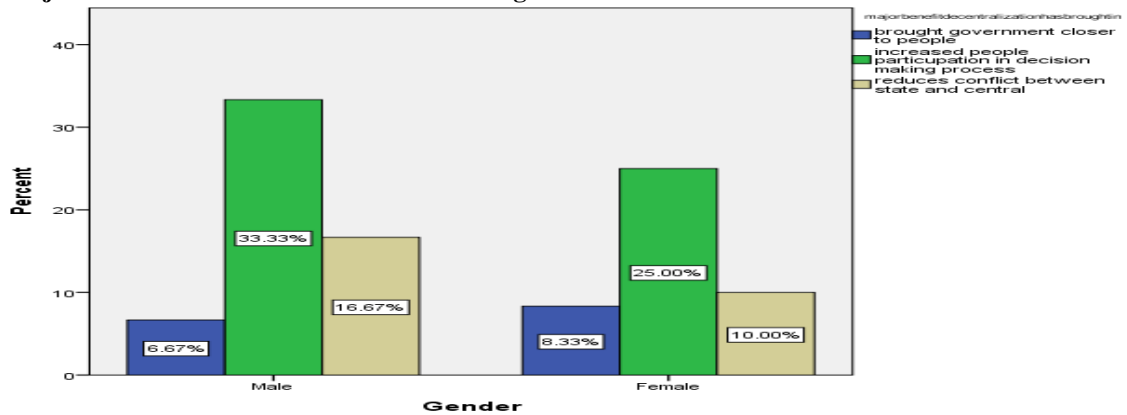
Decentralisation is not effective in India.

Null hypothesis:

Decentralisation is effective in India.

Figure: 5

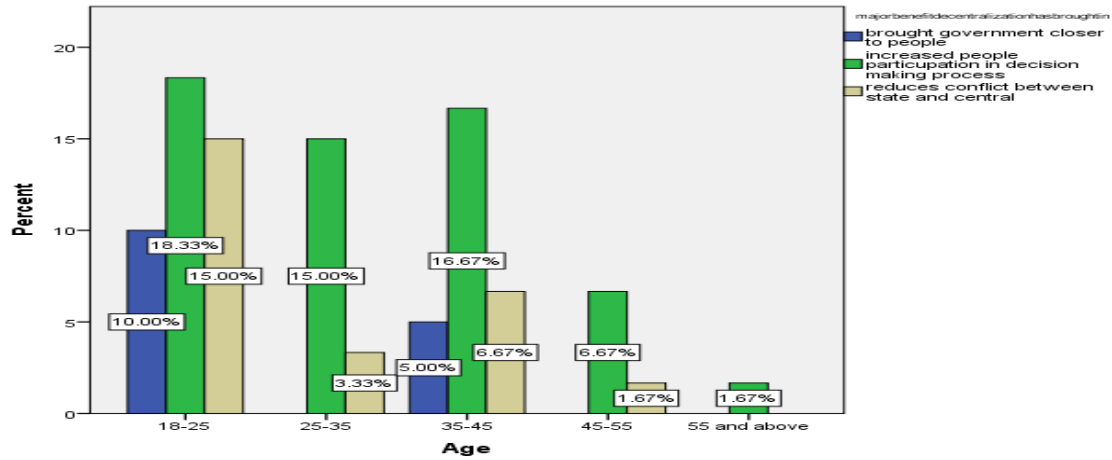
The major benefit that decentralization has brought in



Legend: This figure deals with the major benefit that decentralization has brought in, with the independent variable gender.

Figure: 6

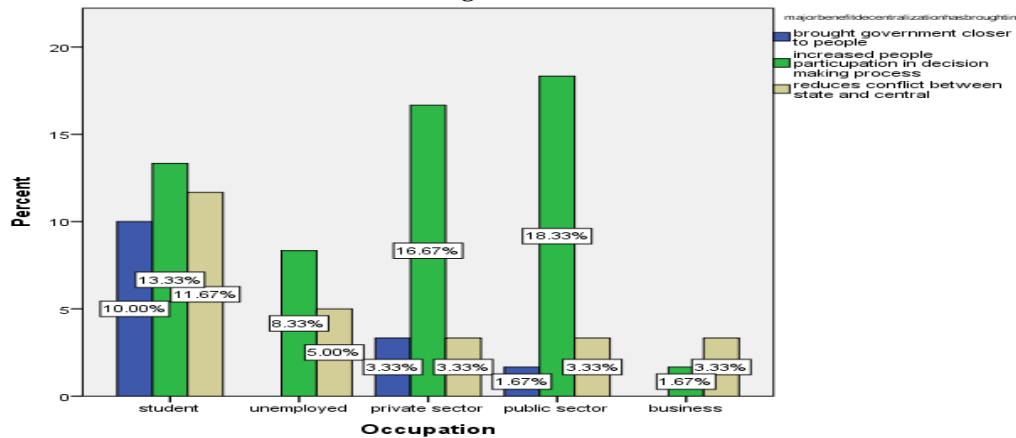
The major benefit that decentralization has brought in



Legend: This figure deals with the major benefit that decentralization has brought in, with the independent variable age.

Figure: 7

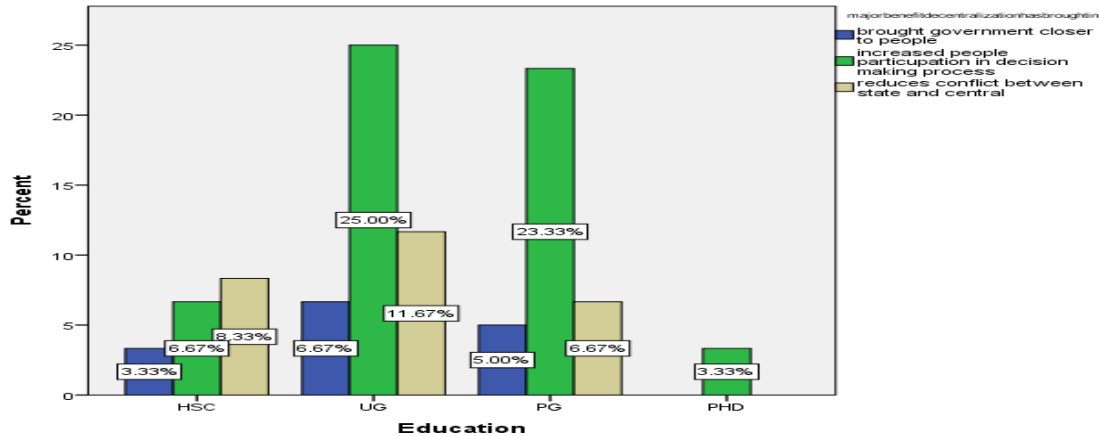
The major benefit that decentralization has brought in



Legend: This figure deals with the major benefit that decentralization has brought in with the independent variable occupation.

Figure: 8

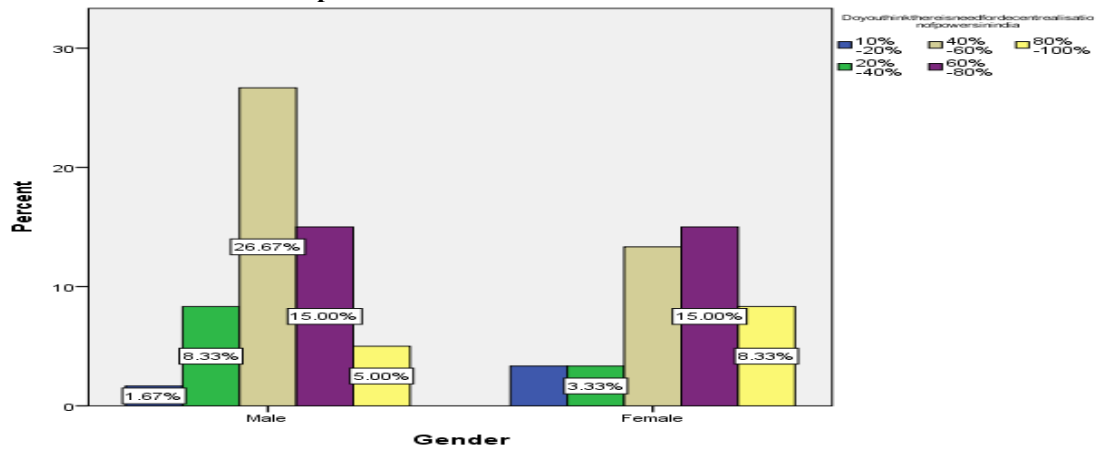
The major benefit that decentralization has brought in



Legend: This figure deals with the major benefit that decentralization has brought in, with the independent variable Education.

Figure: 9

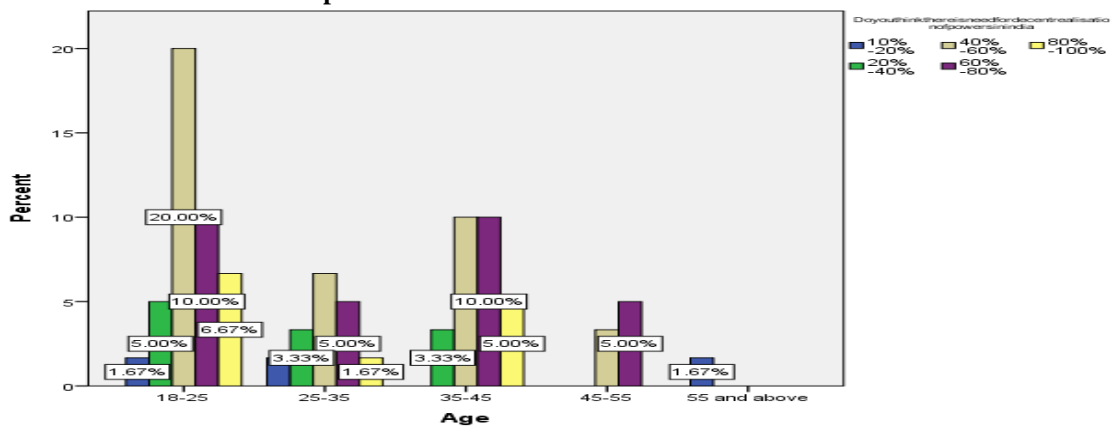
The need for decentralization of powers in India



Legend: This figure deals with the need for decentralization of powers in India, with the independent variable gender.

Figure: 10

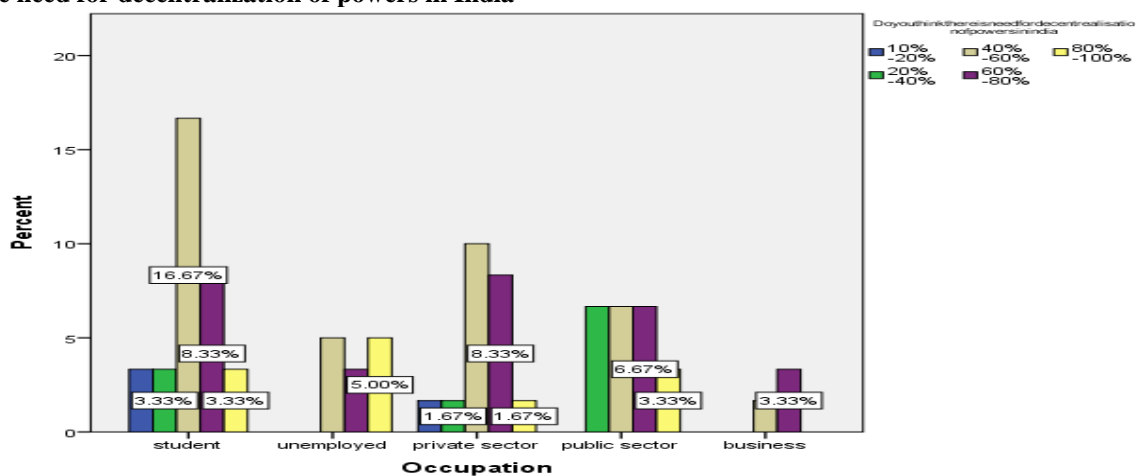
The need for decentralization of powers in India



Legend: This figure deals with the need for decentralization of powers in India ,with the independent variable Age.

Figure: 11

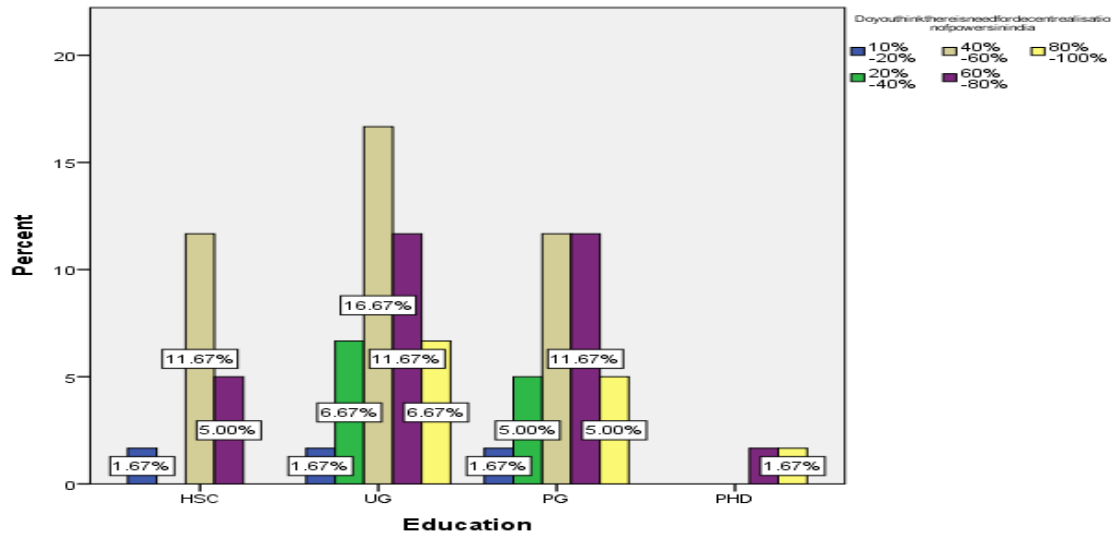
The need for decentralization of powers in India



Legend: This figure deals with the need for decentralization of powers in India , should possess the independent variable occupation .

Figure: 12

The need for decentralization of powers in India



Legend: This figure deals with the need for decentralization of powers in India ,with the independent variable Education .

Crosstab

Count		11. Whether decentralisation has brought benefits to the government?		Total
		Female	male	
4. EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION	Illiterate	20	60	80
	Higher Secondary	14	9	23
	UG	33	20	53
	PG	35	9	44
Total		102	98	200

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	39.575 ^a	3	.000
Likelihood Ratio	41.580	3	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	36.918	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	200		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 11.27.

Hypotheses:

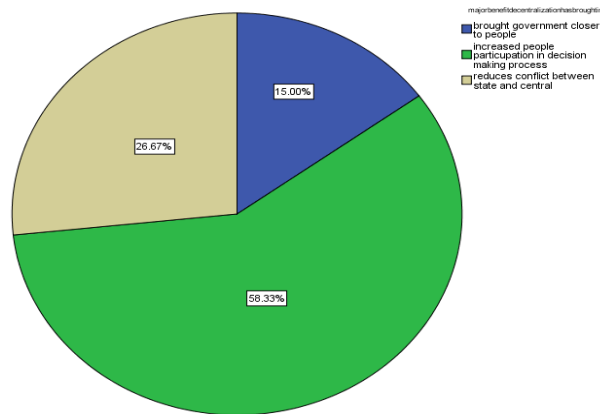
Alternative Hypotheses:

Decentralisation has not brought benefits to the government.

Null Hypothesis:

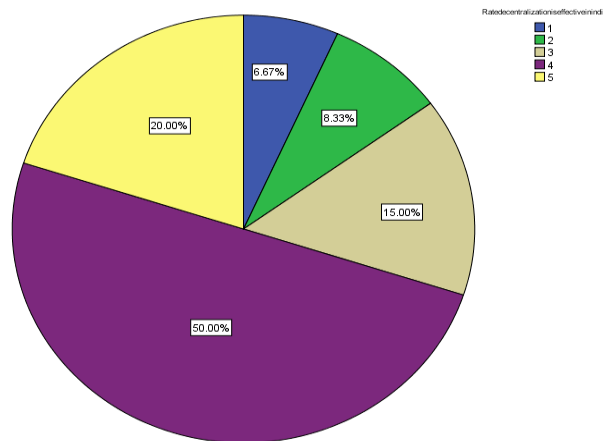
Decentralisation has brought benefits to the government.

Figure: 13
The major benefit that decentralization has brought in



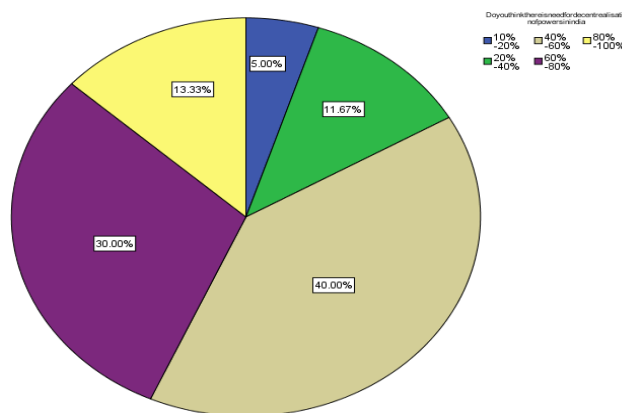
Legend: This figure deals with the major benefit that decentralization has brought in, with the pie chart distribution.

Figure: 14
Decentralization is effective in India



(Figure: 14)
 Legend: This figure deals with how decentralization is effective in India, with the pie chart distribution.

Figure: 15
The need for decentralization of powers in India



(Figure: 15)
 Legend: This figure deals with the need for decentralization of powers in India with the pie chart distribution.

Result:

Respondents from various age groups answered to the question decentralization is effective in India , respondents belongs to age group 18-25 answered ,1.67% on scale 1,5% on scale 2,10% on scale 3 , 15% on scale 4,11.67% on scale 5 , respondents belongs to age group 25-35 answered 1.67% on scale 1,2 and 3 , 10% on scale 4,3.3% on scale 5 , respondents belongs to age group 35-45 answered 1.67% on scale 1,2 and 3 , 20% on scale 4 and 3.3% on scale 5 , respondents belongs to age group 45-55 answered 1.67% on scale 1 and 3 ,5% on scale 4, respondents belongs to age 55 and above answered 1.67% on scale 5. **(Figure: 1).**

Respondents composed of both male and female answer to the question decentralization is effective in India , respondents male answered 1.67% on scale 1 , 8.33% on scale 2 , 10% on scale 3 ,31.67% on scale 4 and 10% on scale 5 .the respondents female answered 5% on scale 1,2 and 3 , 18.33% on scale 4 ,10% on scale 5 **(Figure: 2).**

Respondents from various qualifications answered to the question decentralization is effective in India, respondents completed HSC answered 3.33% on scale 3, and 5,11.6% on scale 4 , respondents completed UG answered 1.67% on scale 1 , 6.67% on scale 2 ,8.3% on scale 3 and 5 , 18.3% on scale 4 , respondents completed PG answered 5% on scale 1, 1.67% on scale 2, 3.3% on scale 3 ,18.3% on scale 4 , 6.67% on scale 5 , respondents completed PHD answered 1.67% on scale 4 and 5 **(Figure: 3)**

Respondents from different occupation field answered to the question decentralization is effective in India , respondents belongs to student answered 1.67% on scale 1, 5 % on scale 2 , 6.67% on scale 3 , 11.67% on scale 4, 10% on scale 5 , respondents belongs to unemployed answered 1.67% on scale 3 and 5, 10% on scale 4, respondents belongs to private sector answered 1.67% on scale 1,2 and 3,13.33% on scale 4 , 5% on scale 5 , respondents belongs to public sector answers 3.3% on scale 1, 1.67% on scale 2, 5% on scale 3 ,10% on scale 4, 3.33% on scale 5 , respondents belongs to business answered 5% on scale 4. **(Figure: 4).**

Respondents composed of both male and female answer to the question major benefit that decentralization has brought in, male respondents answered 6.67% on brought government closer to people , 33.3% increased people participation in decision making , 16.67% reduce conflict between state and central .female respondents answered 8.33% on brought government closer to people ,25 % increased people participation in decision making , 10 % reduce conflict between state and central **(Figure: 5).**

Respondents from various age groups answered the question major benefit that decentralization has brought in ,the respondents belonging to the age group 18-25 answers 10% on brought government closer to people , 18.3% increased people participation in decision making ,15% reduce conflict between state and central ,the respondents belongs to age group 25-35 answers 15% on increased people participation in decision making ,3.33% on reduce conflict between state and central ,respondents belongs to age group 35-45 answers 5% on brought government closer to people , 16.67% on increased people participation in decision making ,6.67% reduce conflict between state and central ,respondents belongs to age group 45-55 answers 6.67% increased people participation in decision making ,1.67% on reduce conflict between state and central ,respondents belongs to 55 and above age answers 1.67% on increased people participation in decision making **(Figure: 6).**

Respondents from various occupations answered the question major benefit that decentralization has brought in, the student answered 10% on brought government closer to people ,13.3% increased people participation in decision making ,11.67% reduce conflict between state and central ,the unemployed answered 8.3% on increased people participation in decision making ,5% reduce conflict between state and central ,the private sector covers 3.3% on brought government closer to people , 16.67% on increased people participation in decision making ,3.3% on reduce conflict between state and central respondents on public sector answers 1.67% on brought government closer to people , 18.3% increased people participation in decision making ,3.3% reduced conflict between state and central ,The respondents on business profession answers 1.67% on increased people participation in decision making ,3.3% reduce conflict between state and central **(Figure: 7)**

The respondents from different education qualifications answered major benefits that decentralization has brought in, respondents completed HSC answered 3.3% on brought government closer to people ,6.67% on increased people participation in decision making ,8.3% reduced conflict between state and central ,respondents completed UG answered 6.67% on brought government closer to people , 25% on increased people participation in decision making ,11.67% reduce conflict between state and central ,respondents completed PG answered 5% on brought government closer to people ,23.3% increased people participation in decision making ,6.67% reduce conflict between state and central ,respondents completed PHD answered 3.3% on increased people participation in decision making. **(Figure: 8)**

Respondents composed of both male and female answer to the question need for decentralization of powers in India, the male respondents 1.67% of respondents answered on 10%-20% ,8.33% of respondents on 20%-40%,26.67% of respondents on 40%-60%,15% of respondents on 60%-80%,5% of respondents on 80%-100%,female respondents on 3.33% of respondents on 10%-20% and 20%-40% , 15% of respondents on 40%-60% and 60%-80%,8.3% of respondents on 80%-100% **(Figure: 9).**

Respondents from various age group answered to the question need for decentralisation of powers in India ,respondents belongs to 18-25 of age answer 1.67% on 10%-20% ,5% on 20%-40%,20% on 40%-60% , 10% on 60%-80%,6.67% on 80%-100% and respondents belongs to age group 25 - 35 of age answer 3.3 % on 10%-20% and 20%-40%,5% on 40%-60% and 60%-80% ,1.67% on 80%-100% , respondents belongs to age group 35-45 answers 3.3% on 20%-40%,10 % on 40%-60% and 60%-80% , 1.67% on 80%-100% , respondents from age group 45-55 , answers 3.3% on 20%-40%, 10% on 40%-60% and 60%-80%, 5% on 80%-100% , respondents belongs to 55 and above age answer 1.67% on 10%-20%. **(Figure: 10).**

Respondents from various occupation answered to the question need for decentralization of powers in India ,the respondents belongs to student answers 3.3% on 10%-20% and 20%-40%, 16 .67 % on 40%-60% , 8.33% on 60%-80% , 3.3% on 80%-100% , respondents belongs to unemployed answered 5% of respondents on 40%-60% ,60%-80%, and 80%-100% ,the respondents belongs private sector answered 1.67% on 10%-20% and 20%-40% , 8.3% of respondents on 40%-60% and 60%-80% ,1.67% on 80%-100% ,respondents belongs to public sector answers 6.67% on 20%-40%, 40%-60% and 60%-80% , and 3.3% on 80%-100% ,respondents belongs to business answers 3.33% on 40%-60% and 60%-80% **(Figure: 11)**

Respondents from various qualifications answered to the question need for decentralization of powers in India and the respondents completed to HSC answers 1.67% of respondents on 10%-20% , 11.67 % of respondents on 40%-60% ,5 % of respondents on 60%-80% , respondents completed to UG answered 1.67% of respondents on 10%-20% , 6.67% of respondents on 20%-40% 16 .67% on 40%-60% and 11.67 % on 60%-80 and 6.67% on 80%-100% ,the respondents completed PG answered 1.67% on 10%-20% , 5% of respondents on 20%-40% , 11.67% on 40%-60% and 60%-80% , 5 % of respondents on 80%-100%. Respondents completed PHD answers 1.67% on 40%-60% and 60%-80%. **(Figure: 12)**

Respondents answered to the question: the major benefit that decentralization has brought in is 58.3% on increased people participation in decision making ,26.67% reduced conflict between state and central and 15% on bringing government closer to people **(Figure:13).**

Respondents answered the question Decentralization is effective in India ,50% answered on scale 4, 20% of respondents answered on scale 5,15% answered on scale 3, 8.33% answered on scale 2 and 6.67% answered on scale 1. **(Figure: 14)**

Respondents answered to the question need for decentralization of powers in India, 5% of respondents on 10%-20%, 11.67% of respondents on 20%-40%, 40% of respondents on 40%-60%, 30% of respondents on 60%-80%, 13.3% of respondents on 80%-100%. **(Figure: 15).**

Discussion:

The respondents answer to the question Decentralization is effective in India most of the respondents composed of various age groups, gender ,occupations and education rated 4 more than 50% of total respondents and 20% of respondents rated on 5 and the least rated is 1 , this shows respondents thinks that decentralization is processing good in India by rating 4 and 5 as highest , and it was effective this maybe due to the policy implementation in rural areas by local self government proves transfer of authority from central to its subordinate is effective in India. (Figure 1,2 ,3 ,4 and 14) . The respondents answer to the question benefits brought by decentralization almost 58% on increasing people participation in decision making , least is 15% on brought government closer to people , 26.67% on reduce conflict between state and central .this clears public opinion that decentralization enhance the public / people participation in decision making to improve the conditions of rural people by enhancing the knowledge of policies available to them followed by that many respondents have also suggested that it also reduce the conflict between state and central government by enhancing the accountability of government. (Figure 5, 6, 7, 8 and 13). Respondents answer to the question percentage that there is need for decentralization of powers in India almost 40% answered 40%-60%, 30% answered 60%-80%,13.3% answered 80%-100% this shows positive view of public that most of them thought there is need of decentralization in India, to improve the level of accountability of government and for better policies implementation and good governance there is need of decentralization of powers, these moreover creates checks and balances between central and state government. (Figure 9, 10, 11, 12 and 15) .

Limitation

The Major limitation of the study is the sample frame. The sample frame Collected through online platforms like sending mail, sending links via WhatsApp is the limitation of the study, the real field experience is missed out due to corona pandemic. There is no direct interaction with respondents yet another drawback of the research. Collection of data via online platforms is limiting the researcher to collect data from the field.

Suggestions:

The major suggestion to improve Decentralisation is

- by Establishing appropriate centralization,
- Developing managers,
- Providing for communication and coordination,
- Establishing adequate controls,
- Providing appropriate dispersion.

Conclusion

The transfer of authority or power from central government to its subordinate government for better implementation of policies, the study deals about the problem due to decentralization, process of decentralization and public awareness about it , Many of the respondents supported Decentralization and answered Decentralization is effective and the need for decentralization as public view is the decentralization brought people (general public) in decision making , the decentralization has succeeded on training local officials , on other hand it increase accountability, political stability, national unity and moreover Decentralization improves countries growth.

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