

**GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN SOUTH SUDAN DECENTRALIZED
SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT**

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Abstract

In the last decades, there has been an unprecedented move to decentralize national governments by transferring new faculties to local and regional governments and, in some cases by creating new echelons of government. This has often been deemed as a strategy for democratizing the state and increasing citizens' participation in public policy formation as well as letting for adequate distribution of resources across the state. In post-conflict settings, decentralized state-building is believed to result to positive outcomes ranging from increased government accountability, internal stability, increased citizens' participation and access to national resources. While decentralization strategies are sometimes well implemented with positive outcomes in some countries, in South Sudan the outcomes of decentralization remain largely insufficient. The process is faced with challenges of state-building, inequalities and localized disputes over access to resource. This suggests the question; does decentralization have a positive impact on the governance of South Sudan? Relying on the analytical framework and review of various literatures, as well as interviews with citizens and authorities at all levels of government; this study seeks to assess the viability of South Sudan's decentralized system of governance as it relates to public participation and resource distribution across the country. It is believed that the outcome of this study would be instrumental in shaping the course of decentralization in South Sudan and other parts of the world. Simple random sampling will be used in this study. The study adopts a descriptive research design. Questionnaires will be administered on, 150 respondents who are management staff of the County, who in this case forms the target population out of which a sample size of 108 shall be chosen. Data shall be collected from observation and key informant interviews. The findings will be significant to the researchers and scholars in that it will form a basis for further research on decentralization as it will act as a guide to setting up strategies of improving the success of decentralization. Data validity and reliability shall be ensured by conducting a pilot study to correct any information that is not relevant to or inconsistent with the research objectives. Data shall be analyzed by use of the data analysis method based on quantitative approach using descriptive statistics. The collected data shall be thoroughly examined and checked for completeness and comprehensibility. The data shall be summarized, edited, classified, coded and entered. This shall ensure better and efficient analysis. The coded data shall then be entered into the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) for analysis. Descriptive statistics such as mean, standard deviation and variance will be used to analyze the data. SPSS shall be used to perform the analysis as it helps in organizing and summarizing the data by the use of descriptive statistics such as tables, charts and graphs including frequency percentages of subgroups to the total population for disclosing reliability of the study also helped to measure variables, distribution size, shape and their relationship.

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