

## Decentralization Policy and Political Transition in Nepal\*

Ajay Thapa \*

### Abstract

Decentralization is one of the key reform efforts practiced in developing countries to strengthen good governance by enhancing, for instance, people's participation, transparency and accountability. Nepal has been suffering, however, from a long political transition since the 1990s. Along with political and government change in the country, Nepal has experimented with different forms of decentralization ranging from deconcentration to delegation and devolution. The Local Self Governance Act (LSGA) 1999 devolved special power, authority, roles and responsibilities to the local bodies. From the perspective of decentralization policy implementation, the periods before and after July 2002 present different contexts. Due to a prolonged political transition and changing context, the decentralization and local self-governance system in Nepal have faced several constraints and challenges in planning, implementing and monitoring local level development activities. This article discusses some of the key constraints and challenges of decentralization policy in the context of political transition in Nepal.

**Keywords:** decentralization policy, political transition, Nepal

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## Threats and Opportunities of Globalization for Rural Development: Bangladesh Perspectives

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### Abstract

In a globalized world dynamics of rural development in Bangladesh has changed immensely. This article focuses on three major impacts of globalization on rural development. In responding to the research questions that how globalization helped damage environment, what impact it made on poverty and women in Bangladesh, the author wrote this paper using mixed methods. From content analysis it was observed that globalization caused massive damage to environment such as land degradation; deforestation; soil erosion, loss of soil fertility by toxification and salinity; water logging; destruction of coral reefs, mangroves, fisheries; loss of bio-diversity and ecosystem; pollution of air and water bodies etc. Findings relating to impact of globalization on poverty unearthed the fact that exponential increases of rice production and wages of labour employed in agriculture have contributed to reduction of rural poverty in Bangladesh. The increase of agricultural growth was the end result of massive privatization of agricultural inputs in Bangladesh that in fact helped the farmers to adopt modern agricultural practices such as use of HYV, agrochemicals, pesticides, fertilizers. Constant growth with huge remittance earning also helped reducing poverty. In tandem with reducing poverty, globalization has increased income inequality in Bangladesh.

Lastly, from both content analysis and case studies, it was found that globalization has created employment opportunities of women in the export

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oriented garments industries in the export processing zones of Bangladesh. These poverty stricken rural women were migrated to capital city for work but they were exploited by the foreign investors by providing a low salary employing them in excessive hours for ensuring their optimum production. The article concludes that government should immediately enact laws so that without establishing treatment plants, nobody is allowed to set up industry in Bangladesh for the greater interest of the future generation.

Government should also create more employment opportunities in order to reduce income inequality. In order to reduce exploitation of women, government should fix minimum wage and working hours; and should help promote some basic amenities for the women workers working in foreign companies. In a globalized world, Bangladesh has no choice but to be integrated with the global economic system. Hence, the best way to deal with globalization is to coexist with it so that Bangladesh can solve its problems utilizing mutual cooperation and collaboration at regional and global levels.

**Keywords:** Impact of globalization, environment, poverty, women in rural development, Bangladesh

## Effects of Globalization on Working Women in the Private Sector of Bangladesh: A Study of the Garment Industry

Mohammad Rezaul Karim \*

### Abstract

The huge demand of frozen foods, garments and knitting accessories across the world opened the opportunity for Bangladesh to enter the global market particularly for private sector that emerges in 1980s. The high rate of unemployment creates availability of cheap labor and attracts foreign buyers. The total employee increased from 0.2 million in 1985 to 4 million in last three decades. Private sector, garment industry in particular employs more than 80 percent women for various reasons. There has been a significant increase in the women labor force who transformed from informal sector to formal sector. The globalization brought socio-economic benefits for them as well as negative aspects. This paper has an attempt to examine the impact of globalization on working women in garment sectors in Bangladesh. In order to maintain the sustainable economic and social development of Bangladesh, government should play the important role as a controlled mechanism.

**Keywords:** globalization, garment industry, working women

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## Factors Affecting the Transfer of Training among Civil Servants: The Case of Mongolia

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### Abstract

The purpose of this article is to examine causal relationships among factors that affect the transfer of training. A mixed methods approach was used, which included quantitative and qualitative methods. The findings indicate that positive transfer happens in conjunction with individual characteristics, training design, and work environment. Based on the findings and limitations of this study, the following recommendations should be considered in relation to the future training of civil servants and the development of Mongolia. First, in order to enhance the positive transfer of training, training should be developed systematically and operate as a partnership among stakeholders. Secondly, pre- and post-training evaluation is needed to look for change in how well learners have mastered the skills and knowledge. Finally, organizations can maximize their return-on-investment with regard to training and implement value-creating strategies through effective transfer of training by considering all three determinants.

**Keywords:** transfer of training, individual characteristics, training design, work environment, learning

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## **Policy Design Problems of the Community Organization Council Act, B.E. 2551**

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### **Abstract**

This article has two objectives: to identify policy design problems of the Community Organization Council Act, B.E. 2551 (COC Act, B.E. 2551), and to propose solutions in the form of amendments to the Act. The study employed documentary research, observational techniques, in-depth interviews, informal interviews, and focus group discussions.

Our findings reveal problems in four major areas: 1) lack of incentives to motivate public organizations and public officers to implement policies; 2) an inappropriate administrative structure; 3) resource dependency of Community Organization Councils (COCs) on central government agencies; 4) Council members' qualifications and incapacity to formulate policies. Almost all policy design problems stem from political conflict and compromise between two key groups, those supporting the COC Act, and those opposing the Act.

The following amendments to the COC Act are proposed: 1) the Act should specify rewards, punishments, and implementation time frames to motivate public organizations and public officers; 2) the Act should stipulate that agencies of the Ministry of Interior have clear authority to support COC activities, and that a coordinating committee should have responsibility for integrating support at different levels for COC activities, which should ease administration problems; 3) the Act should stipulate budget support or subsidy to COCs at all levels to increase independence in self-governance and to enable COCs to carry out their development activities.

**Keywords:** community organization council act, B.E. 2551, policy design, policy implementation

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## Anti-Corruption and Corruption Resolutions in Local Self-Government: A Case Study of Subdistrict Administrative Organizations (SAOs) in the Northeastern Region of Thailand

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### Abstract

This case study of Subdistrict Administrative Organizations (SAOs) in the northeastern region of Thailand aims to study: 1) forms of corruption within SAOs; 2) Thailand's anti-corruption system; and 3) problems with the anti-corruption system and corruption resolution within SAOs. The data for the research are drawn from case documents of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC), some of which are still pending, and from interviews with 63 key informants.

1) The findings reveal that most forms of corruption within SAOs are related to procurement, price inquiry, acceptance of work, and SAO personnel.

2) In regard to Thailand's corruption resolution system, the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) plays a principal role in investigation and elimination of corruption. Other agencies have also been created to investigate related aspects of corruption cases, with the aim to promote justice and uphold moral and ethical principles within government and the citizenry.

3) Problems with corruption resolution within SAOs derive in large measure from the centralized structure of NACC administration.

**Keywords:** anti-corruption system, corruption, subdistrict administrative organization

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