

## THEME: DECENTRALIZATION: A POLICY AT THE SERVICE OF THE PEOPLE

<sup>1</sup>Eugéné GABIN Nguéfack , <sup>2</sup>KUKWAH EZEKIEL BANGHA

*1(Department of Philosophy, Psychology and Sociology, Professor- University of Dschang, Cameroon)*

*2(Department of Philosophy, Psychology and Sociology, Doctor- University of Dschang, Cameroon)*

**ABSTRACT :** The close collaboration between decentralization and deconcentrated authorities are the today bringing government closer to the people. Decentralization provides local authorities with community's sovereignty, and gives the people an openness in the participation of their political affairs. Decentralization pushes us to reflect on community emancipation and development base on general interest. However, an analytical approach reveals how deep we have to go for the well functioning of decentralisation on and how to by-pass its present limitation. Importantly, how the role of decentralization shall impact national and community growth. This piece of work propose a proper communication connection between the people who are the beneficiaries, decentralization principles, and an autonomy of local communities towards their development as a means to encourage representative accountability, transparency and citizenship participation on local development. Decentralization provides a panacea for the people clamoring for greater voices in the way they are govern.

**Keywords;** *Decentralisation, development, public policy, and popular interest.*

Resume

L'étroite collaboration entre la décentralisation et les autorités déconcentrées permet aujourd'hui d'amener le gouvernement aux portes du peuple. La décentralisation confère aux autorités locales la souveraineté de la communauté et donne aux citoyens une ouverture dans la participation à leurs affaires politiques. La décentralisation nous pousse à réfléchir à l'implication des communautés et à un développement basé sur l'intérêt général. Cependant, une approche globale révèle à quel point nous devons aller en profondeur pour le bon fonctionnement de la décentralisation et comment contourner ses limites actuelles. Plus important encore, comment le rôle de la décentralisation aura un impact sur la croissance de la communauté. Ce travail propose une communication adéquate entre les bénéficiaires et les principes de la décentralisation, ainsi qu'une autonomie des communautés locales vis-à-vis de leur développement comme moyen d'encourager la responsabilité représentative, la transparence et la participation citoyenne au développement local.

**Mots-clés;** Décentralisation, développement, politiques publiques, intérêt général

### I. INTRODUCTION

For decades, numerous states have operated under a centralized state model, imposing everything to the people. Some, unitary states expressed the desire to decentralize and grant greater autonomy to local communities. With all powers concentrated in one place, local governance takes a significant hit. Decentralization have at heart the autonomy of decentralized communities, for its policies are now considered factors of local development. Decentralization was born out of a concern to give more freedom of action to local authorities and to break with the deconcentration of power. In simple terms, decentralization can be understood as a transfer of part of the power of the central State to regional or local authorities.

In the 1980s and 1990s, there was a growing concern that the center should no longer manage everything. A consensus had to be found between the people and the center so that each could carry out its mission without encroaching on the others. In Cameroon, territorial communities are legal entities of public law define by article 8 of 24 December 2019 constitution. They enjoy administrative and financial autonomy for the management of regional and local interests and, by deliberation, deal with matters within their jurisdiction. local communities have the freedom to shape their own development policies, making the development processes more efficient.

The desire to decentralized power stems from the fact that less centralized decision-making would enhance the efficiency and accountability of public institutions and the capacity of local governments. That is, with decentralization, local governance will become more effective. This is why the World Bank, views, "Decentralization has kept its promises in terms of strengthening democracy at the national level and the central

government's commitment to rural development. As we can see, it is with decentralization that democracy can regain its credentials"<sup>1</sup>. It will promote a participatory policy with more active and people in the management of their community's affairs. This work is an opportunity for us to look at the contribution of decentralization to the development of the people, and to know, how decentralization which brings more space to the people in their evolution differ from deconcentration which is also, a form of power transfer? Better still, What makes decentralization better than other political systems?

To provide answers to these questions, we will begin by showing that decentralization is an evolution of deconcentration, then we will insist on the strengths of decentralization, and finally, we will show that decentralization as liberalization of power to the people.

## 1. The Stakes of Decentralization and its evolution

### 1.1- Decentralisation and Deconcentration; engagement towards community development.

When the notions of decentralization and deconcentration are mentioned in public law, it is immediately to emphasize both their opposition and their similarity. The opposition lies in the legal technique that these two systems employ. Decentralization is the transfer of competencies from the State to decentralized territorial authorities. It means that the State transfers competencies from the State to decentralized communities, by detaching itself from certain powers that it entrusts to local elected officials. Deconcentration, on the other hand, involves the redistribution of powers within the State administration itself, from the central to the local levels.

In deconcentration, the State appoints representatives (Governors, Prefects, etc.) whose mission is to pursue central State policy and enforce its laws in their respective administrative districts. Deconcentration appears as a policy in which the central state retains its powers for a specific function, but entrusts the execution of this function outside the capital to administrative offices mostly located in regions, departments and districts. What makes deconcentration possible is the presence of administrative authorities in the administrative districts we have listed. Stéphanie Boulenger believe that the deconcentration system can be "mis en place par la responsabilisation des gouverneurs ou préfets dont les bureaux se situent en dehors de la capitale, ou par la création de directions régionales ou préfectorales de ministères ou par deux mécanismes, ce qui soulève alors des questions de coordination et de partage d'autorité"<sup>2</sup>.

Administrative authorities of the districts can make decisions without always referring to the central power. What is observed in deconcentration is the distribution of tasks so that the central authority is not overwhelmed. This process makes the action of the central administration faster and more efficient. The central administration always retains its competence and, in doing so, its mission is to direct and coordinate what happens in the administrative districts. According to the principles of deconcentration, the central administration is competent for "the general orientation, coordination, and control of the deconcentrated bodies".

In decentralization, the State creates territorial authorities to help it in its task. It is important to understand that in the decentralized unitary state, local governments do not obtain greater autonomy as is the case in federalist regimes. The sharing of competencies is applied here as opposed to the granting of very extensive autonomy. That said, the central state still has a say in the management of local governments. The effectiveness of decentralization requires that the State and the communities have the necessary resources to allow the functioning of the communities created. This logic will promote the smooth exercise of jurisdiction.

There provide deeper knowledge on local particularities for the better mastering of local context and can provide a rapid solution to their ills. This is why the state encourages the collaboration of decentralized and deconcentrated local authorities. They are both at the service of the people and can easily table the problems of the people to the central administration of they can't solve. The two strive to attain economic growth, efficiency and have top management to maintain contain degree of control over the people. They both have a role of maintaining political stability and provide a formal rule bound decision making system. This came as a solution to the people, clamoring for greater voices in the way they are being rule. Today the governmental pushing of certain responsibilities and resources to sub-national units are measures of rapid solutions to the provisions to the people's needs. The greater political goal of decentralization is political stability, reasons political decisions are being drawn to the people.

Decentralization has to do with power and resources and the evolution of these powers by the state to regional and local authorities. Power from the center to regional and authorities with the need of the better management of resources at the local level with an Intension of effective development. Their development becomes the issue of the people not longer the central business. This ensures good local governance and

<sup>1</sup> World Bank, "Decentralization, Fiscal systems, and rural development

<sup>2</sup> Boulenger, S., Gauthier, I., & al., « Déconcentration, délégation et dévolution : avantages, inconvénients et mise en place », in *Les cahiers de la série scientifique*, Montréal, août 2012.

democratic practices. The responsibilities of development becomes an affair of the beneficiaries. This means local institutions prove their work through their development and in their collaboration with the deconcentrated authority.

On the political front, local administration offers the opportunity for people to participate directly in the management of the municipality through the municipal executive. The population can administer directly through petitions and local referendums. As can be seen, the French law on Territorial Communities of 2004 in Article 72, paragraph 1 states that "in accordance with the conditions provided by law, the right to petition is granted to territorial communities." In paragraph 2, it is recognized that the acts of a territorial community can be adopted by the voters through a referendum. The responsibilities of development comes to the people who are the beneficiaries.

### 1.2- Strengths of decentralization in community growth

Unlike political centralization regimes, decentralization has a strength that can be seen on three levels: financial, political, and administrative.

At the financial level, CTDs (Decentralized territorial communities) have the freedom to dispose of their financial resources. The development processes of a commune are led by the communal power and no longer by the central power. The law on decentralization recognizes the administrative and financial autonomy of the communities. Article 8 of the Decentralization Law of December 24, 2019, on the organization of territorial authorities in Cameroon, stipulates that "Territorial authorities are legal persons under public law. They enjoy administrative and financial autonomy for the management of regional and local interests and regulate, by deliberation, the affairs of their competence"<sup>3</sup>.

The financial management of the local authorities depends on them. Article 11, paragraph 1 of this law recognizes that "the Territorial Communities have their budgets and resources for the management of regional and local interests". In this context, the Regions or municipalities are independent of their operating budget. The CTDs draw up and vote budgets, they have their resources, and they can receive funds from anyone: from the State or a private individual.

At the administrative level, the 2019 law on decentralization recognizes that "local authorities are freely administered by elected bodies, under the conditions set by law. This being the case, the administration of the communities is not imposed by the central power. Each community, through universal suffrage, chooses its leaders who administer and are accountable to the central power based in Yaoundé. What belongs to the territorial collectivities for their administration is different from what belongs to the central power. The personnel and services of the communes or regions are not dependent on or similar to those of the government in Yaoundé. Article 9 of the law on decentralization is more explicit on this subject: "The territorial authorities have their assets, personnel, public, and private domains and services, distinct from those of the state and other public bodies. The administration depends entirely on the communities. They can, if necessary, sign partnerships with whomever they wish. This is the case of the commune of Dschang, which is in partnership with the commune of Nantes. These two communes have partnerships in several areas aimed at local development in terms of politics, economy, culture, urbanization, etc.

At the political level, local administration allows the population to participate directly in the management of the commune by the communal executive. The population can administer directly through petitions and local referendums. As can be seen, the French law on territorial collectivities of 2004, in article 72, paragraph 1, states that "under the conditions provided by the law, a right of petition is granted to territorial collectivities"<sup>4</sup>. Paragraph 2 recognizes the possibility of having the acts of a territorial authority adopted by the electorate and utilizing a referendum.

Indeed, when individuals are aware of their cultural identity and beliefs, they are more inclined to actively participate in decision-making processes and advocate for their local interests. The constitutions of decentralized countries recognize localities' freedom of action while safeguarding them against excessive subjugation to the central government. The European Charter of Local Self-Government, in its Article 2, states that "the principle of local self-government shall be recognized in domestic legislation, and where practicable in the constitution." Furthermore, Article 3, paragraph 1 of the same charter considers local self-government as "the right and ability of local authorities, within the limits of the law, to regulate and manage a substantial share of public affairs." It is essential that this right be legally protected to prevent any opposition from the central authority.

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<sup>3</sup> The Decentralization Law of December 24, 2019, on the organization of territorial authorities in Cameroon

<sup>4</sup> We refer the reader to Verpeaux, M., *Le référendum local, consultations locales et constitution*, (sl), ADJA, 2003, p. 540.

In Cameroon, for instance, Article 52, paragraph 2 of the Constitutional Law of January 18, 1996, explicitly states that "[The Subnational Territorial Entities] enjoy administrative and financial autonomy for the management of regional and local interests." This means that the autonomy of Subnational Territorial Entities in Cameroon is guaranteed by the law. The autonomy of peoples or communities is not a spontaneous generation in Cameroon. It is internationally founded on the imposition of major powers. The assumption of office by.

A fundamental feature of this law is that the administration of communities is not imposed by the central government. Each territorial entity, through universal elections, has the freedom to select its leaders, who are responsible for administration and are accountable to the central government, headquartered in Yaoundé. It should be noted that the responsibilities inherent in the administration of Territorial Communities are distinct from those of the central government. The assets, personnel, and services deployed at the municipal and regional levels are neither subject to nor equivalent to those of the central administration based in Yaoundé. This distinction is explicitly stated in Article 9 of the Decentralization Law: "Territorial Communities have assets, personnel, public and private property, as well as their own services, all independent of those of the state and other public entities." Decision-making power in administrative matters rests entirely with Territorial Communities. They have the latitude to enter into partnerships as needed and according to their goals. An example illustrating this capability is provided by the municipality of Dschang in the West region, which has established a fruitful partnership with the municipality of Nantes. This collaboration extends to several areas aimed at promoting local development, whether in the political, economic, cultural, or urban sphere, and many more.

It must have the competence to generate revenue (through taxes, fees, etc.) and shape its budget with operational independence. In essence, whether in the context of territorial decentralization (where local entities are granted powers and responsibilities) or technical decentralization (where specialized bodies are established to manage specific domains), it remains of paramount importance that this moral entity has the necessary human and material resources to effectively carry out its administrative missions. This necessity also implies the allocation of adequate financial autonomy, enabling it to sovereignly manage its financial resources.

## II- THE PREVAILING SEED OF AUTONOMY TO LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

### 2.1 Decentralization and the autonomy of the communities

When we speak of decentralization, we note a liberalization of power that gives the people the opportunity to participate in the management of community affairs as early mentioned. By the people, we mean "the collection of human atoms gifted with the legitimacy to elect"<sup>5</sup>. Presently, the people are involved in the management of the affairs of their city if not directly through their representatives who will act in the same manner as the whole if there were there. The people are an essential link in the local administrative management. It is the people who, through the election of local elected officials, give them the privilege of representing them and speaking for them.

Let's remember that decentralization means transferring competencies from the State to local authorities. This is done because the government wants to get closer to the people and integrate them into its management. The State is content to play the role of controller, advisor, and manager of sectoral programs. The rest is up to the people of the community. Through decentralization, participatory democracy is privileged. The local elected officials will henceforth be Jean Pierre Maya who leaves the power of the community in the hands of its inhabitants. It is recognized in the history of popular participation as a model. Indeed, we are in 1971 and when this one reaches power in the commune of Vantecourt, he revolutionizes the politics of his locality by making integrating the 600 inhabitants of this locality into the management of the commune. His project is not to govern, but to put the population in the political animation. Thus, three bodies will be set up: the council of sages (which concerns the sages), the council of fools (which concerns the children), and the council of societies (which concerns the village associations). All the members who make up these councils gather to propose, debate, and distribute the tasks for the good running of the commune this can be seen in the words of Thomas Paine that, society is produced by our wants and it is the promoter of our happiness. This can only be if the people are given the authority to choose what they want and how to manage it themselves. The management of the commune no longer sidelines the population as in the centralization of power.

When things do not work in the community, each citizen is free to make demands on the elected officials. The 2019 law on the organization of decentralized territorial communities in ARTICLE 40, paragraph (1) provides: "Any natural or legal person may formulate, for the attention of the Communal or Regional Executive, any proposals tending to boost the development of the Territorial Community concerned or to improve its functioning." The Communal or Regional Executive is therefore not above the will of the people.

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<sup>5</sup> Alian Badiou, Pierre Bourdieu, Judith Butler, Georges Didi-huberman, Sadri Khiari and Jacques Rancière, *What is a People*, introduced and concluded by Bruno Bosteels and Kevin Olson, Trans by Jody Gladding, New York, Columbia University Press, 2016, P.22

The people have the law on their side to decide the fate of their leaders. It is clear that here, the local executive cannot play with the expectations of the people. It becomes an absolute value that must be preserved for the proper functioning of the local government. A person that is not treated at their true value can be a danger to the functioning and progress of a group. Decentralization, therefore, allows local elected officials not to play games with their people, but to have them on their side for progress.

It is obvious that it is only through decentralization that power is able to ensure the people's well-being. Stéphanie Boulenger and her co-authors show that when decentralization is well ensured, it favors a better treatment and management of public services. This favors the improvement of public service performance, which has a positive impact on the lives of citizens. They affirm in this sense that in many countries decentralization is used. "Ceci s'explique par le fait que lorsque la décentralisation est bien préparée et mise en œuvre judicieusement, elle amène une amélioration de la prestation de services suite à une meilleure prise en compte des besoins des résidents par les décideurs des entités décentralisées<sup>6</sup>.

This express the zeal of councils transforming their resources at their economic levels into firms that, can't only accumulate but put in its active population into duty and as well bring in potential workers into the community. This gives the council the possibilities of transforming their few materials into secondary products. Transformation of products increases the community's capacity and autonomy and reduces its dependency on the state for subventions. This can be done with the assistance of the state to see its communities transform from mere producers of materials of missives primary products to advanced technological goods at the benefits of the nations. In doing this, the state through its ministry of decentralization can in each year instead of given out its subvention to all the councils, reduces the number to five and do a follow up and the same process in the subsequent years to empower its councils. This gives the community and advantage of intercommunity development and transmissible processes of development. People work together base on the general interest of the community which is the basic of the community development. This calls for collective actions to evaluates community stands. It's from solving the collective problems that can reduce the rate of unemployment and migration of potential youths out of the community

## 2.2 Improvement and effectiveness of decentralisation

Fundamentally decentralization is a political process that deals with political powers. For the political will to be decentralized, becomes very difficult, if it was to be effective compared to others, it would have been more concretized. The government of Cameroon allocated 15% of the national budget to the council. These councils are the main stake holders of local development and not only the money is small but the council don't get the amount promised yet of which, others countries are 30-40% of national resources. This is what could foster development at the level of the councils in terms of local development. This sounds more like the centralization of decentralization and this becomes a problem to manage health , light and roads issues at the local level. The financial resources are very insufficient compared to the needs of local development in the country. There are more centralization tendencies, the rule of supervisory authorities over the decentralized authorities are more like dominating to them. Councils do need supervisions but the laws-makes it in a way that the deliberations of regional authorities can't go through without a helping hand of the supervisory authorities, blocking the autonomy of the councils. Instead of the technical counseling, they are to be giving to the councils, or assistance, it's more of many countries and presidents within the same country. They limit the councils in what they can deliberate on and propose.

From a communicative perspective of decentralization, it needs to be an intentional process like JOHN MARKS well say "Everyone Communicates But Few Connects", this concept needs to be connected with the people in terms of communication. There is more to communicate on our actual concept but there is little or no connection between the Information and the people. Many hears of decentralization but can tell what it is consist of. people need a proper connection and sensitization on what this is about and how it can implicate a change in them. Bearing in mind the diversity of communities in terms of cultures, it shouldn't have a general adaptation process but allow open to contextual applicability of the communities in relation to the cultures of the people. in order to be received communicated and sustained. it needs a cultural connotations that can involve the people without destroying them.

Professor Cosmos Charkas says "the effectiveness of decentralization depends on the favorableness of environment of its implementation". In Cameroon for example, it is an old concept that can be trace back to the 1996 laws and the 2004 constitutions spelling out Cameroon as a decentralizes unitary state. 2019 laws on decentralization with the Grand national dialogue and the Special Status to the North West And South West regions of Cameroon strengthened its stakes of decentralization. It is effective at the level of legislative institution and the ministry of decentralization as well as the organization of elections of decentralized local

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<sup>6</sup> Boulenger, S., Gauthier, I., & al., « Déconcentration, délégation et dévolution : avantages, inconvénients et mise en place », *op. cit.*

authorities to design regional and local representative. In order measure, the government has devolve decentralization in some government technical services up 20 ministries devolving the competence to councils like the ministry of decentralization that gives to councils a sum of 100million to councils every year for decentralization project, Ministry of public works gave 27million for the past years for councils development. These are approaches towards speeding up local development in Cameroon.

### III. CULTURAL PRESEVERATON AND COMMUNITY GROWTH

#### The role of traditional authorities in decentralization and community growth

Decentralization grants local authorities the opportunity to manage the affairs of their locality, often placing traditional leaders at the forefront. Within the administration in Cameroon, traditional Chiefs emerge as integral auxiliaries. In their capacity as traditional authorities, they closely collaborate with administrative bodies, serving as key liaisons between the administration and residents. Decree number 77/245 of July 15, 1977, elevates traditional chieftaincies to a stratum within the administrative framework. Through the constitutional law of January 18, 1996, traditional chieftaincies gain representation, thus securing a place within the Regional Council. These indispensable actors for local well-being assume multiple roles within decentralized territorial communities.

The roles played by traditional Chiefs in contributing to local development align perfectly with the provisions outlined in decentralization legislation. As clearly stipulated in paragraph 1 of Article 40 of Law No. 2019/024 of December 24, 2019, on the General Code of Decentralized Territorial Communities, "Any natural or legal person may propose, to the attention of the Municipal or Regional Executive, any suggestions aimed at promoting the development of the respective Territorial Community or improving its functioning." The foundation of these laws resides in Article 41 of the same code, which goes even further by specifying that "local associations and civil society organizations, as well as neighborhood and village committees, contribute to achieving the goals of Territorial Communities." This reading clearly reveals the pivotal role that traditional chieftaincies are obligated to play in fostering local development, as mandated by legal texts. The reading of Decree No. 77/245 of July 15, 1977, on the Organization of traditional chieftaincies is quite explicit regarding the role of the traditional Chief in matters of development. In the forefront, traditional Chiefs can "contribute, under the guidance of competent administrative authorities, [...] to the economic development [...] of their command units<sup>7</sup>." In the background, traditional authorities "must carry out any other mission entrusted to them by the local administrative authority." Traditional authorities are required to provide their support to all sectors working towards local development: pastoral, mining, cultural, and more.

Furthermore, with decentralization, Traditional Chiefs serve as advocates for human rights and freedoms, as well as promoters of peace. The issue of human rights and freedoms, being a matter of universal concern, resonates at the local level through the intervention of traditional leaders. In order to promote human values at their level, they take on the responsibility of disseminating national and international laws that govern the protection of human rights among their populations. Their message serves a dual purpose: firstly, they educate the populace about their own rights and the rights of those they interact with daily. Secondly, Traditional Chiefs teach their communities to be considerate of others. Since traditional authorities are champions of rights, they are obligated to ensure that none of these rights are violated anywhere or at any time. If there is resistance within the populations, traditional legal instruments allow them to enforce order.

If traditional authorities are tasked with informing the population about international human rights issues, they must also do so for matters at the African level. In Africa, the protection of human rights is the responsibility of the African Union and sub-regional organizations. This protection is based on texts such as the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of June 27, 1981, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child of July 1, 1990, and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa of July 11, 2003. These texts establish institutions responsible for ensuring the respect of these rights by the laws we have mentioned. The populations in villages, often distant from these proceedings, rely on the availability of traditional chiefs to gain knowledge of these matters. With decentralization, they have more autonomy to achieve this.

Traditional Chiefs in villages not only promote the defense of rights as it occurs beyond our borders but also inform the populations about what happens at the national and local levels. At the national level, the primary instrument for the protection of rights is the constitution, which is the fundamental law of a country. In the preamble of the constitution, there is an assertion of the rights and freedoms of individuals, affirming the importance of human dignity and justice "son attachement aux libertés fondamentales inscrites dans la déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme, [...] la Charte africaine des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples"<sup>8</sup>. After making this statement, she acknowledges the rights and freedoms of the citizen and entrusts the

<sup>7</sup> Article 20 paragraph 2 of Decree No. 77/245 of July 15, 1977 on the organization of traditional chieftaincies.

<sup>8</sup> Préambule de la Loi Constitutionnelle du 18 janvier 1996.

development and protection of these rights to the law. In addition to the constitution, independent institutions such as the Cameroon Human Rights Commission are established.

At the local level, the actions of traditional leaders can be appreciated, considering their commitment to combating human rights violations. In the 2019 decentralization law, among the powers transferred to decentralized territorial collectivities, we find rights to education, protection, housing, health, a clean environment, employment, and entertainment<sup>9</sup>. Playing the role of advisors to decentralized local authorities, traditional leaders must ensure that they make every effort to uphold these rights. When rights are not respected, as we've mentioned, traditional leaders do not stand idly by. They take a number of measures, such as sanctions, to address misconduct within their community.

Traditional authorities, as custodians of security and justice within their community, make every effort to enforce customary justice without prejudice to the law in response to any human rights violations. At the chieftaincy level, there are bodies responsible for managing contentious situations that may infringe upon human rights. This includes the Traditional Reconciliation Chamber within the Foréké-Dschang chieftaincy, whose mission is to resolve issues among the population. Additionally, in the absence of customary courts, some chieftaincies opt for revitalizing the "palaver tree." These institutions are approached by the people who believe their rights are threatened. Traditional leaders and notables take up the matter and strive to find a satisfactory solution for all parties involved. If they are unable to reach a reconciling judgment, they escalate the issue to local administrative and judicial authorities (municipal or regional). It's important to note that traditional authorities do not operate in isolation; they collaborate with all the authorities within the municipality.

### **Educational enhancement of decentralization**

By delegating the responsibility for education to local authorities, it becomes possible to develop educational programs that reflect the values and cultural specificities of each region. Decentralization is a political and administrative concept that involves transferring certain powers and responsibilities from the central government to local territorial entities, such as regions, departments, or municipalities. This approach aims to facilitate better decision-making at the local level, encourage citizen participation, and improve the management of public resources. For decentralization to be effective and beneficial to society, it is crucial to educate the people about the underlying values.

Education about the concept of decentralization helps raise awareness among the population about the importance of local decision-making. Understanding that the issues and needs of one region or municipality may differ from those of others, citizens are more inclined to support decentralization. They realize that decisions made by local elected officials who are familiar with local realities are likely to be more appropriate and effective than decisions made hundreds of kilometers away at the central government level. This understanding also strengthens the sense of belonging to a local community, which can promote social cohesion and economic development.

Furthermore, education about the values of decentralization encourages citizen participation. Citizens are informed about their rights and responsibilities as actors in local political life as confirmed that; "reasons to implement decentralization are diverse, ranging from traditional economic pressure to internal demands for increased citizens participation"<sup>10</sup>. Decentralization reduces the probabilities of governmental misbehaviors, for government turns to be more accountable with public spending becoming more efficient. Thus increasing citizen's participation in the process for the policy results to be more sustainable and a reduction in conflict. They understand that they have a role to play in the decision-making process and can influence public policies by participating in debates, expressing their opinions, and electing their local representatives. This active participation not only improves the quality of decisions but also enhances citizens' trust in local institutions.

With education, citizens are sensitized to the need for efficient and transparent use of public funds. They are encouraged to closely monitor the expenses and investments made by local elected officials, which helps prevent corruption and wastage of resources. It does not only bring government closer to the people but improves governance. This is why in a book entitled *Making Decentralization Work*, they made us to understand that decentralization is a term that has; "such performance-related indicators as basic service delivery, transparency and levels of corruption [...] the ability of principals to monitor agents through greater flows of information between the agent and the principal"<sup>11</sup>. Education about the concept of decentralization also motivates citizens to participate in the evaluation and monitoring of local policies to ensure that set objectives are achieved and the population's needs are addressed.

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<sup>9</sup> See Code General of Decentralized territorial authorities, articles 156 to 163 and 267 to 273..

<sup>10</sup> *Decentralization and Governance in Indonesia*, edited by Ronald L. Holzhaecker, Rafael Wittek, and Johan Woltjer, Netherland, Springer, 2016, P. 80

<sup>11</sup> *Makin Decentralization Work ; Democracy, Development and Security*, edited by Ed Connerly, Kent Eaton and Paul Smoke, London, Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2010, P.41

As we can see, educating the people about the values of decentralization is a crucial element in ensuring the success of this political concept. By understanding the importance of local decision-making, actively participating in their community's political life, and ensuring transparent and efficient management of public resources, citizens contribute to strengthening democracy and promoting sustainable development in their country. Therefore, education about the values of decentralization should be a priority for governments and educational institutions to create an informed and engaged society.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

This reflection, was to show the contribution of decentralization to the development of the people and the communities. We stood for council or community industrialization, with their resources busying the active population through the transformation of raw materials. It should be noted that decentralization in the contemporary world is in a good position to allow the development of the people within the decentralized territorial communities. This is because, they must work hand in hand with others to meet up with their needs and ensure the progress of the community. This explains why Paine affirms that “the strength of one man is so unequal to his wants and his mind so unfitted for perpetual solitude, that he is soon obliged to seek assistance and relief of another, who in his return requires the same”<sup>12</sup>. The collective efforts of the people are what is needed to boost the people’s development. In this context, political systems of governance must move towards decentralization. However, there is one condition for decentralization to be effective: the central government must remain in its place and allow local elected officials the freedom to carry out their social projects, in turn, local elected officials must not seek to flout the authority of the central government. The desires of the people should be the goal of power manifestation. It has been seen that, decentralization is packaging district or communal industrialization to improve local development and the improvement living conditions of the people. The joy of every people increases with their ability to solve their problems and decide on their future.

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