



Decentralization and socioeconomic rights in Arab Countries

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Arab forum for alternatives AFA

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This booklet analyzes the relationship between decentralization and economic and social rights in four Arab countries: Morocco, Sudan, Egypt, and Lebanon, highlighting their administrative experiences and legislative frameworks.

The book consists of seven papers as follows:

1. decentralization history in Arab Countries
2. Decentralization in Egypt and socioeconomic rights
3. Decentralization in Lebanon and socioeconomic rights
4. Decentralization in Sudan and socioeconomic rights
5. Decentralization in Morocco and socioeconomic rights
6. the Decentralization and socioeconomic rights in Arab Countries.

In summary, this booklet underscores the critical role of decentralized governance in ensuring economic and social rights, while highlighting the need for reforms to address systemic challenges and inequalities.

Administrative Decentralization in Arab Countries:

This booklet discusses the varying experiences of administrative decentralization across four Arab countries: Morocco, Sudan, Egypt, and Lebanon. It highlights both the unique and shared legislative and political characteristics of decentralization in these nations.

- The study compares administrative decentralization in Morocco, Sudan, Egypt, and Lebanon.
- Each country has distinct political and administrative experiences, yet shares common legislative traits.
- The analysis focuses on the implications of decentralization for economic and social rights.

Historical Context of Decentralization:

The historical evolution of administrative structures in these countries is examined, particularly in relation to colonial and post-colonial governance.

- Egypt underwent several administrative divisions, notably during the French occupation and under Muhammad Ali, leading to the establishment of a structured administration in 1923.
- Sudan experienced administrative changes post-independence, particularly under Jaafar Nimeiri's rule (1969-1985).
- Lebanon's decentralization discussions began early in its independence, with significant reforms occurring in 1943 and 1989.

Legislative Framework and International Commitments:

This booklet outlines the international commitments of these countries regarding economic and social rights, emphasizing their legislative frameworks.

- All four countries signed international covenants on economic and social rights, with Egypt signing on August 4, 1976.

- Lebanon ratified the covenant on March 18, 1991, while Sudan and Morocco followed suit in 1991 and 1999, respectively.
- The legislative frameworks in these countries reflect their commitment to uphold economic and social rights.

Legal Frameworks and Decentralization:

This booklet discusses the legal frameworks governing decentralization in various Arab countries, noting the inconsistencies and gaps that hinder effective implementation.

- Legal frameworks for decentralization vary significantly across countries.
- Many laws are outdated or lack clarity, affecting local governance.
- There is a need for comprehensive legal reforms to support decentralization efforts.
- Effective implementation of decentralization requires alignment between laws and local needs.

Role of Decentralization in Socioeconomic Rights:

The relationship between decentralization and the enhancement of economic and social rights is explored.

- Decentralization is linked to improved access to basic services and the empowerment of marginalized groups.
- The study emphasizes the importance of local governance in ensuring the realization of economic and social rights.
- Key elements for effective decentralization include local autonomy, accountability, and resource allocation.

Also; This chapter examines the role of local authorities in ensuring economic and social rights across different Arab countries. It emphasizes the varying effectiveness of local governance in addressing community needs.

- Local authorities play a crucial role in providing basic services and ensuring rights.
- There is significant variation in the effectiveness of local governance across the region.
- Economic rights are often inadequately addressed, particularly in marginalized communities.
- Local governance structures need strengthening to better serve citizens' needs.

Decentralization in Lebanon:

This chapter discusses the movement towards decentralization in Lebanon, highlighting the legal frameworks and public sentiment surrounding this shift. It emphasizes the need for a more equitable distribution of resources and governance.

- The push for decentralization is linked to legal reforms and proposals.
- There is a lack of strong public demand for decentralization, which affects its implementation.
- The current governance structure is criticized for being inefficient and inequitable.

- The relationship between decentralization and economic rights is explored, particularly in the context of resource distribution.

Socioeconomic rights and Decentralization in Morocco:

This chapter outlines Morocco's progress in decentralizing public services, particularly in electricity and water management. It notes the role of private partnerships in enhancing service delivery.

- Morocco has made strides in decentralizing public services, especially in urban areas.
- The management of electricity and water services is increasingly privatized.
- Regulatory oversight is crucial for ensuring equitable service distribution.
- The country has implemented laws to support renewable energy initiatives.

Socioeconomic rights and Decentralization in Egypt:

This chapter highlights the challenges faced by Egypt in implementing decentralization, particularly in public service delivery and governance. It points to the need for clearer legal frameworks and better resource allocation.

- Egypt struggles with effective decentralization, impacting public service delivery.
- There is a significant gap in service quality between urban and rural areas.
- Legal frameworks for decentralization are often unclear and inadequately enforced.
- The lack of local governance capacity hampers effective service management.

Conclusion on Decentralization in Arab Region:

This booklet concludes with reflections on the future of decentralization in the Arab region and its potential to foster economic and social rights.

- The ongoing discussions around decentralization highlight its significance in addressing local needs and governance challenges.
- The study calls for further research on the impact of decentralization on economic and social rights in the Arab context.



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