

論文の英文要旨

論文題目

Empirical research on the possibility of collaboration between the paramount chief and youth for local development activities in the local government system - through the long-term monitoring of local development project in Sierra Leone -

氏名

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The research question in this paper is whether the Local Government Act, 2004 conduces to improvement in the paramount chief's interventions by strengthening people's participation in decision making on local development, information-sharing and collaboration with the local council, which was revitalized after the civil war, and leads to increasing the people's, in particular, the youth's satisfaction and what is the factor.

The civil war that broke out in Sierra Leone in 1991 became aggravated and the end of the war was declared in January 2002. One of the important challenges after the war the international societies paid attention to is the local governance system reform, which focuses on decentralization, and democratic governance and development.

There is an argument that in order to advance the local government system reform that benefits the people, it is necessary to clarify the relationship among the chief, the local council staff, and the local councilor and it is desirable to discuss the ideal way of decentralization based on the hearing from more people. Some researches indicate that one of the factors behind the war was rebellion by many local youth who were victims of the slavery, which substantially continued even after its abolition before independence, and the arbitrary rule of the paramount chief. However, other studies discuss that paramount chief protects the people from centralized governance and abuse of the bureaucratic power, and chiefs are supported by the people.

This paper focuses on democratic local development process and clarifies the results of interview survey of the people. Interview surveys were conducted with the people in the previous study. But this paper shows the results of three-year survey of the people through the fixed point observation. Based on these results, this paper aims at showing the significant elements for ensuring community activities in more democratic manner and recommendations for the local governance system reform.

First, this paper showed the interview survey results. It was clarified that the youth's participation not only in decision-making opportunity on community activities but in community activities have generally improved. It was also clarified that the youth and senior people including "former youth" before the war, recognized continuously improved in the paramount chief's interventions. Based on the results of the survey, this paper proposed more specific question such as "What are the factors that improve the paramount chiefs' interventions to community activities?"

To clarify the answer to the question, this paper first reviewed the history of the chiefdom system in West Africa and summarized the history of local governance system and fluctuations of the paramount chiefs' influence in Sierra Leone. The British colonial government introduced indirect rule in protectorates into several colonies. In Sierra Leone, the native administration system was gradually introduced into the protectorate of the hinterland. The relationship between the colonial government and the paramount chief was gradually strengthened in a mutually beneficial manners. In 1961, Sierra Leone became independent, but the district council was abolished in 1972, and the chiefdom system became the only local administration system. The paramount chief gradually became more influential and strengthened his position by connecting with the central political power and taking over the authority of land management.

This paper also showed the progress of the local governance system reform. The Local Government Act, 2004 aimed at modifying the local governance structure by establishing the local council between central and chiefdom levels. The local council consisted of representatives who were elected. In 2010, the government of Sierra Leone enforced the decentralization policy to promote enforcement of decentralization by assignment of district officer representing the central government to supervise and strengthen coordination with the chief. There are also moves to improve transparency of customary chiefdom system such as the Chieftaincy Act, 2009 to stipulate how to elect the paramount chief. Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development has formulated "Code of Ethics and Service Standards" and also makes efforts to enhance the capacity of the chiefs by training them nationwide.

Then, this paper discussed results of the case study and the interview survey. The local council staff recognized that consistent and close cooperation with the paramount chief is important for the smooth response to the concerns in the local development project. The interview survey results revealed that the main factors for improvement of the chief's interventions to community activities were the advice from local council staff and the chief's high ability. Many of the chiefs interviewed are, so called, new chiefs who were elected after the war. They are well-educated and some of them have experience in working for development projects. Having the ability to fully understand one's own responsibilities and demonstrate administrative skills is also considered to be one of the factors for improving the chief's interventions. It was revealed that these factors lead to the chief's behavior change and the efforts of the local governance system reform penetrated into the local community to the extent that people including the youth can realize improvement in their participation in the decision-making opportunity on community activities.

Although the results of the interview show some challenges on the paramount chiefs, young people and current senior people who are "former youth" before the civil war continue to appreciate the chief's interventions to community activities. From the recognition of young people that community activities are being carried out more democratically, the repression of young people by the chief, which has been pointed out as one of the factors of the civil war, has been improved. It is also clarified that gradual development of the related acts and policies, and strengthening coordination between the local council and the paramount chief support the realization of more democratic community activities intended by the local governance system reform.

In the future, in order to minimize the issues concerning the paramount chief and promote further democratic community activities, it is indispensable to modify and enforce the acts and policies related to the local governance system reform, and to develop the capacity of local council staff, paramount chiefs and other important stakeholders. The two wheels of improvement in the coordination system with the chiefs and promotion of the enforcement will lead to the sustainable and more democratic local governance system reform.