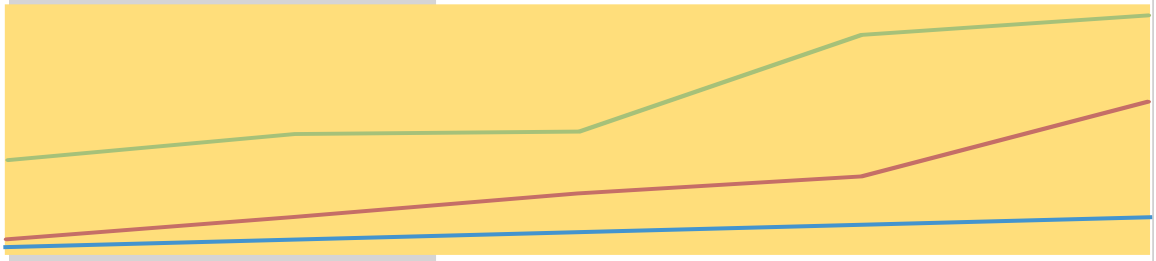
Local Governance and Decentralization in Bangladesh

Politics and Economics

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LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND DECENTRALIZATION IN BANGLADESH

Politics and Economics

This book is a comprehensive treatise providing substantive empirical evidences on local governance and decentralization in Bangladesh from perspective of politics and economics. In this book, we are concerned with local governance where 'meaningful authority' is devolved to local units of governance that are accessible and accountable to the local citizenry, who enjoy full political rights and liberty. This book provides critical analysis of political and economic demand and supply side issues of local governance and decentralization. Among those, the five key issues include (1) the issue of socio-economic class structure of local population, (2) the issue of construction of index variables - in the form of scores, (3) the issue of causal dimensions of performance, (4) the issue of decentralization and governance nexus, and (5) the issue of people first. Based on indepth triangulated analysis of quantitative and qualitative nature, it is argued that local governance has the potential to democratize because of its greater capacity for responsiveness and representativeness.

The conclusion arrived is that, in order to serve the people, especially those who are excluded -the poor, marginalized, women, children, older people-and to accelerate the process of development with distributive justice - institutionalization of pro-poor, pro-equity, gender sensitive and participatory local governance and decentralization system should be treated as a necessary precondition. And, accordingly deployment of all innovative means and ways of production and reproduction of relevant knowledge and application of those knowledge for the people, especially for all the poor and marginalized section of the population is another precondition to ensure real human development. This book is a step towards that.

