



Asante, Felix Ankomah

### **Economic Analysis of Decentralisation in Rural Ghana**

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Many countries around the world have been attempting – for several reasons and with various degrees of intention and success – to create or strengthen local governments in recent years. Ghana is one of these countries and since 1998 has been going through a decentralisation process, that is moving decision-making from the national (center) to the district and community levels – a bottom up approach. Many rationales for decentralisation may be discerned in the literature and in practice. The most common theoretical rationales for decentralisation are: to attain allocative efficiency in the face of different local preferences for public goods and services and equity and distributional concerns – poverty reduction. In this context, this study performs an economic analysis of decentralisation in rural Ghana specifically addressing the following issues: has the decentralisation helped in the delivery of public goods and services and to what extent has the access to public goods and services helped to reduce poverty? Education, health and water were the public goods and services studied. Quantitative and qualitative techniques are used to address these issues.

*Contents:* Conceptual framework and theory of decentralisation – Decentralisation, provision of public goods and services and incidence of poverty in Ghana – Decentralisation policy and implications for provision and efficiency of social services – Decentralisation and poverty reduction.

The Author: Felix Ankomah Asante received his BSc and MPhil in Agricultural Economics from the University of Ghana, Legon in 1990 and 1995, respectively. Since 1996 he has been a Research fellow at the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) of the University of Ghana. His research interest includes among others household poverty reduction, decentralisation, public goods and services, specifically education, health and drinking water. In 2002, Felix Asante obtained his PhD from the University of Bonn, Germany.

Ich bestelle

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