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**Expert Group Meeting on Integrating a Family Perspective in the SDGs in the Arab Countries: Aspirations and Challenges**

# **The Importance of the Role of Government on Integrating a Family Perspective in Development: Korean Experience**

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# I. Introduction

## (1) Successful transformation of South Korea

- ❖ After the WWII only few Less-Developed Countries(LDCs) achieved development
- ❖ South Korea has successfully transformed in three decades 1960-1990
  - Agrarian Society to an industrialized one
- ❖ Overcome the tragic period after the Korean War
  - Population grew from 30mil. In 1953 to 51 mil in 2016
  - By 2015, the country became the 13<sup>th</sup> largest economy, and the 6<sup>th</sup> largest trading nation in the world.
- ❖ The Korean society has changed with industrial promotion; improve family lives, and achieved sustainable development
- ❖ Korea could be a good example for many countries who have not reached that level

# I. Introduction

## (2) Transformation of the Korean Economy



# I. Introduction

## (3) Role of Government

- ❖ Theoretically, the role of government will be different according to political system.
  - In the market-driven economies, the government would require to minimize economic intervention and encourage the private sector
  - Government involves monetary and fiscal policies and manages the economy to encourage growth and development
- ❖ The main objective of the government will be keeping peace and prosperity of the country. It is worth noting that some basic concept of the role of government.
- ❖ We bring three main issues; national security, the law and order and the provision of public goods, and include governance and micro issues on sustainable development

# II. The Role of Government

## (1) National Security

- ❖ National security is top priority for any country to protect the people, property and the territory. This will make secure people do engage in economic activities and grow.
- ❖ Korea successfully kept national security after the Korean War in 1953 though the security has been kept with the Armistice.
- ❖ Korea attracted FDIs, and achieved industrialization
- ❖ There are many countries who are not successful in national security
  - Syria; 11mil. out of 25mil. were displaced, crisis is still on
  - Afghanistan ; 1mil were displace in 2016/2017, often bombing
  - Yemen; 3.3mil. were displaced and 2mil. are in temporary shelter.
  - Iraq; fighting with the Islamic State(IS)
  - Daily living of the people are not sustainable nor economic activities
  - Affecting education of children, health care, women, elderly, etc.

# II. The Role of Government

## (2) Law and Order

- ❖ Basic for safety of the people and depended upon how the government can manage the order of the society
  - Well trained police; can keep the law and order
- ❖ South Korea has high standard of law and order
  - Possible with the improved capacity of the central and regional governments.
  - Organization of the government organizations, and proper policies
  - Public awareness and public morality from education
  - Lowest ratio of crime rate among industrialized countries.
  - Highest participation ratio in the tertiary education in the world
- ❖ Many countries do not keep the law and order which inhibits economic activities and affect daily life of the citizens
- ❖ It would require education and public perception of the citizen on common laws and public morality.

# II. The Role of Government

## (3) Provision of Public Goods

- ❖ Public goods; include social overhead capital, infrastructure, education and training
  - Public goods are directly related to economic development; enabling business environment and improving living standard and social welfare.
- ❖ The Korean government managed to provide high level of SOCs and social infrastructure
  - Well managed government revenue, foreign aid, foreign borrowing
  - Effectively implemented policies; supporting private businesses
  - Education sector; improved the capacities of the public and private sectors, and improved health care, social welfare systems
- ❖ In LDCs, mismanagement of government budget, and inefficient policies on the economy, discourage the private sector with a lot of corruption
  - Lack of resources for SOC investment, lack of quality workers in the public and private sectors



# III. Political Aspects of the Government

## (1) Governance

- ❖ How well the government rules the country; good governance
  - Affects development and family lives
- ❖ In South Korea; top people are join the public sector; job security, public perception, social recognition
  - Long tradition to be civil servant even during the Chosun Kingdom more than 600 years
- ❖ High level of revenue management skill is required to governments.
- ❖ Capacities of civil servants and the public sector determine the quality of public services.
  - Effectiveness of policies, public services, management
- ❖ Many developing countries; do not have quality civil servants
  - Low level of social status, corruption, low income, inefficient policies

# III. Political Aspects of the Government

## (2) Micro Level Issues

- ❖ Necessary to keep some norms and rules among village residents and individuals.
- ❖ In Korea, New village Movement(NVM) during 1960s
  - Successfully developed rural areas; higher income and improved living environment, changed the life style of family members
- ❖ Korean transformation of the society at the micro level
  - Changes life style in rural areas; family centered, more individualistic
  - Some traditional customs remain and progressed. Eg) strong education motivation
- ❖ Many LDCs; very limited community level development campaign
  - Have traditions; not helpful for development, less attention to community level development,
  - Difficult to gather public opinion, and village level policies

# III. Political Aspects of the Government

## (3) Human Resource Development

- ❖ Human capital is one of the critical factors for development
- ❖ Key success factor for the Korean development
- ❖ Korean culture on education; social order of scholar and determination for better life, devotion by parents, very competitive society, why not me?
- ❖ Government policies; focus on public interest, provide education systems, and people-centered policies
  - Top level in the PISA completion in science and mathematics
- ❖ In Korea, with natural resources; way to develop the country-using well educated and trained human resources
  - Utilization of human resources; industrial promotion
- ❖ LDCs; limited capacity to provide good education; not enough budget for schools and higher education, TVET, the quality of teachers
  - Government policies should be better prepared for education

# III. Political Aspects of the Government

## (4) Future Prospects

- ❖ The era of the 4<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution; require new ways of development
  - Rapid technological progress; less people needed in industries, increase unemployment rate, Korean youth are also facing difficulties for jobs.
- ❖ Korea has the lowest birth rate in the world; negative influence for the sustainability of society.
- ❖ Despite the changes, Korean society is still moving upward
- ❖ LDCs should prepare for the new era; many countries are promoting the similar industries; may face problems of sustainability
  - Family lives can be improved by the government-led development policies adjusting according to the rapid changes in technologies

# V. Conclusion

- ❖ SDGs can be better achieved by the government provide effective policies and implement them most effective way
- ❖ Top priority for the government: national security, the law and order, the provision of public goods need to be kept
- ❖ Korean experience: can an example for many developing countries
  - Governance, and the basic objectives
  - Human resource development
  - Micro level development like the New Village Movement in Korea
- ❖ Integrating family in SDGs; the role of government should be crucial
- ❖ Korea succeeded to develop within a short period of time; lessons to learn to developing countries
- ❖ LDCs should prepare for the new era of 4<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution
  - Should be able to absorb rapid technology development
  - Prepare for social changes

**Q & A**

**Thank you!**