

Participatory Democracy and Budgeting

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Abstract

Participatory budgeting which was emerged at the end of the 1980's and enables citizens to participate in a system that is in accordance with the free will to decide directly related to budget spending and priorities. This budgeting system showed a great development in recent years, particularly to ensure the direct participation of the public in local government budgeting process.

It is necessary to fulfil the conditions such as participation of quantity, quality and the degree of transformation of choices to services furthermore the contribution of processes to the quality of life and how to determine the rules and conditions in order to ensure participation the participatory budgeting process. As the examples of participatory budgeting were assessed it can be seen that there was an improvement by years as the quantity and quality of participation. In this context, the first example of this practice has been realized in the Brazilian city of Porto Alegre and has found application areas in North America and Europe with Latin American countries. One reason for the applying in the participatory budgeting system, The Participative Budget has proved that is a quite successful system in using the resources efficiently and to avoid corruption and mishandling of public funds. This system, new governance structure has revealed that strengthening local democracy which eliminates the dependence on centres of local governance (decentralization). Besides, participatory budgeting has observed that the many benefits and that the two fundamental benefits ensure efficiency in the use of public resources and to provide stronger participatory democracy. As a result, central and local governments will have a more democratic society by ensuring the participation of citizens in the budgeting process. Also, participatory democracy and budgeting development is a need to provide national and regional development.

In this study, participatory democracy concept is going to be discussed in order to understand participatory budget comprehensively. Secondly, the reflection of the participatory democracy to the fiscal area and the emergence of the participatory budgeting, its process and methods are going to be discussed.

Keywords : Participatory Democracy, Participatory Budgeting, Governance.

JEL Classification Codes : H61, H72, H77.