

time frame (Seyfu, 2018).

In general, building a market economy, rectifying the deficiencies in public accountability, addressing the issue of good governance through devolved decentralization, more openness in government, and effectively fulfilling governmental functions depends as much on a less interventionist state and on an active and vibrant civil society organizations. Professionally calibrated, private, interdisciplinary and independent arms-length policy think-thank institutions are more likely to resolve the growing shambles in public policymaking in Ethiopia. Civil society institutions such as Ethiopian Economic Association/Ethiopian Economic Policy Research Institute and Forum for Social studies can probably provide added significance to professionalizing and pragmatizing of policymaking in Ethiopia.

Furthermore, forging the balance between state and society and making government responsive as well as accountable calls for improving the policymaking capacity of government. For the policymaking system to accommodate the demands of the public as well as to have a high chance of success necessitates significant redesign of the central policymaking process and the initiative that can also serve as an effective mechanism for the institutionalization of policymaking and analysis in the entire governance structure (Dror, 1986; Seyfu, 2018).

Conclusion

The economic development of a country depends on the quality of its policy making procedure, the decisions taken, and the processes involved in formulating each decision. The involvement of different stakeholders such as CSOs could play significant role in the policy formulation process. However, CSOs were not influential and they do not have such crucial capacity to contribute for the policy process in Ethiopia. For this, the absence of proactive civil society organizations coupled with passive legislatures that only rubber stamp the decisions of the party and executive leadership certainly reduces the citizenry's role in the policymaking process in Ethiopia. Shortage of financial resources and qualified experts, the concentration of activities in urban and accessible areas, poor CSOs coordination, and self-censorship represent other challenges that hinder the full realization of CSOs' potential in policy making process in Ethiopia. Similar speaking, the CSOs' participation in the policymaking process has been hampered as much by the legal and political contexts as by weak capacity, insufficient resources and weak motivation to contribute to public policymaking. As a result, government and party-sponsored CSOs have predominantly dominated the public participations in the public policymaking process in the country. Hence, the participation of the CSOs is still weak in the policy making process of Ethiopia, but better now when we compare with the past political regimes prior to 1990's.

Policy implications/Recommendations

For the public sector to benefit maximally from civil sector contributions and for the CSOs to substantially play the policy direction and final solutions, CSOs need to participate from the beginning of the policy making process. That is, CSOs need to be involved from the point when various policy options and instruments are designed and analyzed during the stage of policyformulation. The government of Ethiopia during policy making process should incorporate the interest of the community because the quality decision making process will be applied if different diversity of ideas come from different angles as well as perspectives of the CSOs. The party dominance in the policy process should be minimized and the government should hand off itself from monopolizing the public policy making. Finally, interest of the public should be considered while formulation of country's overall development and governance related policies. This would further used to scale up the achievement of sustainable development goals of 2030.

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