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Relationship Between Central and Local Government: Experiences from Turkey and Bangladesh

Merkezi ve Yerel Yönetim İlişkisi: Türkiye ve Bangladeş Deneyimleri

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Abstract

Local government is an essential element of the states. The principles of administrative integrity and autonomy constitute the essence of the relationship between the central and local governments. Based on these two principles, the central government tries to determine the policy of the country's administration by obtaining power based on tutelage over local governments, while local governments demand autonomy within their areas of duty, with their resources, responsibilities, and powers. This situation follows a similar course in many countries of the world. This study aims to analyze the relations between Turkey and Bangladesh's central government and local governments, their administrative structures, duties, and functions. Turkey and Bangladesh, both Muslim-majority countries, share similar socio-cultural characteristics. Bilateral relations between these two countries have developed in recent years, especially in trade, defense, migration, and other sectors. Following the development of these bilateral relations, this paper is significant here to understand two countries' local and central government relations.

Keywords: Central government, local government, central-local relation, Bangladesh, Turkey

JEL Codes: H11; H70; H83

Öz

Yerel yönetimler tüm devletlerin vazgeçilmez unsurları arasında yer almaktadır. İdarenin bütünlüğü ilkesi ve özerklik olgusu devlet yönetimi içinde merkezi idare ile yerel idareler arasındaki ilişkinin özünü oluşturmaktadır. Bu iki ilke ekseninde merkezi hükümet, yerel yönetimler üzerinde vesayete dayalı güç elde ederek ülke yönetiminin genel siyasetini belirlemeye çalışırken, yerel yönetimlerde kendi görev alanları içinde, kendi kaynakları, kendi görev ve yetkileri ile özerklik talep etmektedir. Bu durum dünyanın pek çok ülkesinde benzer bir seyir izlemektedir. Hazırlanan bu çalışmada, Türkiye ve Bangladeş'in merkezi hükümeti ile yerel yönetimleri arasındaki ilişkileri, idari yapıları, görev ve işleyişleri analiz edilmek istenmektedir. Türkiye ve Bangladeş, birçok açıdan benzer sosyo-kültürel özelliklere sahip, çoğunluğu Müslüman olan iki ülkedir. Bu iki ülke arasındaki ikili ilişkiler son yıllarda özellikle ticaret, savunma, göç ve diğer

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sektörlerde gelişme göstermiştir. Bu ikili ilişkilerin gelişmesini takiben, bu makale bu iki ülkenin yerel ve merkezi hükümet ilişkilerini anlamak için büyük önem arz etmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Merkezi yönetim, yerel yönetim, merkez-yerel ilişkileri, Bangladeş, Türkiye

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1. INTRODUCTION

The governmental system in different countries may differ in form and function due to various political frameworks, but the primary goal of all governments is to provide better and more effective governance to all segments of society. The government operates its functions at two levels, central and local; however, the relations between them are crucial. Kuhlmann and Wollmann, 2019; Rhodes, 2018; Chen, 2017; McConnell, 2006; Wilson, 2003; and many other researchers have significantly discussed different aspects of these relations in the last two decades. Rhodes (1980, 2018) is a crucial scholar who has been working on this topic since the 80s and has notably traced the transformation of local-central government relations, arguing from the perspective of power-dependence theory. This perspective frequently arises due to the exertion of control over the financial affairs of local government, achieved through the implementation of budget cuts and stringent fiscal controls. Wilson (2003) significantly put the top-down and down-up approaches of the relationship between central and local government. This is crucial for the study where two countries, i.e., Turkey and Bangladesh, have the same issues in a top-down approach.

In this article, we have analyzed the central-local government relations in Turkey and Bangladesh. Both countries have a longstanding bilateral relationship. Both are members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and D-8, respectively. In contemporary times, both countries intend to extend their bilateral relationship in different sectors, such as defense, migration, education, and others. Following this aspect, this study is significant for policymakers and academia to figure the relationship between counties' central and local governments.

In Bangladesh, the relationship between the central and local governments has always been authoritative. The fundamental reason is colonial inheritance and the loss of democratic administration at the center. For instance, Bangladesh has a long-standing and significant local government custom (Khan, 2009). Local government framework and operations have developed with the country's socio-economic and political changes. Although governments took several initiatives to strengthen the local government from legal and administrative perspectives over time, it exists only with pen and paper (Akter and Mamun, 2018: 62-63).

On the other hand, the administration system of Turkey is centralized and dominated (Çevik, 2004: 108). However, the situation was not similar to around 150 years before. The local government exercised its total freedom as a separate political regime with absolute monarchy (Ersoy, 1992: 17). However, nowadays, the relation between central and local government is structural, where the administration nature is extremely centralistic, and paternalistic. In short, the local government has no authority to develop its policy. They perform under the strict control of the central government.

This research intended to explore the relationships between central and local government of Turkey and Bangladesh. After this brief introduction, the methodology of the research has been discussed. The further sections addressed the relationship between Turkey and Bangladesh's central and local governments.

2. METHODOLOGY

This study involves qualitative research method using secondary data from various secondary sources, including books, journals, newspaper articles, web documents, gazettes, and other related materials. Analyzing this large amount of material has aided the authors in gaining a thorough grasp of the relationship between the central and local governments of Turkey and Bangladesh. For data analysis, it extensively used the content analysis method. For instance, content analysis examines written, spoken, and visual communication to ascertain the author's and the sender's true message.

It aims to create a model to conceptually describe the phenomenon (Elo and Kyngäs, 2008: 107; Rahman, 2021). It is a research method aimed at deriving reliable and credible conclusions about the usage contexts from texts or other meaningful content (Krippendorff, 2004; 18). Content analysis of the secondary data of this research extensively analyzed the relation between central and local governments in Turkey and Bangladesh.

3. CENTRAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN TURKEY

The 600-year-old Ottoman Empire fell apart during World War I, and the Turkish nation-state was born. The Republic of Turkey is a democratic, unitary, secular, and social state governed by the rule of law according to its constitution. Turkey is a centralized country where the central government wields full power. However, according to the 1982 amendment to the constitution, there should be unity between the central and local governments (Ersoy, 2015: 1). The administrative organization of Turkey is divided into two parts: central administration (capital and the provincial unit) and decentralization. The central government refers to state legal entities for public service, and decentralization refers to organized bodies different from state entities (Turan, 2016: 13).

3.1. Central government

As mentioned earlier, Turkey's central administration is separated into two sections: the capital city and the provinces. The key actors in capital city management are the President, Council of Ministers, ministries, and allied entities. The capital city administration has various independent authorities, including the Council of State, Court of Appeals, Council of National Security, and so on. Because Turkey's administration is highly centralized, central administration units have the power and control to set policies for both the national and local governments (Kartal et al., 2015: 6-7).

As per the Turkish constitution, the Republic of Turkey's governance framework upholds the separation of powers, delineated into three branches: the legislature, executive, and judiciary. The parliament wields legislative authority, the president executes executive power, and the independent and impartial courts rule over the judicial power (Articles 7, 8, and 9).

The Grand National Assembly of Turkey is exercising the legislative power, a single-chamber parliament with 600 parliament members. The deputies are directly elected by voters for a five-year term and should be above the age of eighteen. The Grand National Assembly of Turkey shoulders a multifaceted role. It enacts, modifies, and nullifies laws, scrutinizes budget bills, and approves final accounts bills. Additionally, it holds the authority to declare war, sanction the ratification of international treaties and agreements, and proclaim amnesty and apologies, requiring a three-fifths majority. Furthermore, the Assembly exercises and upholds powers and responsibilities delineated in other provisions of the constitution (Articles 87-92).

The President is in charge of the executive branch of Turkey, where the cabinet members and other officials often exercise executive power. According to the constitution, *the public shall directly choose the President of the Republic from Turkish citizens eligible to become deputies, at least forty years old, and have attained higher education for a five-year term* (Article 101). The President is both head of the state and head of the government, as well as the military commander-in-chief.

The President has the authority to approve or veto legislation enacted by the Parliament, prohibiting it from becoming law until a simple majority of lawmakers choose to discard the veto. By issuing presidential decrees, the President can also initiate parts of legislation. However, presidential regulations cannot limit essential and personal rights or responsibilities, as well as political rights and responsibilities.

The various executive ministries in Turkey are responsible for the day-to-day implementation and management of federal laws that address specific aspects of national and international matters. Turkey's Cabinet is composed of the President and cabinet members, and it's noteworthy that

cabinet members are not permitted to simultaneously hold seats in the parliament during their tenure as a measure to maintain the separation between the legislative and executive branches.

Turkish civil law was related to religion and handled by Shari'ah courts prior to the creation of the Republic of Turkey. After the 1926 amendments, additional legal codes were formed following the Swiss Civil and Italian criminal codes. With these reforms, the constitution has guaranteed the independence of the judiciary, including the constitutional court and the courts liable for criminal, civil, and administrative cases. Accordingly, there are various higher courts and several subordinate courts in different level.

The Central Administration's Provincial Organization similarly functions as an extension of the capital organization; however, unlike the central administration, the provincial organization does not have its own legal entity; instead, it was created to administer critical works for inhabitants all over the country and a hierarchical relationship exists between the central and provincial organizations. The Turkish Constitution's Article 126 outlines how provincial administration is constituted. Following the article, Provincial organizations are separated into provinces, counties, districts, and villages (Ersoy, 2015: 1).

The administration of the provinces is administered on the principle of devolution of powers. Turkey is split into 81 administrative provinces. A province is a governmental unit that includes a town center, districts, and several villages. For this reason, both urban and rural administration are included in provincial administration. Consequently, provincial decision-making and implementation organs assist rural and urban areas (Kartal et al., 2015: 8).

Provinces are split into counties, and counties are divided into districts. Provinces aren't incorporated and don't have elected bodies. They are each led by a Governor (Vali), who is appointed by the President of the Republic. In the County Administrative Board, the administrator (Kaymakam) is the chairperson, and they are entirely liable to the Governor. Districts are the smallest division of the province. At the district level, the head administrative officer is the director (Bucak Müdürü). On the governor's proposal, the interior minister appoints him (Ersoy, 2015: 2).

In Turkish law, local government and provincial government are distinct. The province government is primarily administrative in character and is seen as a support system for the national/central government.

3.2. Local government

In Turkey, there are two sorts of decentralization units. The first unit is dedicated to a single subject (universities and state-owned corporations) across the country, and these units are structurally arranged. The other type of decentralization unit handles multiple issues in a small geographic area. These units are recognized as local government (Kartal et al., 2015: 9).

During the late Ottoman era, the Turkish local government system was established as an impact of the Western system (Kavruk, 2004). Local government in modern Turkey is largely shaped by the legal framework of Article 127 of the Constitution. One of the distinguishing features of the Turkish public administration system is that the aforementioned local governments coexist with central government field units (Polatoğlu, 2000: 104).

The local government is founded on a tripartite system from this constitutional framework: special provincial administrations, municipalities, and villages.

3.2.1. Special Provincial Administrations

In the provincial unit, three actors such as governor, directors of provincial organizations, and the provincial administrative council, authorize the provincial administration. In the provincial administration, the Governor (vali) is the head as well as he is both an administrative and political actor. Apart from individuals in the court and military, governors are the administrative chiefs of

all public officials (Güler, 2011: 256- 257; Kartal et al., 2015: 8). The province governor is proposed by the Ministry of Interior and appointed by the President of the Republic (Ersoy, 2015: 2).

Nationwide, there are 51 provincial local governments that carry out the task of local government in places outside of municipal boundaries within their provinces (Ersoy, 2015: 5). For instance, the provincial administrations do not operate in metropolitan cities, resulting in the presence of only 51 provincial special administrations out of a total of 81 provinces. The Provincial Administrative Council is a legislative-type assembly elected for five years by the province's electorate. The Council is in charge of the province government's administrative decisions and has the authority to prosecute officials accused of wrongdoing. The Council is responsible for approving the province's budget, strategic plan, and provincial environmental and development goals extending beyond municipal boundaries. The Governor, on the other hand, has the legal authority to overturn any Council decision.

The Provincial Administrative Council determines policies due to the public service such as communication, transportation, education, sports, culture, tourism, agricultural production, health, and social well-being. The provincial self-government has a wide range of duties and obligations, but its financial resources are scarce. As a result, most of these activities are carried out by various ministries' regional agencies.

3.2.2. Municipalities

The first municipality was established in Istanbul during the Ottoman era in 1854. According to the law, municipalities are local governmental entities with administrative and financial autonomy in metropolitan, provincial, district, and town areas. Communities with a population of at least 5,000 people can establish municipalities. In Turkey, there are 1400 municipalities at various levels. Municipalities make decisions through mayors, municipal councils, and municipal executive councils. The mayor and council members are elected directly by the public for five years (Ersoy, 2015: 6; Özer and Rahman, 2020: 71).

The council is the main deciding body in a municipality. The number of council members depends on the municipality's population. The council has the authority to decide on strategic plans, work plans, development projects, and revisions to these plans. It also has the power to adopt the budget, implement municipal regulations, borrow money, make purchases, and take other actions.

The municipality's executive body is the municipal executive committee, consisting of elected and appointed members. The mayor is in charge of the body. The mayor serves as the municipality's executive officer and legal representative. The citizens of each municipality choose the mayor for a five-year term. The mayor administers the council and executive board's decisions, including budget, chooses municipal workers and manages other duties (Ersoy, 2015: 6).

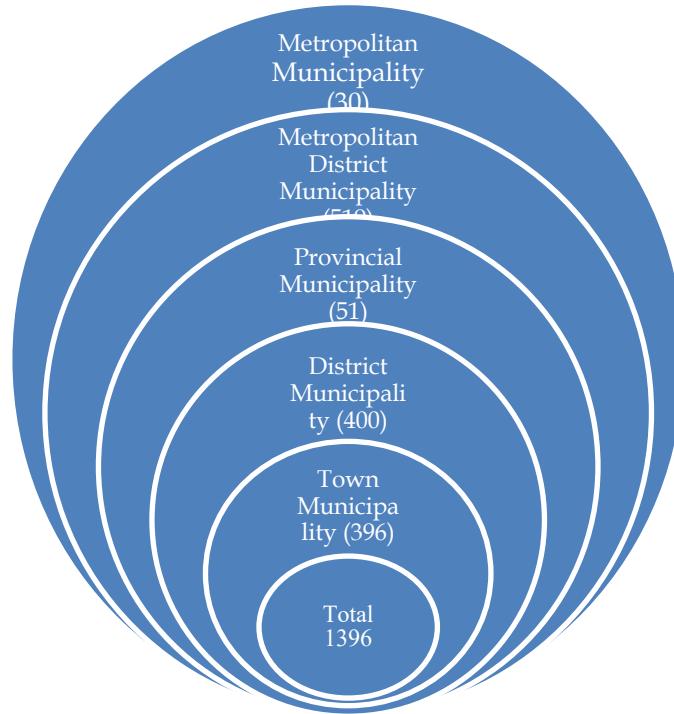
Municipalities are the most important organs in Turkey's local government system. Because municipalities have traditionally provided the majority of urban services, they have a high level of exposure and awareness among the public. When people in Turkey talk about urban administration, they actually mean municipalities. As a result, municipalities are seen as the institutions in charge of meeting the demands of both city dwellers and commoners (Kartal et al., 2015: 12; Şengül, 2010: 69).

In Turkey there are five types of municipalities: (1) Metropolitan Municipality; (2) Metropolitan District Municipality; (3) Provincial Municipality; (4) District Municipality; (5) Town Municipality. Based on the distinctions between these municipalities, metropolitan and metropolitan district municipalities are area municipalities. There are presently 30 Metropolitan municipalities (MM). A population of more than 750000 people is required to declare an area Metropolitan. MM is responsible for providing services over an entire province's territory. Each MM is divided into multiple smaller municipalities known as Metropolitan District Municipalities (MDM). MDM is responsible for a specific district's territory.

The Municipality Executive Council is formed differently in MM and MDM. According to Act 5216, Article 16, the Metropolitan Municipal Executive Council is made up of five members of the municipal council who are elected for a one-year term by the council's members: five heads of municipal departments, two of whom are the general secretary of the metropolitan municipality and the head of fiscal affairs. The metropolitan mayor elects department heads, and the mayor also serves as the head of the council. Per Act 5216 of Art 17, the metropolitan mayor is the leader of the municipality's organization and the legal representative of the municipality's legal identity. The metropolitan mayor is elected directly by residents living within the metropolitan municipality's boundaries.

On the other hand, other sorts of municipalities are limited to a specific population. Provincial municipalities, for example, are only allowed to operate inside the city center's boundaries, not the province's entire territory (central district). Similarly, a district municipality is liable for municipal services inside a district's primary settlement territories rather than the entire district region. The towns that have been granted municipal status are known as sub-district municipalities. Thus, in a given district, there is only one district municipality, but inside that district's boundaries, there may be several sub-district municipalities.

Figure- 1: Local government Institutions in Turkey with their numbers (Authors' design)



3.2.3. Villages

Villages are the local government in rural areas with less than 5,000 inhabitants. There are a total of 18,330 villages in Turkey. The Village Association, the Council, and the Village Chief (Muhtar) are their three constituent bodies with legal standing. Villages have no planning authority (Ersoy, 2015: 7). The Village Chief (Muhtar) is directly elected by the voters for a five-year tenure. Village association members, including every voter in a village, gather for meetings as needed.

The village council is made up of both elected and ex-officio members (such as the Imam, the village's founder, or a teacher). The number of village council members is set by law, and village voters choose them for a five-year term. The mosque's Imam, also called the village Imam, and the village teacher are the regular members of the village council.

"Neighborhood" is the smallest unit of local government in municipalities, and it is quite similar to village administration. When it comes to local governments in Turkey, *Muhtars* in the

neighborhood should be considered as well. In urban areas, a post known as a neighborhood *Muhtar* was established. However, towns within metropolitan municipalities were turned into neighborhoods as a result of a legal requirement. In Turkish administrative systems, determining the position of neighborhood *Muhtars* is challenging. Because the neighborhood is a middle institution that serves both local and central service needs (Kartal et al., 2015: 17; Bulut et al., 2000: 179).

3.3. Relation between central government and local government in Turkey

Since the Turkish 1982 constitution explicitly states that the country system is based on the precepts of administrative decentralization, it is considered a turning point in the central-local government relations. According to the constitution, the local governments gained some limited decision-making authority and independence from the central government. The country's administrative frameworks and limits were redrawn, and new administrative frameworks were formed. Between 1982 and 2019, many more reforms were implemented to reconstruct local government authority with the country's administrative, political, and economic reforms (Altowaitee et al., 2019: 27).

The 1982 Constitution is based on a complete separation between central and local government. The central administration is organized into provinces, with each province further divided, serving as the field structure of the central government. Delegated authority is the foundation for the administration of the province. The central government may use its discretionary control over local governments if deemed necessary. On the other hand, independent local governments operate according to the decentralization principle and are free to act and make decisions independently of the central government. Only local governments are subject to the central government's administrative tutelage. The central government can either accept or oppose local government's decisions or avoid their implementation, but it doesn't have the power to make a new choice (Ersoy, 1992: 5).

However, fundamentally, the central and local government relationship is paternalistic and authoritarian. As mentioned above, the administration system of Turkey is highly centralized. Turkey exercises a unitary system of government where the leading authority is under the central government's control, and all powers are emerging from the central.

Central administration handles much of the planning for local governments' areas of activity. On the other hand, Turkey has a broad topography; for that reason, it is quite difficult for the central governments to develop appropriate solutions to the challenges of each region. As a response, it is fundamental for Turkey's local governments to operate well enough to ensure democracy and good governance. Global events have indeed influenced Turkey in recent times concerning local government unification (Turan, 2016: 13). However, because of the unitary state system, local governments are always under the shade of central authority. Because of the very centrist structure within the establishment codes of state, becoming free from the entire control of the central government is quite impossible for local government.

4. CENTRAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN BANGLADESH

4.1. Central government

According to the constitution of Bangladesh, the central government is organized into three branches. The President, Prime Minister, and Cabinet represent the executive section. The legislative is represented by the Jatiya Sangsad (National Parliament), while the Supreme Court of Bangladesh represents the judiciary. The People's Republic of Bangladesh is a unitary state, meaning the central government controls the whole country (Rahman, 2015: 2017). Local government is not a distinct form government. It is simply a system of public administration that operates at the most basic level of the country. Local government, often known as local councils, operates under the rules and

directions of a higher authority, i.e. central government. From the three branches of the state, the local government is placed under the executive branch (Talukdar, 2013; 2019: 2).

The Prime Minister is in charge of the Executive and chooses all the other Ministers. It is the highest decision-making body in the executive. Bangladesh has a unicameral (having a single legislative chamber) legislature. The parliament of Bangladesh is known as the *Jatiya Sangsad*. The Speaker supervises Jatiya Sangsad meetings and ensures that they are conducted promptly and orderly. The contemporary Jatiya Sangsad has 350 seats, where 50 seats are designated specifically for women as reserved seats, and the other 300 seats are fixed for the elected members from the constituencies.

The Chief Justice leads the Supreme Court and the judiciary in Bangladesh. The Supreme Court is made up of the Appellate Division, and the High Court Division is the top of the judicial branch. In Bangladesh, numerous levels of the judiciary, such as District Courts, City Criminal Courts, Specialized Courts, and Tribunals, all fall below the Supreme Court.

4.2. Local Government

Since Bangladesh was under British Rule for 190 years and Pakistan for roughly 24 years, the country retained the colonial framework of local administration (Panday, 2011). The roots of the current local government structure were formed during the British colonial period. Several researches on Bangladeshi local government stated that the issue of local government initiated in the Indian subcontinent and that local government creation and reforms are driven by the requirements of the governing class (Khan and Hussain, 2001; Aminuzzaman, 2010; Westergaard, 2000; Özer and Rahman, 2020: 74).

Several institutional reforms to local government organizations were implemented during the British and Pakistani eras and obviously after independence under various regimes. Despite these attempts, Bangladesh has a reputation for being one of the world's most centralized countries. However, considerable efforts have been made in the last decade to increase the function and ability of local government institutions (LGIs). Bangladesh's LGIs now have different systems for rural and urban regions, each with its operating structure (Ehsan, 2021: 1).

In Bangladesh, there are two types of LGIs: rural local government for rural regions and urban local government for urban areas. The hierarchical rural local governments are divided into three tiers: Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad, and Zila Parishad, while urban local governments are divided into Pourashavas (municipalities) and city corporations (Jamil and Panday, 2012: 353; Ahmed, 1998; Özer and Rahman, 2020).

The central government's field administration is divided into eight (8) divisions to simplify its administration task, and all of these divisions are ruled under a division commissioner. Each of these eight divisions is further divided into sixty-four (64) districts that operate under the dominance of the district commissioner (DC), who is regarded as a leading administrator. A further level is below the district, divided into 495 sub-districts known as *Upazila*. The *Upazila* administrators are chairmen who are politically elected and aided by *Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNO)*, and these administrative UNOs are central-government-level bureaucrats on representation.

Zila Parishad is the upper level of local government institutions. It comprises one elected chairman, elected members (one from each Upazila, so the number of elected members may differ by Zila to Zila), and elected female members (one from three Upazila/ nearest number) for a five-year term. Zila Parishad is the only local government body in Bangladesh with an indirect voting system, i.e., only elected members of Upazila, Union, City Corporation, and Pourushova are voting for Zila Parishad.

There is a chairman, a vice-chairman, and a woman vice-chairman for each *Upazila Parishad*. A direct popular vote elects all of them. A woman vice-chairman was formed to guarantee that women hold minimum of one-third of all elected positions in local government. Almost all government

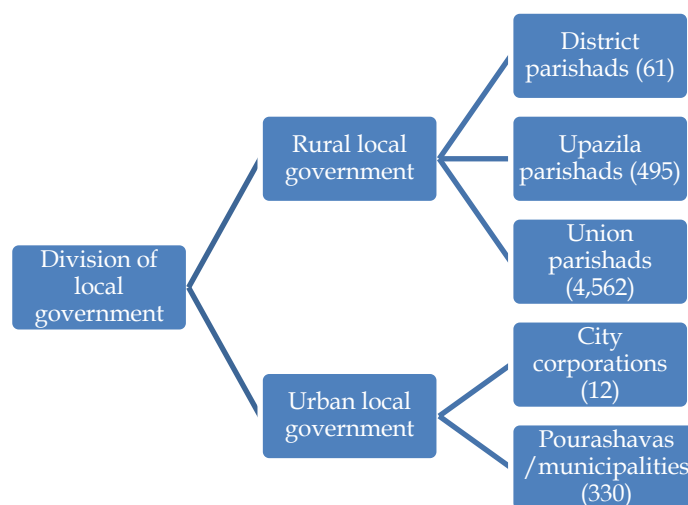
bodies are concerned with healthcare, education, farming, and fisheries at the district and sub-district (*Upazila*) levels (Jamil and Panday, 2012: 353).

Then, the rural local government's smallest unit is the union *Parishads*. Each Union Parishad consists of a chairman and twelve members, three of whom are particularly designated for women and all of whom are voted in by the people for a five-year session. As per the law, 25% of slots in Union Parishad are allotted for women. In the *Upazila*, the chairman of the Union Parishad is counted as part of the Parishad. Each union *Parishads* is divided into nine wards, which are made up of many villages, and the ward member is the representative of the lower local government in Bangladesh.

The urban local governments consist of two kinds of institutions: *Pouroshava* (municipalities) and City Corporations. There are 12 city corporations for the urban areas and 330 *Pouroshava*, which are partitioned based on the quantity of population into three groups (class I, II, and III). The urban local governments, as elected authorities, are responsible for various infrastructure and development programs and their execution in urban regions. The City Corporation is made up of a Mayor, Councilors, and Female Councilors who are all directly chosen by citizens for a five-year term. The mayor is the chief executive officer of the city corporation and also serves as the chairperson of the city council (Panday, 2017). The mayors of the capital's city corporations are frequently compared to cabinet ministers, and those of other city corporations are compared to state ministers or deputy ministers within their authority (Özer and Rahman, 2020: 75).

In practice, municipalities are formed from the district and town headquarters and key unions in the town region. Municipalities are structured similarly to city corporations, with one mayor, councilors, and female councilors whom citizens directly choose for five-year tenure.

Figure 2: structure of Bangladesh's local government and their numbers (Authors' Design)



The legal structure of Bangladesh's existing local government system is defined under Articles 59 and 60 of the constitution. The establishment of local government is addressed under Article 59 of the constitution, and Article 60 covers the powers of the local government authorities.

4.3. Relation between central government and local government in Bangladesh

Bangladesh celebrated fifty years of independence, yet the central government and local government relations are still crucial and complex. The country traditionally supports a centralized policy-making and resource-allocation structure wherein the intergovernmental interactions are not secure, poorly defined, and lack a sufficient incentive mechanism. Despite a legal justification for a decentralized local governance model, limited decentralized governance has been practiced at the local level (Kumar Panday, 2006: 41).

Local government faces a shortage of economic and financial resources and couldn't enjoy the authority of decision-making due to the absence of liability, an intentness of authority by the municipal executive, inoperative rules and laws structure, confined administrative receptivity, inadequate investment in the human capital, and slothful monitoring by the central government create an ineffective decentralized local government model (Kumar Panday, 2006: 41-42). Particularly in rural regions, the status of local government institutions is inferior. There is no powerful effect of the Union *Parishad* over resource yielding from its limited jurisdiction (Khan, 2011).

The coordination between central and local government has traditionally continued under the paradigm of dependence theory, where the central government practices the prominent role. This could be due to a long history of colonialism and the complete lack of a democratic system at the state level for a significant period of Bangladesh's independence (1975-1990). According to studies, it is also the outcome of lawmakers' undue influence on local government entities on both a de jure and de facto basis (Talukdar, 2019: 8).

In Bangladesh, the local government is not merely a formation of the government or an act of legislation but is also subject to the government's laws and regulations (Ahmad 1994: 450). Local government institutions are governed by a slew of contradictory instructions and circulars issued by several agencies and ministries, many of which directly oppose the actual Local Government functions. As a result, local government organizations are limited in using their strength, even those granted by the state government. This indicates that local governments are not solely empowered and that other authorities, including individual legislators, can weaken the authority of local government institutions (Talukdar, 2019).

Meanwhile, Bangladesh's local government entities have long been resource-strapped. Local government rules have given them the authority to generate money from local sources through assessments, taxation, and the rental of local Hat-Bazars (market), among other things. However, local government entities do not receive the total amount of funds raised from approved sources (CPD, 2001; Khan, 2000).

5. CONCLUSION

The fundamental concepts that underpin the relationship between central and local governments revolve around central-local unity and autonomy. These ideas encompass the competing desires for power: the central government seeks to exert authority over local governments, whereas local governments strive to safeguard their autonomy.

The central-local relation has long been a point of contention in Bangladeshi local governance. Although local governments appear to be capable of solving local issues, the government of Bangladesh has a vast ability to entirely dominate local governments, and the political, budgetary, and administrative dimensions are used to describe the essential components and conceptions of this control.

As mentioned above, the less developed economy and insufficient resources are significant barriers to the Bangladeshi local government's performance. This scarcity creates an obstacle to ensuring a balance of power between the local and national levels. However, this issue is crucial because the balance of power between these two governmental bodies guarantees the local government's power, authority, transparency, and ability to accomplish public services in the local entity.

Conversely, Turkey has recently undertaken a deliberate initiative to bolster its local government institutions while retaining specific historical and cultural values inherited from the Ottoman era. Although Turkey is actively striving to improve the administrative aspects of local governance, there are indications that it remains dissatisfied with the political influence wielded by local governments. This unease arises from concerns that increasing the political power of local governments may be perceived as a departure from its unitary state framework. It is important to

note, however, that the existence of a unitary state structure in a country does not inherently equate to deficiencies in its local administrative system.

As discussed earlier, achieving a balance of power is a pivotal factor in fostering a fruitful relationship between local and central governments to ensure the well-being and development of local communities. When delineating the interplay among these branches of government, the concept of a balance of power pertains to the distribution of power and authority between a central or national government and its subordinate or local counterparts.

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