

Decentralized Governance Models in Urban Public Management: An Empirical Analysis of Smart City Initiatives in Southeast Asia

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Abstract. This study examines the role of decentralized governance in the effective implementation of smart city initiatives in Southeast Asia. Through a mixed-methods approach, data were collected from city planning departments across the region to assess the impact of local autonomy on public resource optimization. Results indicate that cities practicing higher degrees of administrative decentralization exhibit improved service delivery and citizen engagement. The findings suggest a paradigm shift towards localized decision-making structures in urban management.

Keywords: Decentralized Governance, Smart Cities, Urban Management, Public Resource Optimization, Southeast Asia

Introduction

Urban centers around the world are grappling with unprecedented challenges, from rapid population growth to the urgent need for sustainable development practices. In this context, the concept of smart cities has emerged as a critical framework for managing urbanization's complexities. However, the success of such initiatives often hinges on effective governance structures, particularly decentralized governance models that allow for localized decision-making. In Southeast Asia, where urbanization rates are among the fastest globally, the need for adaptable and efficient governance frameworks is paramount. This paper explores

how decentralized governance models can enhance the implementation of smart city initiatives in this dynamic region. By comparing various city planning strategies, the study identifies key factors contributing to the success of decentralized governance in urban management. The paper is structured as follows: Section 2 delves into the theoretical underpinnings of decentralized governance, while Section 3 provides a detailed analysis of case studies from key Southeast Asian cities. Section 4 discusses the empirical findings and their implications for urban policymakers.

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References

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