

Analytical Essay.

Name

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Date

Introduction

Development of a country refers to the growth of a country not just in terms of its economy but also on the social political and even technological aspects. It is measured in various ways that include the use of statistical indexes like income per capita for every person (GDP), literacy levels, and life expectancy among others. Countries are classified into three categories that include the less developed, developing and developed countries. There is no definite international description of a developed country especially because the development levels may vary in different regions (BoÅyk, 2006). Koffi Annan (former UN secretary general) defined a developed country as that whereby the citizens are allowed to enjoy a free as well as a healthy life in an environment that is safe. Developing countries are those that have a low material well being level and that are yet to achieve an industrialization degree. The less developed countries as defined by the UN include those that depict extremely low indicators or levels of development in their socio economic sector and very low ratings of Human Development Index (World Bank, 2003)

The following essay analyses six countries within the three development categories. These countries include Australia and United States of America as developed countries, Chile and Brazil as developing countries and Haiti and Afghanistan as the less developed countries. The essay gives informative data on the size of the governments in these countries, their populations and economy. It relates the development of these countries to the size of the government and gives a conclusive discussion on the accuracy and reliability of the collected data. A discussion of the governmentâ€™s role in addressing the issue of market failure through the enforcement of safety standards has also been done.

Questions and Discussion

Data acquisition and Analysis

Developed countries: Australia and USA

This country covers an area of 7.7 M square kilometers and has a total population of 21.8M, 1.7 percent annual pop. Growth rate and a literacy level of above 99 percent. Australiaâ€™s form of government is that of constitutional monarchy that is democratic. The government is composed of the executive that includes the head of state, the legislature consisting of 76 members of the senate and 150 representative house members and an independent judiciary. The revenue of the central government for the year 2008 and 2009 is estimated at 295.9B dollars and 290.6B dollars for the year 2009 to 2010. The defense department takes up 2.2 percent of the countryâ€™s GDP which is equivalent to 20B dollars (Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, 2009).

Australiaâ€™s GDP of the year 2009 and 2010 was estimated at 893.6B US dollars with an inflation rate of 2.5 percent every year. The country export to major markets like China, South Korea and Japan is valued at 10.7B US dollars and the imports at 187.2B dollars (World Bank, 2009).

The country which is a constitutional federal republic consists of 50 states and one federal district. The 3 branches of the state's federal government includes the judiciary executive and the legislature with a total of 100 senate members and 435 voting-members in the hse of representatives. This country also has the biggest economy among all the other countries of the world with a total GDP of 14.3T dollars. The economy which is mixed and capitalistic has been promoted by the many natural resources, quality infrastructure and high production. The private sector makes up 55.3 percent of the economy, the government 24.1 percent and the local government 20.6 percent. The labor force in this country consists of 154.4M people with 81 percent of the employed in service sector. Most workers are employed by the government (Sullivan and Sheffrin, 2008).

Developing countries: Chile and Brazil

Brazil which is 8,514,876.6 sq km large has the 9th largest economy in the world in terms of GDP that is currently at 10,200 dollars per capita, 46.9B dollars as export proceeds and 48.7B dollars import costs. The country's population stands at 190M. The government constitutes of the state, union and federal district with 3 branches that include the judiciary, executive and legislature (Wagley, 2009).

Chile is a South American Country with 756,950 sq km land area, 15,116,435 population size and a decreasing growth rate due to reduced birth rate. 85 percent of the population is in the urban areas. This country's economy is constituted by high foreign trade levels and a GDP of 5.1 percent expansion rate by 2007, a percent that has most likely risen over the years. The privatized pension system (AFP) has promoted domestic investment thus contributing to a 21 percent GDP domestic rate of savings. The unemployment level ranges between 8 and 10 percent while the inflation level is between 2 to 4 percent. Chile's congress has 38 senators and 120 chamber members. The present lower house has 63 members within the governing coalition and fifty seven from the opposition (World Bank, 2008).

Less developed countries: Haiti and Afghanistan

Haiti is said to be the poorest American country with a GDP of 7.018B dollars and a GDP of 790 dollars per capita, \$2 per individual per day. Afghanistan has a GDP of 8.8B dollars and 800 dollars GDP per capital. The country has a cabinet consisting of 25 ministers and a National Assembly consisting of 249 lower House seats (United Nations, 2009). The 1979 Soviet invasion was followed by 2 decades of civil war 5 years of a very repressive rule by Taliban thus making the economy remain primitive (World Bank, 2003) .

From the above given information, a conclusion can be made that the government's expenditure does not affect the growth of a country. The indicated data above is both accurate and reliable. A number of researches have been done by different research companies and researchers that have obtained similar results. A change the government's level of spending however has a direct effect on the economy's aggregate demand. Besides export's role on economic growth, the economic triumph of Newly Industrialized countries (NICs) can be attributed to the government's role (Ferris and West, 1996). This puts the above conclusion rather controversial.

In a situation of Haiti where buildings that cannot withstand hurricanes are not necessary or where there is no difference between

characteristics of buildings that withstand hurricanes and those that withstand earthquakes, market failure would definitely occur.

The government should play its role in the promotion of development and economic expansion. Ensuring that buildings are put up based on the set safety standards is one way through which this can be done as a way of reducing damages as well as economic losses that occur when buildings collapse due to poor constructions. Enforcing the recommended safety standards will also ensure that those responsible follow all the necessary procedures before beginning any construction.

Appendix

Table 1 Australia: GDP Growth Rate

Year
March
June
Sept
December
Avge
2007
1.60
1.30
0.40
0.60
0.98
2008
1.00
0.60
0.30
- 0.90
0.25
2009
0.80
0.70
0.30
0.90
0.68

Interest Rate-4.5 percent

Growth Rate- 0.9 percent

Inflation Rate- 2.9 percent

Unemployment Rate- 5.3 percent

Table 2 USA Government Spending In the National Defense Sector.  
budgets in percentages and \$ (billions)

YEAR
TOTAL
\$
EDUCATION
\$
EDUCATION
%
DEFENSE
\$

DEFENSE

%

HEALTH

\$

HEALTH

%

2003

767

52

6.8

396

51.6

49

6.4

2004

782

55

7

399

51

49

6.3

2005

820

60

7

421

51

51

6.2

2006

840.5

58.4

6.9

840.5

438.8

51

6.1

2007

873

56.8

6.5

460

52.7

53.1

6.7

2008

930

58.6

6.3

481.4

51.8

52.3

5.6

2009  
997  
61.9  
6.2  
541  
54  
52.7  
5.3

Table 3 Government GDP expenditure by country in the year 2007

Country	Government expenditure % GDP
USA	19.9
Australia	43.6
Brazil	17.3
Chile	29.1
Haiti	16.4
Afghanistan	9.2

From the indicated data, there is no definite pattern in relation to development and government expenditure.

#### References

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