FISCAL DECENTRALIZATION AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

[1]CHANGGEUN YUN, [2]DONGGYU PARK

Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea
E-mail: [1]yuchge@gmail.com, [2]eashine9257@naver.com

Abstract- This research aims to confirm whether the level of fire service resource is significantly different by the level of municipal governments' budget circumstances. This research will contribute to shedding light on following question: why is the majority of countries including Korea still following decentralized fire service system? Also, this research will answer to the following question: why is decentralization (or centralization) more effective for disaster management (especially in case of South Korea)?

Index Terms- Decentralization, Disaster Management, Local Government, South Korea

I. KEY QUESTIONS

Is the level of fire service resource significantly different by the level of municipal governments' budget circumstances?

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Decentralization of Disaster Management

Previous studies supporting decentralization such as Tiebout model have shown that security and firefighting are effectively managed by local government.

B. Centralization of Disaster Management

As the public interest in disaster management has increased, it is getting stronger to demand the improvement of treatment through the conversion of disaster management into national office.

III. DATA AND VARIABLES

This study will analyze fiscal decentralization and disaster manangement of South Korean local governments. The Korean government has reported data on disaster management (e.g., fire service and rescue) via online. The authors get data for this study from the following website:
(https://www.laiis.go.kr/ (Ministry of Public Administration and Security alert portal))
Independent variables in this study are as follows: Self-governing body financial independence, fiscal independence, expenditure per capita budget, reserve ratio, self-income per capita, tax exemption per capita, local tax burden per capita.
There are two dependent variables: (1) number of firefighters per residents; (2) number of rescue personnel per residents.

IV. IMPORTANCE OF THIS RESEARCH

It is meaningful to empirically confirm whether local governments' fire control resources really change according to the level of fiscal decentralization. However, it is difficult to find the prior research related to this, although the control variables should be selected to make sure that the financial decentralization affects the fire management.

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