

# Government Systems in Developing Countries

## PhD Seminar

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### Seminar Objectives

Developing countries around the world have adopted e-government systems quite widely. With the advent of cheap information technology components and reasonably wide-spread availability of skilled persons who can implement information systems, developing country leaders have seen it fit to adopt IT for bringing in efficiency in governance. The underlying and implicit assumption is that such efficiencies can be obtained by introducing government systems.

The main objective of this seminar is to examine the above implicit assumption by studying the underlying theories of development, of technology diffusion and its impact on society, of technology and social context, and of corruption and its impact on governance. The seminar will include readings from the above topics and then conclude with an analysis of several cases of e-government implementations in developing countries.

### Development Theory

1. Simon, D. "Development Reconsidered : New Directions in Development Thinking," *Geografiska Annaler*, (79B:4), 1997, pp 183-201.
2. Schuurman, F.J. "Paradigms Lost, Paradigms Regained ? Development Studies in the Twenty-first Century," *Third World Quarterly*, (21:1), 2000, pp. 7-20.
3. Sen, A. "Development as Freedom," Oxford University Press, New Delhi, India, 2000. (Chapter 1 - The Perspective of Freedom; Chapter 2 - The Ends and the Means of Development; Chapter 4 - Poverty as Capability Deprivation)
4. Walsham, G., Robey, D. and Sahay, S. "Foreword: Special Issue on Information Systems in Developing Countries" in *MIS Quarterly*, Vol 31, No 2, pp. 317-326. 2007.

### Development and Technology

1. Schumacher, E.F. "Small is Beautiful : A Study of Economics as if People Mattered," ABACUS Edition, Sphere Books Ltd., Reading, Great Britain, 1973.
2. Williams, R., and Edge, D. "The Social Shaping of Technology," *Research Policy*, (25), 1996, pp. 865-899.
3. Hamelink, C.J. "New Information and Communication Technologies, Social Development and Cultural Change," UNRISD (United Nations Research Institute for Social Development) Discussion Paper No. 86, 1997.
4. Sein, M.K. and Harindranath, G. "Conceptualising the ICT Artifact : Toward Understanding the Role of ICT in National Development," *The Information Society*, (20:4), 2004, pp. 15-24.
5. Prakash, A. and De, R. "Importance of Development Context in ICT4D Projects: A Study of Computerization of Land Records in India" in *Information Technology and People*, Vol.20, No. 3, pp. 262-281, 2007.

### Technology and Social Context

1. Walsham, G., and Sahay, S. "GIS for District-level Administration in India : Problems and Opportunities," *MIS Quarterly*, (23:1), 1999, pp. 39-65.
2. Avgerou, C. and McGrath, K. "Power, Rationality and the Art of Living through Socio-Technical Change," *MIS Quarterly*, Vol 31, No 2, pp. 295-315, 2007.
3. Orlikowski, W.J. "The Duality of Technology : Rethinking the Concept of Technology in Organizations," *Organization Science*, (3:3), 1992, pp. 398-427.
4. Orlikowski, W.J. "Using Technology and Constituting Structures : A Practice Lens for Studying Technology in Organizations," *Organization Science*, (11:4), 2000, pp. 404-428.

### Corruption Theory & Service Efficiency

1. Pranab Bardhan. Corruption and development: A review of issues. *Journal of Economic Literature*, 35(3):1320–1346, September 1997.
2. Andrei Schleifer and Robert W. Vishny. Corruption. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 108(3):599–

617, August 1993.

3. J.G. Lambsdorff. Consequences and causes of corruption - what do we know from a cross-section of countries? Discussion Paper V-34-05, University of Passau, 2005.

#### Case Studies of Egov in Developing Countries

1. Puri, S. "Integrating Scientific with Indigenous Knowledge: Constructing Knowledge Alliances for Land Management in India" in *MIS Quarterly*, Vol 31, No 2, pp. 355-379, 2007.
2. Silva, L. and Hirschheim, R. "Fighting Against Windmills: Strategic Information Systems and Organizational Deep Structures" in *MIS Quarterly*, Vol 31, No 2, pp. 327-354, 2007.
3. Rahul De'. E-Government systems in developing countries: Stakeholders and conflict. In M.A. Wimmer, R. Traunmuller, A. Gronlund, and K.V. Andersen, editors, *Proceedings of Electronic Government, 4th International Conference, Copenhagen, Aug 2005*, LNCS 3591, pages 26–37. Springer-Verlag, 2005.
4. J. Caseley. Public sector reform and corruption: CARD facade in Andhra Pradesh. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 38(11):1151–1156, March 2004.
5. Krishna, S. and Walsham, G. (2005), "Implementing Public Information System in Developing Countries : Learning from a Success Story", *Information Technology for Development*, Vol. 11 Issue 2.

#### Seminar Requirements

Students should prepare in advance to discuss the assigned reading materials in class. Each class will cover the material in the basic readings and then consider extended issues.

The seminar will conclude with a brief presentation by students on particular topics of their choice. These presentations could also include proposals for future research, either as publishable papers or thesis topics.