

# E-Content

*F. Riggs Model*

*MA Semester: III*

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## Fred W. Riggs (1917-2008)

Course Code : POL6003

Course Name: Data structures using C

Fred W. Riggs (1917-2008)

- Professor Emeritus at political science Department of University of Hawaii.
- One of the pioneers in Administrative Model.
- Well known for his works in Comparative Public Administration.
- His theory finds lots of relevance in developing countries.

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## Background

- Riggs criticizes “first generation” of modernization theories, especially Rostow’s stages of economic development that most developing countries tried to follow in the 60s and early 70s.
- Riggs began with a bipolar analytical framework known as the so-called Agraria-Industria model.
- Contextual distinction of public administration between the traditional agrarian societies and modern industrial nations.
- Riggs was searching for a more appropriate model.

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## Prismatic Model

Course Name:

- Later he developed the prismatic model to explain the administrative systems of Developing World.
- He categorized societies into three: 1-Fused 2-Prismatic 3-Diffracted
- He used Fused model to explain the ecology of traditional societies.
- Prismatic society to explain the developing world.
- Diffracted society to explain the developed societies.
- According to him no societies is neither totally fused nor diffracted. Everyone share some features of the other

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## Fused Society

Course Name: Administrative

- Heavily depend on agriculture; Economic system based on Barter system.
- King and officials nominated by the King carry out all administrative, economic and other activities.
- The conscious establishment of policies is negligible.
- There is no distinct political or administrative structures.
- The political system is neither democratic, nor autocratic.

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## Prismatic Society

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In a prismatic Society, there exists characteristics of Fused and diffracted Societies side by side.

No real structural differentiation

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## Diffraction Society

Course Code : XXXXXX

Course Name: Data structures using C

- Highly differentiated.
- Highly developed specialized structures of work.
- Functions of the society are very specific.
- Level of integration is high.
- Pattern of behavior is characterized by norms of universalism and achievements.

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## **Sala in Prismatic Society: Heterogeneity**

Course Name: POL6003

It is the administrative subsystem of Prismatic society. It has got three characteristics: 1-Heterogeneity 2-Formalism 3-Overlapping

Heterogeneity:

- There exists modern features of society side by side with traditional features.
- The people are not integrated but divided on line of religion etc.
- Un equal level of development.
- Highly westernized and modern urban sector co-exists with rural irrational sector.

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## Formalism

Course Name:

- Formalism is the deference between the prescribed and the practiced.
- Level of formalism is dependent on the nature of pressure for development. If the pressure comes from outside Level of formalism increases.
- In Formalistic situation, values and norms may receive lip service but ignored in real practice.

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## Overlapping

- Riggs discusses dimensions of culture, economy, political, communicational and symbolic developing world.
- The coexistence of modern and traditional structures in these societies.
- In urban areas modern technology is used while traditional methods are employed in rural areas

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## **Conclusion**

- Prismatic model is an equilibrium model and does not lead to social change.
- Lack of measurement of level of diffraction in prismatic or diffracted society.
- Diffracted society is also not desirable because it is static and in equilibrium.
- Overlapping is not specific phenomena of prismatic society but exists in diffracted society also.
- Little empirical evidence

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# Books/References

- Prasad, Ravindra D., V.S. Prasad, P. Satyanarayana & Y. Pardhasaradhi (eds.). Administrative Thinkers. New Delhi: Sterling, 2010.
- Sapru, R.K. Administrative Theories and Management Thought. New Delhi: PHI, 10) 2013.

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