Chapter 15

Application of Era-Based Cellular Planning for Development of E-Government in Developing Countries

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ABSTRACT

Developing countries face numerous problems in the planning process for EG development which makes using linear processes difficult for them, and forces them to consider a specific plan for implementing plans of EG development, using nonlinear complex processes. Era-based cellular planning system (ECPS) provides the possibility for developing countries to follow EG development using non-linear processes to plan, establish, and implement it.

INTRODUCTION

The process of development is a complex and multilateral one in which different steps can be considered depending on the variety of societies and their different economical, political, and cultural characteristics, as well as the hierarchy of power, agility, and institutionalization of administrative structures. Therefore, on the basis of situation of every society in each era, development of a specific developmental plan becomes necessary. In this regard, the possibility of writing similar prescriptions for development of all societies is rejected, and writing a specific scenario, for development based on the situation of each society in each era, is necessary.

Considering the emergence processes of EG and its influence upon societies, it becomes clear that successful countries have developed a specific plan for themselves, and the most successful countries were those that have written their plans more realistically.

The more different the characteristics of a country from those of the EG inventing country, the more limited the possibility of modeling after them. This point can be analyzed in light of insights from Veblen's concept of cultural borrowing and cultural lag. In Veblen's view, the physical manifestations of technology are transmitted more quickly than its cultural manifestations; thus, a kind of pose is created in coping of cultural and social structures with economical and technical ones (Ritzer, 2000).

Another point is that each country is placed in a certain level of development in each point of time. Therefore, each country must have a specific plan for its development. On the basis of this analysis, the situation of no country can be modeled for any other country and even for the same country in future. Consequently, a matrix of different plans for different countries in successive periods can be visualized. This matrix helps each country to get the best plan for development of EG in each point of time.

The Challenges of Pioneers of EG Development

Certainly, countries which have understood the necessity for developing electronism and applying it in governance, and have been pioneers in development of EG, have taken the advantages of being pioneer; although because of novelty of the strategy and lack of familiarity with the path, and difficulties of initial movement, they were made to pay more initial expenses (Jaeger & Thompson, 2003) and, in some cases, fulfill their ideas and objectives through trial and error. In other words, being pioneer in creation, application, and development of EG was associated with a collection of advantages and disadvantages (Gilbert

& Balestrini, 2004; Gupta et al., 2004). Some points can be considered about the advantage and disadvantages of pioneering EG development; in fact, each social activity can have some good and bad points. The advantages of EG development for its pioneers were as followings:

1. Pioneering countries enjoyed from the possibility for reaping the befits of EG before others;
2. Pioneering countries have been able to export the technology and get the prices of related services;
3. Pioneering countries, as the first users of EG, enjoyed from the multiple advantages of being the first and model in the field of EG, for example, factors such as financial, social, cultural, and international credit and success.

On the other hand, pioneering in an unknown route has a group of expenses and disadvantages which include:

1. Pioneering countries pay most expenses of initial researches; they pay more expenses for trial and error and probable failures;
2. Pioneering countries have tried numerous plans in the process of EG development and have devised their own change path at the time of implementation. Thus, they never enjoyed from the possibility of planning at one step and implementing at the next. Therefore, they never have the opportunity for offering a comprehensive plan for the progress of EG.

Of course, considering the advantages and disadvantages of pioneering, particularly with regard to the value of time, it seems that pioneers of EG development enjoyed from more advantages. Comparison of history of the beginning of EG and its development in today's world confirms this argument (Tables 1 through 3). Perhaps, it can be claimed that the most important reason

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