

RIGGS PRISMATIC MODEL AND PAKISTAN'S SOCIETY

* Dr. Mohammad Bashir Khan

* Mrs. Safia Gandapur

Assistant Professors

Department of Public Administration,

Gomal University, D.I.Khan.

ABSTRACT

Professor F.W. Riggs is a towering figure in the field of comparative public administration. He classifies human societies into three main phases. On the one extreme is traditional society while on the other extreme is developed or diffracted one. In between these two extremes is a third one called prismatic society.

The main emphasis of this paper is on the prismatic society because it resembles Pakistan's Society. The paper contains a brief introduction of professor Riggs as a comparativist. After describing the ecology of administration, the famous prismatic model and the idea of a prismatic society has been discussed. In the end, there is an application of this model towards Pakistan's society.

INTRODUCTION

Students of comparative public administration are well aware of Prof. F.W.Riggs of Indiana University. Prof. Riggs began his career as a comparativist, spending his early years in China, where his father organized an agricultural station. Later as a scholar and academic, he lived in Thailand. He taught in Korea and still continues to lecture in various parts of the world, while maintaining his teaching and research affiliations with several Universities of the United States.

The fascinating fact for everyone having some interest in the field of public administration is that Prof. Riggs whose writings about public administration are admired throughout the world has got no formal degree in public administration. Having taken a doctorate in International relations, Riggs is a towering figure in the field.¹

To call him a prolific author is an understatement. Riggs is the founder and first chairperson of the comparative Administration Group. It is an official body whose current incarnation is the section of International and Comparative Administration of the American Society for public administration. This section gives an annual award to the best comparativist in the name of Fred.W.Riggs.

His greatest contribution is his emphasis on the ecological approach. When it was fashionable to believe that whatever done in the developed World could be exported to all other nations, he argued that such exports could be of no or little use, if unnecessarily adopted in the developing world. When he went to Thailand, he felt that he must learn about Thai administrative structures and behavior before he could suggest some innovative administrative measures.²