

Semester -iv

Pol-H-CC-T-8-PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION THEORIES AND  
CONCEPT

UNIT 4: ECOLOGICAL APPROACH OF FRED RIGGS

Presentation by Monisha saha

FRED WARREN RIGGS (1917-2008), born in Kuling, China.

Three important analytical tools to explain his administration theories-

### 1. ECOLOGICAL APPROACH

- The ecological approach to public administration was first propagated popularly by Fred W. Riggs, who studied administrative systems in different countries (emphasis on developing countries)

### 2. STRUCTURAL-FUNCTIONAL APPROACH

- According to Riggs, in every society five important types of functions are discharged: economic, social, communication, symbolic, and political. The same set of functions applies to an administration system. From the ecological point of view, Riggs mainly used the structural-functional approach.

### 3. IDEAL MODELS

- Riggs used these ideal models to analyze the administration system of developing countries. Riggs first used his published model in 1956, by classifying society into Agraria and Industria (keeping in view the societies China and United States of America)

In 1957, Riggs introduced a new model "TRANSITIA" for transforming society. The transitia represents the transitional stage between Agraria and Industria.

Responding to limitations of Agraria-Industria Models RIGGS developed another Model to analyse the administration system of developing countries. The model name is *FUSED-PRISMATIC-DIFFRACTED* MODEL.

**Fused**-this society is a single structure carries out various function

**DiffRACTed**-this society separate structure are created to carry out specific functions.

**Prismatic**-this society represents both characteristics of

fuse and diffracted societies .Riggs identified three important characteristics of prismatic society-

- I. *Heterogeneity*
- II. *Formalism*
- III. *Overlapping.*

### *Sub system of prismatic model*

- Administrative sub system it is called SALA MODEL.  
The Spanish word, "Sala" has a variety of meaning like a government office, room.
- Economic sub system it is also called BAZAR CANTEEN MODEL.

Market factors of diffracted society ( Demand and supply) and area factors of fused society. (religious, social, family) dominates the economy