
A Policy Framework for Development in the Information Society

IT for Change

Current ICTD Policy Frameworks

Towards a Typology of ICTD

- ICTs as a business sector
 - ICTs as market correctives
 - ICTs as an enabler/ tool
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Current ICTD Policy Frameworks

- *ICTs as a business sector*

- Notion of development premised on economic growth. (**greatest priority of policy is to support industry**)
 - Export earnings
 - Job creation
 - Spillover effects on productivity – adoption of IT, management practices from IT sector, branding a new India
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Current ICTD Policy Frameworks



- *ICTs as Market Correctives*

- Development issues defined exclusively in terms of market failure – so the need to address
 - *information asymmetries*
 - *High transaction costs of market reach to certain areas/ segments (bottom of the pyramid)*
 - Equalising information access and cutting down transaction costs seen as important
 - Eg. Reaching price of produce in different markets through ICTs, micro credit applications
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Current ICTD Policy Frameworks



- *ICTs as an enabler*

- Development a function of innovation
- Markets not a panacea, and ICTs are tools that can be employed to make change happen
- The discourse of appropriate technology – decentralised autonomous processes in dev..
- Best practices
- Can technology inspire business models? – demand-led change

ICTD Policy approaches



Market correctives approach

- Efficiency assumed to lead to equity
- Minimises the redistribution functions of the state
- Marketises health, education and social security

Enabler/best practices approach

- Minimal role for the state
- Cumulative changes become Structural
- Techno-models seen as given

ICTD Policy approaches



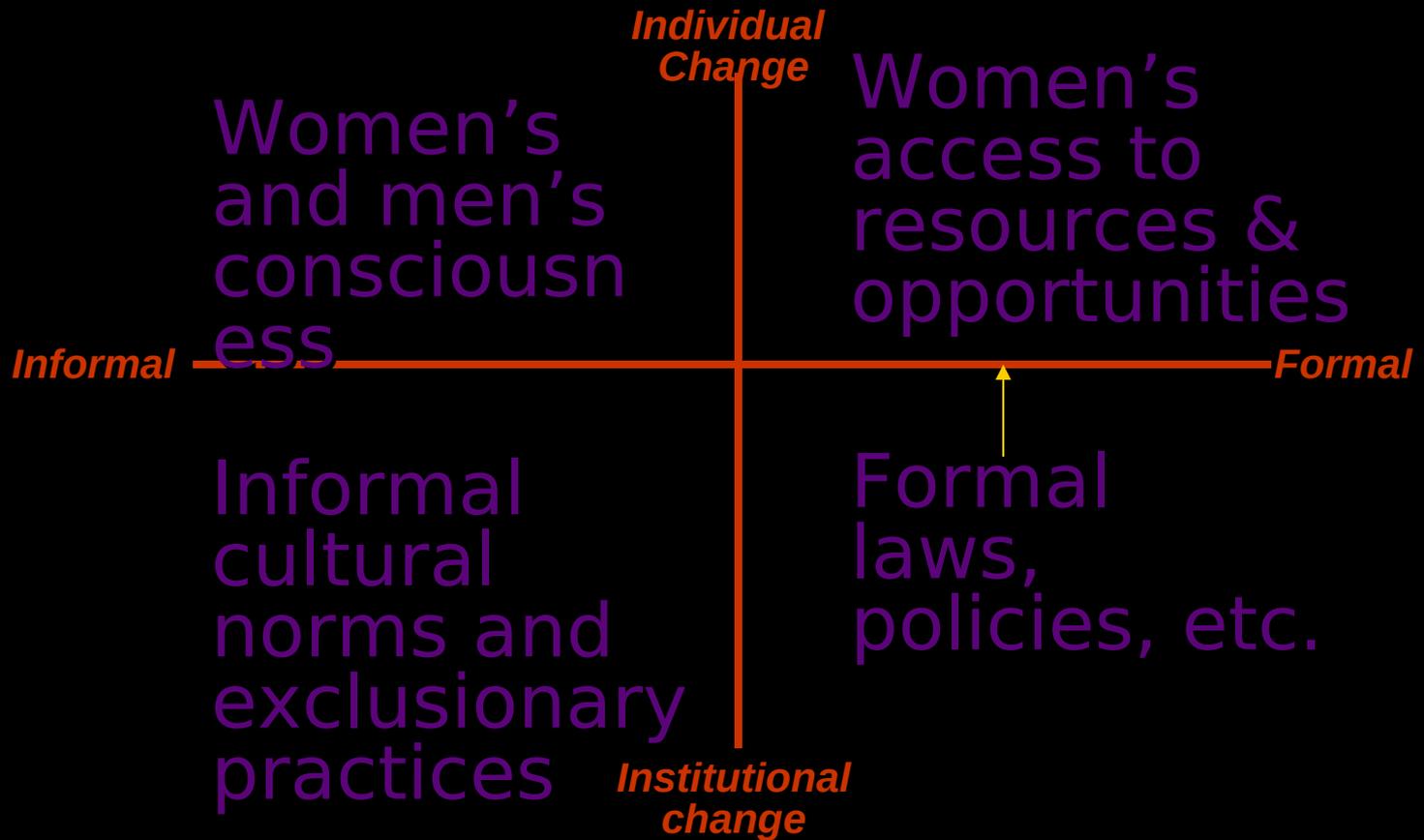
- *Framing the development*

deficit

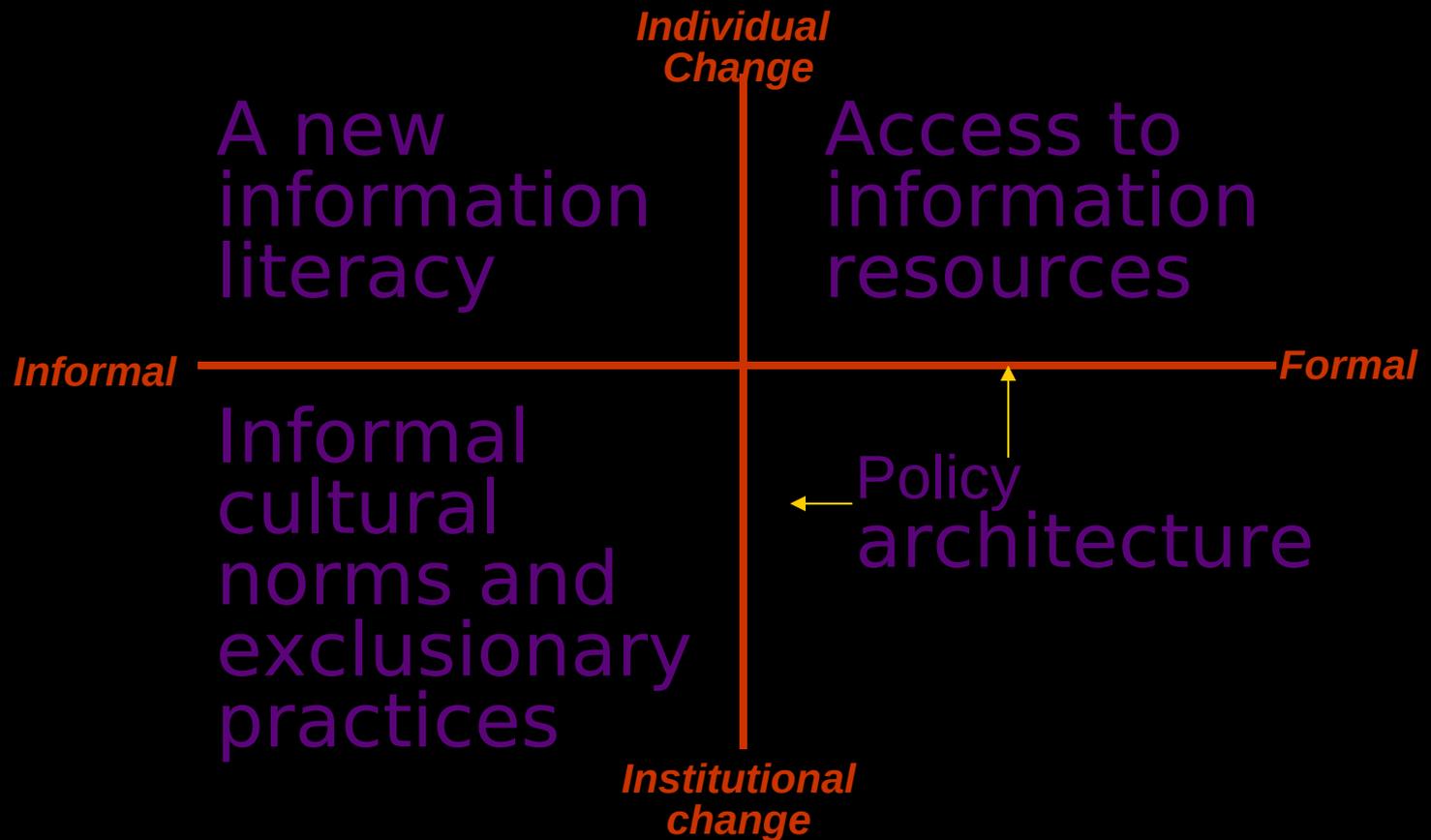
- This conception about change theory
 - Change through ICTs seen in small mutations that are assumed to build into a demand-led, user situation.
 - Change can come from leapfrogging, system change
 - Informational processes (*including social processes*) for social transformation / institutional change
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How change happens

Gender Theory



What change do we want?



Towards a Development in the IS



- Digital technologies don't just enable us to do new things, they shape how we do them - ICTs as co-constituting our realities
 - Development needs dictate IS policy choices
 - Coheres in development sectors
 - Core ICT policies (common infrastructure)
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Policy Requirements



- *What is the policy mechanism which will best address the need for transformation?*
 - Led by sectoral ministries
 - Cross-cutting nodal mechanism for expertise, resource support and coordination
 - Located distinctly from policy support for industry
 - Common infrastructure concerns and its coordination
 - Interfaces with areas of ICT policy
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The Development Dialectic

- You need a strong IS policy mechanism for any impact on development agenda in the IS.
 - Only when development and social policy grapple with IS issues that we will see alternate ICT paradigms.
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