
GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN THAILAND AND INDIA: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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Abstract

This research presents a comparative analysis of the governance and public administration frameworks of Thailand and India, focusing on their structural configurations, ongoing reforms, and the myriad challenges they encounter. By underscoring both the similarities and differences in these frameworks, the study aims to provide insightful recommendations for enhancement, ultimately leveraging the impact of technology on the future of governance in both nations.

Keywords

Governance, Public Administration, Technology, Impact, Future, Thailand, India, Comparative Study

Introduction

Thailand and India are two prominent countries situated in Southeast Asia and South Asia, respectively. Each nation showcases its unique systems of governance and public administration, shaped significantly by their historical trajectories, cultural contexts,

and political landscapes. This analysis will delve into their frameworks, including how technology has increasingly come to influence administrative processes, and outline the challenges they face, particularly those that technology could help address.

Statement of Problem

Both nations continue to grapple with complex governance-related issues, such as pervasive corruption and systemic inefficiencies. This research aims to pinpoint specific areas ripe for improvement, especially in harnessing technology to create more effective governance models that could yield significant impact in the future.

Review of Literature

Previous research has highlighted Thailand's bureaucratic reform efforts (Painter & Peters, 2010) and India's strategic initiatives, such as the implementation of e-governance and the Right to Information Act (Singh, 2018). Comparative studies have underscored valuable insights into effective governance strategies, drawing attention to how technology can serve as a catalyst for reform.

Objectives

The current research aims to pursue the following objectives:

- To conduct a detailed comparison of the governance structures in Thailand and India.
- To analyze the challenges in public administration alongside ongoing reforms, especially in terms of technological integration.

Hypotheses

The formulated hypotheses for this research are:

- Null Hypothesis (H0): There are no significant differences between the governance and public administration systems of Thailand and India.
- Alternative Hypothesis (H1): Significant differences exist between the governance and public administration systems of these two countries.

Research Methodology

- **Research Design:** A comparative case study approach will be employed to analyze governance frameworks effectively.
- **Research Sample:** The study will utilize data related to governance and public administration from both countries, focusing on how technology impacts these areas.
- **Limitations:** The scope of the research is confined to selected aspects of governance, particularly those influenced by technological advancements.

Findings

Key findings include:

- Thailand prioritizes decentralization alongside e-governance initiatives—apparent in the efforts of the Digital Government Development Agency, which aims to harness technology for promoting operational efficiency and responsiveness.
- India places an emphasis on digital governance through programs such as Digital India and Aadhaar, which reflect significant innovation and aim to enhance public service delivery mechanisms.
- Both countries continue to face persistent challenges including corruption and bureaucratic inefficiencies, which technology has the potential to mitigate effectively.
- Decentralization in Thailand is reinforcing local administrative capabilities, allowing for a more responsive and accountable governance structure.
- India's digital initiatives serve not only to streamline processes but also to enhance the overall service delivery mechanisms, showcasing the impactful role technology plays in public administration.

Recommendations

The research suggests several recommendations:

- **Embrace Best Practices:** Both nations should capitalize on Thailand's decentralization model while integrating India's advancements in digital governance to maximize the impact of technology on public administration.
- **Improve Transparency and Accountability:** Emphasize reinforcing anti-corruption strategies through the effective use of technology, promoting citizen involvement in governance processes.
- **Encourage Knowledge Exchange:** Facilitate cooperation between Thai and Indian officials to foster a collaborative environment in exploring technological solutions to governance challenges.

Contribution towards Society and Stakeholders

The insights generated from this research offer valuable guidelines for:

- **Policymakers:** Providing evidence-based recommendations for enhancing governance standards influenced by technological integration in both countries.
- **Researchers:** Establishing a foundation for further comparative studies that explore public administration themes, especially in the context of technology's impact.
- **Citizens:** Presenting prospects for improved services and greater transparency in government dealings, ultimately leading to a more engaged and empowered citizenry.

Conclusion

By learning from each other's experiences and integrating technology into public administration practices, both Thailand and India hold the potential to significantly bolster their governance effectiveness. Such improvements ultimately stand to benefit their citizens and create a more robust future for governance frameworks in both regions.

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