

Young Scholars Program CPRsouth 2017

Mechanics of policy research-Day 2

Sujata Gamage

Inya Lake, 29 August 2017

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and UKaid from the Department for International Development, UK.



FINAL ASSIGNMENT

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A help desk will be available in the conference room

Aug 29: 430-630

730-930

Aug 30: 1000-1130

Sign-up sheet with Nipuni

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RESEARCH PROPOSAL FROMAT, P.13

Visual and Instructional Guide for Paper Proposals

CPRSouth 2017

PROPOSAL FOR PAPER (MAX. 500 WORDS)

PRINCIPAL RESEARCH QUESTION & KEYWORDS

Any research project should start with a **well-articulated** research question, typically presented as a single sentence. Two sentences may be used if needed. A focused research question helps sharpen the proposal and serves as the basis for what follows. Example: What can one learn from **Bhopal's** governance project in India about the feasibility of building social accountability into the design of such projects?

KEYWORDS: Must be selected from the list provided. If you cannot find three that fit, this may not be the right conference for your paper.

This section should not be more than 50 words long;

POLICY RELEVANCE

CPRSouth is an initiative to build and nurture policy intellectuals capable of influencing communication policy in the Asia Pacific region. The conference is held annually with the participation of ~20 presenters. Although participants are selected on the basis of the scholarly strength of their papers as judged by two or three senior scholars, policy relevance is a criterion used to select proposals for papers, and one output of the conference is a set of policy briefs. These policy briefs are more than the outputs. The process of preparing a policy brief is expected to orient scholars towards becoming policy intellectuals.

This section should not be more than 75 words long.

SUBSIDIARY RESEARCH QUESTIONS (HYPOTHESES)

1. Listing subsidiary questions here is helpful for coming up with a good research plan
2. An example of a subsidiary question is "What are the parameters of social accountability?"
3. Some research projects allow you to have some idea of the results you expect and to present them as hypotheses
4. An example of a hypothesis is "less than 10% of herders in Mongolia currently receive weather services through mobile phones"

THE RESEARCH PLAN

The research plan should include results of a preliminary literature search, the method and the data sources to be used. A smaller font size can be used to list the references and personal identification information. A copy without identifying information must be submitted for double-blind review.

I LITERATURE/PRIOR WORK

Policy researchers often fail to cite prior work or literature stating that the phenomena they examine is unique. This is not true. In the case of the e-governance project, key references from the literature on social accountability have to be included.

II PROPOSED METHOD

A proposed method may be a meta-analysis of the existing literature to a random controlled trial that evaluates a particular treatment. Sometimes the method may involve action research, where a treatment is

monitored as it is being applied. The method has to be stated clearly.

III DATA SOURCES

The data sources can be primary or secondary. If primary sources are to be used the method of data collection has to be clearly stated. If secondary sources are to be used, at least one source has to be identified.

IV SOURCES/REFERENCES

Few key references should be listed using APA style. Footnotes and endnotes are discouraged.

Author name, Department | Institution | Street Address, Country

Tel/Fax | email

RESEARCH PROPOSAL REVIEW SHEET

P. 12 (BUT MODIFIED)

| | |
|--|-----|
| Title | 5 |
| Research question/Key words | 10 |
| Policy relevance | 10 |
| Subsidiary Research questions (Hypotheses) | 10 |
| Literature review | 10 |
| Proposed Method | 15 |
| Theory of change/analytical framework | 10 |
| Data sources | 15 |
| Analysis | 10 |
| List of references/sources | 5 |
| | 100 |

SESSION 1- DAY 2

POLICY RELEVANCE, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND THEORIES OF CHANGE

Problem, Policy and Evidence

**Important for Communicating the policy relevance
of a topic**

SAMPLE POLICY BRIEFS –SET1

| Title | Problem/Policy/Evidence |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Antecedents of investments in the mobile telecommunication industry in Africa | |
| 2. Digitized African youth: Assessing access and use of mobile technology by African youth between 2008-12 | |
| 3. Empowering Women in Afghanistan: Can ICT ensure agency | |
| 4. Exploring the walled garden theory: An empirical framework to assess pricing effects on mobile data usage | |
| 5. How tech hubs are helping to drive economic growth in Africa | |
| 6. Factors affecting mobile phone ownership and purchase decisions for women in Myanmar | |

SAMPLE POLICY BRIEFS –SET2

| Title | |
|---|---|
| 7. Harnessing the potential of mobile phones for e-governance in Indonesia | |
| 8. Media literacy and e-skills policy in the EU and South Africa | |
| 9. Potential of the Bharatnet for rural connectivity in India: An organizational survey | |
| 10. Smart policies for smart cities | |
| 11 Taking the microscope to ICT gender gaps in twelve African countries | |
| 12 What is the impact of ICT based education to help students learn effectively as and when required using mobile devices | Effect of ICT facilitated Just-in-time-Learning on educational achievement of Bangladeshi school children |

Research questions and Theories of change

Important in research design

PICOCS - Used in clinical research

Population/Intervention/Comparison/Outcomes/Context/Study design

- PICOCS is Acronym used in systematic reviews of clinical research to fully describe a experimental study (or study with treatment group and comparison or control group)
- In social science or policy studies where experimental studies are rare and observational studies are more common, we use a modified set called PICOs (Population/Intervention/Context/Outcome)
- Interventions may not be apparent in social sciences.

PICOs in policy Brief #1

Population/Intervention/Context/Outcomes in policy Brief 1: Antecedents of Investments in the Mobile Telecommunications Industry in Africa: The Role of Country-Wide and Sector Specific Institutions (Policy Brief #1)

POPULATION

- Investors in mobile telecom industry in Africa

INTERVENTION

- Country-Wide and Sector Specific Institutions (role to be determined)

CONTEXT (ANTECEDENTS/FACTORS/INDEPENDENT VARIABLES)

- Political Stability (POLCON); Liberalization (POL); Competition (COMP); Income_IV (INCOMEIV); Population (POP); %Urban Pop.(URBANRATE); Country size (AREA)

OUTCOME

- Investments in the Mobile Telecommunications Industry

Title has both research question and policy implication

- RESEARCH QUESTION: What are the antecedents of investments in the Mobile Telecommunications Industry in Africa?
- POLICY IMPLICATION: The Role of Country-Wide and Sector Specific Institutions

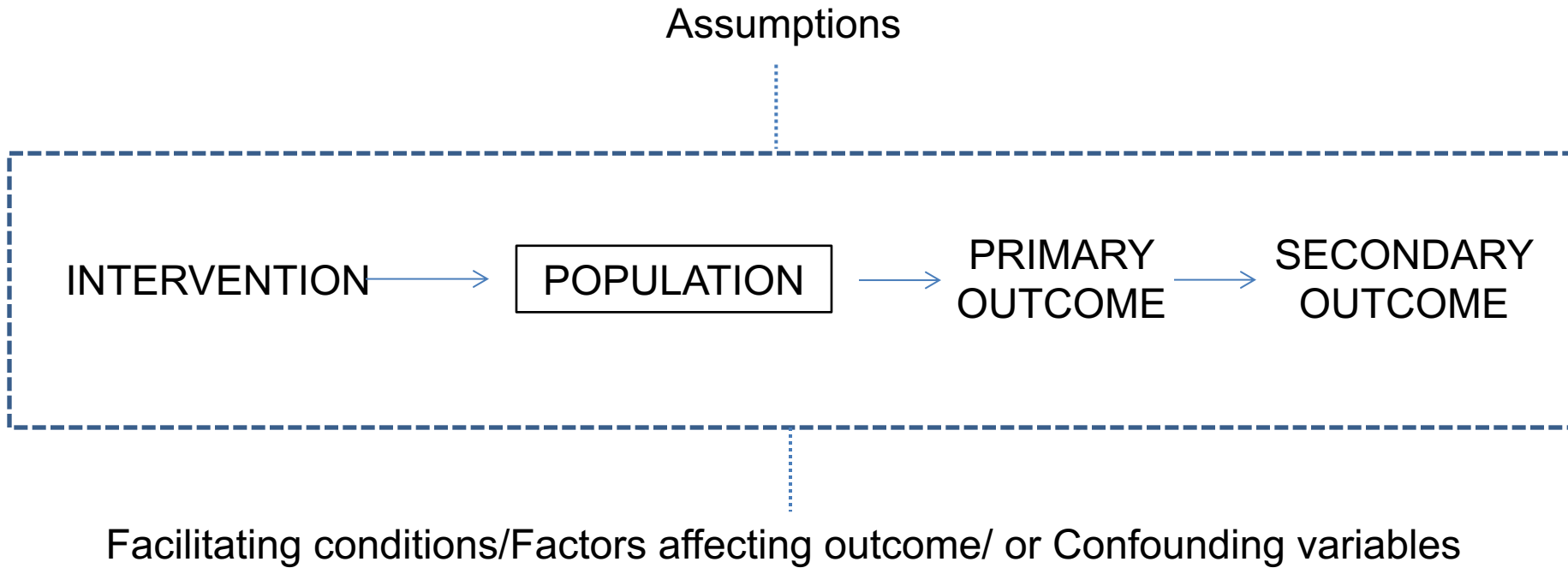
Research question is academically important

- RESEARCH QUESTION: What are the antecedents of investments in the Mobile Telecommunications Industry in Africa?

$$MIS_{it} = \beta_1 + \beta_2 POLCON_{it} + \beta_3 LIB_{it} + \beta_4 COMP_{it} + \beta_5 INCOME_{it} + \beta_6 POP_{it} + \beta_7 URBANRATE_{it} + \beta_8 AREA_{it} + \epsilon_{it}$$

Dependent variable = f (independent variable)

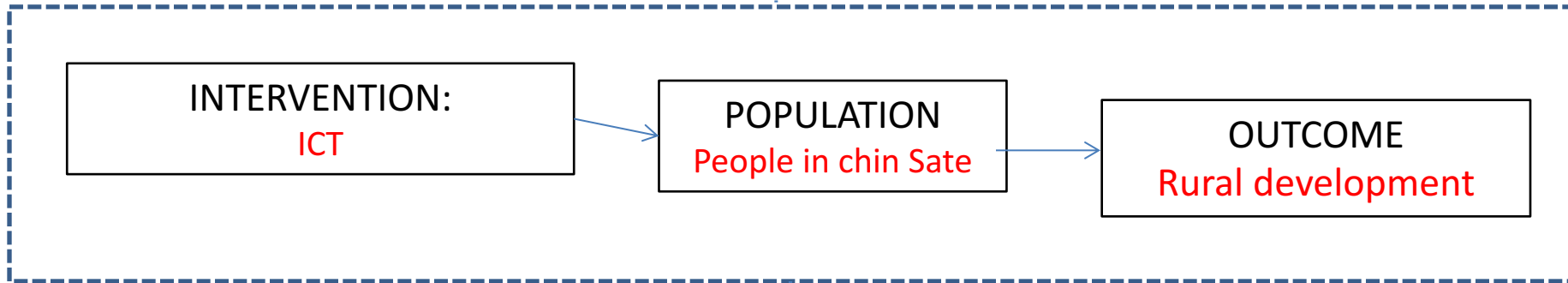
Theory of change



Theory of change: Chin State Ict inf & services for rural dev

Assumptions

e.g. Number of years since establishment of the national regulatory authority is a measure of the liberalization and regulation of telecom



Facilitating conditions/Factors affecting outcome/ Confounding variables
Income_ IV (INCOMEIV); Population (POP); %Urban Pop.(URBANRATE);
Country size (AREA)

Mathematical model

$MIS_{it} =$

$$\beta_1 + \beta_2 POLCON_{it} + \beta_3 LIB_{it} + \beta_4 COMP_{it} + \beta_5 INCOME_{it} + \beta_6 POP_{it} + \beta_7 URBANRATE_{it} + \beta_8 AREA_{it} + \epsilon_{it}$$

Dependent variable = f (Independent variable)

Model cannot tell which independent variables are causal and which are controlling or confounding.

Model does not have to be mathematical

'Agency' of a woman = f (Mobile phone ownership, Education, Marital status, Age)

A measure of each should be considered.

Use descriptive statistics and simple correlations to analyze. Will not be as robust as a statistical model, but can inform and illuminate a policy issue.

Model does not have to be mathematical

'Agency' of a woman = f (Mobile phone ownership, Education, Marital status, Age)

A measure of each should be considered.

Use descriptive statistics and simple correlations to analyze. Will not be as robust as a statistical model, but can inform and illuminate a policy issue.

ASSIGNMENT

Select one of the policy briefs assigned to your team of two and complete the following for the brief:

1. Name of young scholars:
2. Title of policy brief:
3. **Keywords**
4. Problem/Policy/Evidence
5. Population/Intervention/Context/Outcome (PICOs)
6. Research question
7. Theory of change
8. Citations to prior work
9. New evidence (data source; data collection method: method of synthesis:
10. Findings (list)
11. Recommendations (list)
12. Findings supported by data?
13. Recommendations backed by findings?

SAMPLE POLICY BRIEFS –SET1

| Title | Key words |
|--|-----------|
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| 3. Empowering Women in Afghanistan: Can ICT ensure agency | |
| 4. Exploring the walled garden theory: An empirical framework to assess pricing effects on mobile data usage | |
| 5. How tech hubs are helping to drive economic growth in Africa | |
| 6. Factors affecting mobile phone ownership and purchase decisions for women in Myanmar | |

SAMPLE POLICY BRIEFS –SET2

| Title | Research question |
|---|-------------------|
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| 11 Taking the microscope to ICT gender gaps in twelve African countries | |
| 12 What is the impact of ICT based education to help students learn effectively as and when required using mobile devices | |

SESSION 2- DAY 2

SEARCHING THE LITERATURE FOR PRIOR WORK

SOURCES OF LITERATURE

Published papers

- Electronic search of Bibliographic databases
(Education: EBSCO, ProQuest, ERIC; includes dissertation abstracts)
- Hand search journal publishers' web pages or key journals
- Citation searches of key authors/papers
- Reference lists of key authors/papers and

Grey literature

- Scholar.google.com (for a preliminary search)
- Reports from key web sites (Govt/NGO/IGO reports)
- Google.com
- Personal contacts
- Direct requests to key informants
- Other Grey literature

SUMMARIZING THE LITERATURE

A DEMONSTRATION

Harnessing the potential of mobile phones for e-governance in Indonesia

Key words: E-government mobile phones

Citation

[\[PDF\] From E-government to M-government: Facing the Inevitable](#)

I Kushchu, H Kuscu - ... Conference on e-Government, 2003 - pdfs.semanticscholar.org

... Lack of knowledge about mobile phones; - Lack of ... in new technology (many people had fear of missing to vote); - Cost of sending a vote thru a mobile device; - Preferences ... Some of the typical challenges for e-government are naturally shared by the m-government efforts. ...

Cited by 308 Related articles All 4 versions Cite Save More

[\[PDF\] csi-sigegov.org](#)

[\[PDF\] M-government–mobile technology for e-government](#)

M Kumar, OP Sinha - ... e-government ..., 2007 - csi-sigegov.orgwww.csi-sigegov.org

... search for detailed public sector information, and to transact most types of e-government service ... for the developing world where Internet access rates are low but mobile phone penetration is ... Globally, the number of mobile phones has surpassed the number of fixed/wired phones ...

Cited by 65 Related articles All 14 versions Cite Save More

[\[PDF\] semanticscholar.org](#)

[Emerging trends in M-government](#)

S Trimi, H Sheng - Communications of the ACM, 2008 - dl.acm.org

... and therefore it will be more advanced wherever a solid foundation (e-government) exists, for ... The number of third-generation (3G) mobile phone users is the highest in the world, making Japan the world leader in the percentage of mobile phones supporting Internet ...

Cited by 185 Related articles All 7 versions Cite Save

SUMMARIZING THE LITERATURE

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SESSION 5-6- DAY 2

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

DATA COLLECTION METHODS

Data sources:

- Operators/Suppliers
- IGOs
- Regulators/ Policymakers
- Users
- Third Party _____

Data collection method (typology 1):

- Experimental (you make it happen)
- Observational (you observe what has happened, happening or will happen)
- Desk research

Data collection method (typology 2)

- Representative sample
- Purposive sample; Case studies
- Census
- Other

DATA ANALYSIS METHODS

- Statistical
 - Effect sizes
 - Regression coefficients
 - Other
- Narrative
 - With descriptive statistics
 - Using Themes
 - Using frameworks
 - Other

ASSIGNMENT

Identify the data type, data collection method and method of analysis used in the policy brief assigned to your team

DATA COLLECTION

SAMPLE POLICY BRIEFS –SET1

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YS RESEARCH PROPOSAL –SET1

1. Impact of ICT on daily life of Myanmar women.

2. Does using ICT tools to gather and analyze real-time school-level data bring about better governance and improve the performance in public sector primary schools in Pakistan?

3. Examining the current communication and information service facilities provided to the people in Chin State. What are the gaps and challenges? What are the impacts on rural development in Chin State? What can be done to address these gaps and challenges?

4. Factors Affecting Adoption of E-Government in Malawi: Citizen Perspective

5. How can the state formulate policy to address the issue of market monopolisation in the growing digital ridesharing economy in India?

6. How does the provisioning of the first GSM and Internet connectivity in a community impact the education, health and financial inclusion of community members?

7. How has the expectations on public service of the average Filipino social media user changed? What are the effects of government agencies' social media presence on the Filipino social media user's expectations on institutional access, information sharing, response time or speed, accountability?

YS RESEARCH PROPOSAL –SET2

| | |
|---|--|
| 8. How is the international payment control regulation (capital account control) of Nepal affecting the growth of ICT sector in Nepal? What policy reforms can facilitate their growth? | |
| 9. How much does the ICT/media regulations correlate to the social changes brought by the Community Radio? | |
| 10. How to protect business ideas and entrepreneurship from theft and piracy acts according to local, international rules and copyright. | |
| 11. The relevance and potential role of Information and Communication Technologies in attaining Sustainable Development and alleviating Climate Change impacts. More specifically, I want to know if there are efforts as regards ICT use of the Philippine Government in line with the goals of sustainable development and to mitigate or adapt to Climate Change." | |
| 12. Internet shutdowns in Ethiopia: Trends, Prospects and Impacts | |
| 13. Persistent Digital Inequalities Despite Mobile Broadband Advancement | |
| 14. Toward understanding how to achieve digital Inclusion in Rural South Africa: Case study of Mankosi, Eastern Cape. | |
| | |
| | |

YS RESEARCH PROPOSAL –SET3

| | |
|---|--|
| 15. The research on high school drop out rates in Myanmar,especially in countryside | |
| 16. Virtual Radicalization: The Digital Era of Radicalization | |
| 17. What are feasible elements that regulators can design into policy that encourage greater user and civilian ownership of ICT companies and Internet platforms without deterring access to ICTs? | |
| 18. What are the benefits and drawbacks of Mobile Learning within the educational context of the National University of Samoa? | |
| 19. What are the policy issues facing mobile telecommunication and how does the regulatory framework help mobile telecommunication in Ghana? | |
| 20. What are the socio-economic impacts of internet shutdowns? What are the factors that trigger such shutdowns by government agencies and should it be branded as an instrument of state oppression? | |

YS RESEARCH PROPOSAL –SET4

| | |
|--|--|
| 21. What do you think of the debate and online debate? Should the students learn the lessons by using technological things rather than the books?" | |
| 22. What is the potential of instant messaging platforms such as WhatsApp and Viber for impacting economic and political decision making at the bottom of the pyramid via news and information sharing? | |
| 23. Will scrutinizing granular level electricity load data help to design optimal distribution and assist minimizing planned and/or unplanned load shedding? Can a semi-dynamic tariff pricing be implemented to bring change in consumption behaviour for good? | |