

BOUNDED RATIONALITY AND SECTORAL DIFFERENCES IN DIFFUSION OF NATIONAL IT POLICIES

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Abstract: How do national IT policies disseminate in a country? Why would there be a differential awareness of policies among various economic-sectors? These are the two major research questions addressed in the study reported here. Simon's theory of bounded rationality is utilized to predict which sector will find which policy closest to their inherent interests. Individuals, it is argued, will generally bound their search and knowledge-building by these pre-defined policy sets. The authors use quantitative and qualitative techniques to assess sectoral differences in the diffusion of national IT policies in Egypt by gauging the awareness of IT policies by key decision makers within each major economic sector. Interviews with 33 policy-makers and private sector managers were the respondent base of data. Findings show a skewed distribution of awareness of national IT policy diffusion and that this distribution is related to sector-affiliation, as predicted.

Keywords: Information Technology, Information Systems, Economic Theory, Public Policy, Economic Sector, Bounded Rationality

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