

One size does not fit all: A case study of
the spread of OpenCourseWare to
India, China and Japan

Presentation at CIES 2009
in Charleston, SC

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Three ways of conceptualizing OCW

- OCW as a norm
- OCW as an innovation
- OCW as a policy strategy

OCW as a norm

- History goes back to open source movements, open content, open licensing
- Production model and distribution model
- Idea of sharing, expanding access
- Theory of norm cascades to explain spread?

OCW as an innovation

- Other benefits to OCW: increased visibility, help students choose the right courses, faculty to coordinate their courses.

OCW as a policy strategy

- Perspective of state or national government
- History of open universities and distance learning
- A tool to answer demands from constituents and attain national development goals
- Theories of policy transfer and borrowing

Case studies

- Introduction: The US
- China
- India
- Japan

The US: Where it started

- MIT OCW announced in 2001, live in 2002. By 2007, all MIT courses published.
- 2005, OpenCourseWare Consortium formed
- So far, 21 US universities have joined OCWC, but only a few “top-tier universities”
- Many top-tier universities would rather brand their own offerings

China

- MIT and International Engineering Technology Foundation organized OCW conference in Beijing in 2003
- Result: 12 universities petitioned government to institute program of OCW in China
- China Open Resources for Education translates MIT OCW into Chinese
- China Quality OpenCourseWare program by Ministry of Education: 650 universities involved, 1000-10,000 courses developed. A tool for improving quality of undergraduate teaching.

India

- Not formally part of OCW movement
- Attempts made to “recruit” India into the global movement
- Instead, two large open education initiatives, that are not connected to OCWC:
 - Indian Institute of Technologies Youtube channel
 - Indira Gandhi National Open University Youtube + T-Space repository

Japan

- Not much history of open universities (different from China and India)
- MIT professor liaised with Japanese universities in 2004
- 2006, OCW international conference held in Kyoto, Japan
OCW Consortium formed
- 600 courses and over 18 universities
- Very much part of international movement
- Purpose:
 - Create change and internationalize education
 - Collaborate with MIT

Theoretical perspectives

- Norm cascades (Finnemore & Sikkink, 2005)
- Policy entrepreneurs (Mintrom, 1997)
- Legitimacy through internationality (Schriewer & Martinez, 2004)

Thank you!

- Contact me at shaklev@gmail.com
- More presentations about OpenCourseWare at <http://fff.to/1s9>