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論 文 内 容 の 要 旨

Innovation is a practice the private sector has been cultivating since the emergence of industrialization, peaking out in the nurturing of a competition spurred innovation culture. Similar practices are also to be discovered within the humanitarian sector, yet not resting on profit generation rather on the delivery of aid and alleviation of suffering. The research captures this evolving phenomenon, the articulation of a humanitarian innovation culture, and gives particular attention to technology based solutions therein. It argues that without thoroughly understanding technological artifacts – in particular the dynamics behind the decision making process, the affects they will have on the population of concern as well as on the humanitarian agent – they may fail their envisaged goals and exposes their application to a higher risk. To balance this premise, the research proposes a technology-aware assessment scheme to be applied in decision-making processes.

The study investigates the core areas – innovation’s and refugee protection’s – complex “interlace point”, forming the area where technology based humanitarian innovations materialize. On the side of innovation, the inquiry takes under

investigation the building blocks of: “humanitarian innovation” and “technology based innovation.” The potential modalities and attributes of the earlier and affecting environmental factors are elaborated on and placed in a 4P¹ scheme. Novelty can take shape in a variety of casings. Driving the studies interest, technology is taken under loupe and examined as a product of a social shaping process. From the refugee protection’s side the inquiry’s building blocks of: “UNHCR”, “registration in protection” and “urbanization” is being captured. UNHCR is a shaping force and guardian of the refugee protection regime implying a position and practice serving as guidance to other members of the refugee protection sphere. Registration is an elevated block of the study, shaping the gateway to a recognized refugee-hood through recorded refugee identity. From the setting where refugees reside, the urban environment captures the dedicated attention. Urbanization is a global tendency and its impact is also sensible through the priorities and choices made by refugees to live in cities. Being mindful of the core areas interlace, the study gathers its arguments and validation from the insights gained from the application of the proGres+AFIS solution, UNHCR’s global registration tool, placed in the urban setting of Nairobi. Internal and external evaluations complemented with field insights provided for the proposed technology-aware assessment scheme. The scheme draws up baseline considerations what humanitarian agencies shall apply in their decision-making processes, to ensure that the choice are made based on the thorough understanding of the chosen technology-based solution. Consideration groups reflect an analytical view on innovation-posture, technological specifications, arguing for the involvement of specialized technical knowledge, and purpose viability

The scheme shapes out baselines of space identification where technology based solutions can enter the refugee protection sphere and complement protection delivery strategies. Humanitarian agencies are taking increasingly recourse on technology in protection delivery. The proposed scheme is to contribute to humanitarian agencies’ innovation culture cultivation by allowing to consciously and with control include technology in protection delivery practices.

¹ 4P = Product & Service; Process; Position; Paradigm.

論 文 審 査 の 結 果 の 要 旨

This dissertation explores the interface of technology-based innovation and refugee protection and identifies the space within the complex connection where technology-based humanitarian innovations materialize. However efficient and necessary it might be, the technology-based solutions utilized by refugee protection agencies may fail to achieve the envisaged goals and even expose refugees to a higher risk. Thus the study proposes a technology-aware assessment scheme to be applied in introducing innovative measures for protecting refugees.

Chapter 1 provides the rationale and the framework of analysis by identifying the building blocks that capture the two main notions of innovation and refugee protection as well as how they interact. It emphasizes the potentials and advantages of technology-based humanitarian innovation if explored with a conscious, well-informed and open mindset.

Chapter 2 reviews the theoretical and historical evolution of a global refugee protection regime by taking into account the role of the UNHCR as its central articulator.

Chapter 3 details the notion of innovation and its application to humanitarian purposes, particularly for the protection of refugees, by looking at both the driving and inhibiting forces and attributes.

Chapter 4 focuses directly on refugee protection from a particular angle, emphasizing urbanization as a main trend of the refugee phenomena that is growing visibility. The study then places and investigates the concept using Nairobi as an urban setting case study. It examines the UNHCR’s use of the global refugee population management software “Profile Global Registration System” (proGres) and its add-on, the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) module.

Chapter 5, by combining the conceptual approaches and the insights from the field case study in the Nairobi urban situation, applies the assessment scheme to examine the appropriateness of proGres+AFIS in the context of its application.

Finally, Chapter 6 concludes with policy recommendations to build and provide more space for technology-based innovative solutions in the humanitarian sector.

The dissertation, based on a thorough literature review and conceptual analyses coupled with a case study made possible through an internship in an actual refugee protection agency in Africa, is a rich work. The assessors all agreed that the dissertation deserves the Ph.D. degree (International Public Policy).