N

New Public Management, Corruption, Information Computer Technology, and Budget Deficit: Fiji, Jamaica, and Mauritius

Suwastika Naidu
University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji Islands

Synonyms

Budget deficit; Corruption; Information computer technology

Definitions

Budget deficit: It is a sustainability indicator of an economy's sustainability.
Corruption: It refers the fraudulent and dishonest practice.
New Public Management: Reform model pioneered by the donor agencies to improve the public service delivery of the oversized and underperforming governments.

Introduction

The budget deficit has long run impact on the economic growth rate. Globally, there are many economies that have gone bankrupt because their national government was not able to effectively manage their budget deficit (Guajardo et al. 2014). Corruption is not only a problematic issue in the large developed and developing countries, it is also an issue of concern to the small island developing countries. The contemporary global strive is to make our economies more efficient and effective by improving the performance of the public sector. The performance of the public sector is closely knitted to the performance of the private sector. The role of the public officials is to develop a conducive business environment that will help the private sector to bloom in the context of hyper competition and rapid technological changes. A notable debate in the existing literature emphasizes on the importance of improving the transparency and accountability of the public sector in order to improve the performance of the private sector. It is imperative to emphasize on the importance of improving the transparency and accountability of the public sector. Essentially, the public sector reforms were implemented globally to improve the transparency and accountability of the public sector.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the high level of budget deficits experienced by a number of countries around the world is one of the reasons for the New Public Management-driven reforms. The basic premise of the NPM-driven reforms is to break away from the traditional methods of managing the operations of the public service and implement new forms of managing the public sector (Hood 1991). In the last 15 years or so,

A. Farazmand (ed.), *Global Encyclopedia of Public Administration, Public Policy, and Governance*,
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-31816-5_3694-1

significant changes have been noticed in countries like Australia and New Zealand to improve the performance of the public service. The whole idea of the NPM-driven reforms was to make the public sector more efficient by reducing the budget deficit, enhancing the use of the ICT and reducing corruption. This entry focuses on Fiji, Jamaica, and Mauritius for a number of reasons. Firstly, Fiji, Jamaica, and Mauritius are three small island developing countries; therefore, it is easier to compare findings across these three countries. Secondly, there are hardly any comparative studies undertaken on NPM, corruption, ICT use, and budget deficit in the small island developing countries. This study aims to share cross country experiences in order to understand the success and failure of reforms across different geographical regions.

This entry is organized as follows. Section "Overview of Corruption, ICT, and Budget Deficit" provides overview of corruption, ICT use, and budget deficit in Fiji, Jamaica and Mauritius. Section "Economics of Corruption, ICT Use, and Government Budget Constraint" presents the analytical framework outlining the economics of corruption, ICT use, and government budget constraint. Section "New Public Management (NPM), Corruption, Information Computer Technology, and Budget Deficit" discusses the New Public Management (NPM), corruption, information computer technology, and budget deficit concerns associated with the small island developing countries. Section "Reasons for the Ineffectiveness of the NPM Reforms in Fiji, Jamaica, and Mauritius" presents the reasons for the failure of public sector reforms in the small island developing countries. Section "Policy Implications" provides a number of policy implications in this study; finally, section "Conclusions and Directions for Future Research" outlines the conclusions and future directions of the research.

Overview of Corruption, ICT, and Budget Deficit

Fiji is one of the most developed countries in the Pacific Island Countries. The Fiji group comprises of two major islands. These two islands are Viti Levu and Vanua Levu (Fiji Bureau of Statistics 2011). The major land owning unit in Fiji are i-Taukeis (87.9%), followed by state (3.9%) and Rotuman's (0.3%). Fiji has a total population of 837,271 (Fiji Bureau of Statistics 2011). There are two major ethnic groups in Fiji; namely, i-Taukeis and Indo Fijians (Fiji Bureau of Statistics 2011). In 2011, Fiji recorded a growth rate of 2.7%. This growth rate increased to 3.8% in 2014 (World Bank 2015a). Fiji's increase in imports and poor performance of the export sector is one of the reasons for trade imbalance. Tourism and remittances are the two largest foreign exchange earners (Central Intelligence Agency 2015).

Jamaica is an island nation located in the Caribbean Sea. This island nation comprises 10,831 sq. km of land mass and 160 sq. km of sea (Government of Mauritius 2015). The majority ethnic groups in Jamaica are "blacks" comprising 92.1% of the total population followed by East Indian and minority groups that comprise 7.9% of the total population (Government of Mauritius 2015). As compared to Fiji and Mauritius, Jamaica has the lowest growth rate. The economic growth rate of Jamaica decreased from 1.7% in 2011 to 1.3% in 2013 (World Bank 2015a). Similar to Fiji, Jamaica's economy also relies heavily on the service sector. The service sector contributes more than 70% to Jamaica's GDP (Central Intelligence Agency 2015).

Mauritius is located in the Indian Ocean, around 2000 km from the African landmass (Lee et al. 2013). Similar to Fiji, Mauritius is a multicultural society. The island nation of Mauritius comprises of 2030 sq. km of land mass and 10 sq. km of sea. There are four key ethnic groups in Fiji. These four are Indo-Mauritian, Creole, Sino-Mauritian, and Franco-Mauritian. As of July 2015, the total population of Mauritius is estimated to be 1,339,827 (World Bank 2015b). Unlike Fiji, Mauritius has greater political stability. Mauritius continues to flourish even in the environment of business uncertainty. The economy of Mauritius has recorded positive growth rate. The growth rate of Mauritius decreased from 3.9% in 2011 to 3.6% in 2014 (World Bank 2015a). Economic inequality is staggering in Fiji and Jamaica but to a lesser extent in Mauritius. Mauritius's economy is reliant mostly on sugar, textiles and apparel, tourism, and other service sector (Central Intelligence Agency 2015).

Corruption in Fiji, Jamaica, and Mauritius

According to the Transparency International (2013), Fiji generally ranks below the global average of its corruption indices. Statistics published by the Transparency International show that citizen's perception of corruption in Fiji are evenly distributed among citizens who believe corruption has increased in Fiji and citizens who believe corruption has decreased in Fiji (Transparency International 2013). Similar to Fiji, Jamaica is also ranked below the global average of its corruption indices. The illegal means of bribery has become a culture in many public sector organizations. Jamaica has a long history of the relationship between criminal gangs and public sector officials. Even though Jamaica has political democracy, there is history of electoral related unethical behavior that is used by parties in destructive competition (Bogicevic 2012). As compared to Fiji and Jamaica, Mauritius has relatively low levels of corruption. In the recent decade, the government of Mauritius has placed more emphasis on reducing corruption. According to the Transparency International (2014), 3.9% firms in Mauritius have encountered bribery demands of public sector officials whereas the Sub-Saharan average is 22.9%.

Figure 1 shows that Fiji's corruption index has increased from 70 in 1995 to 80 in 2014. Corruption index further declined from 80 in 2014 to 77.7 in 2015. Jamaica's corruption index increased from 50 in 1995 to 62 in 2015. The corruption index for Mauritius decreases from 50 in 1999 to 48 in 2015.

Internet Use in Fiji, Jamaica, and Mauritius

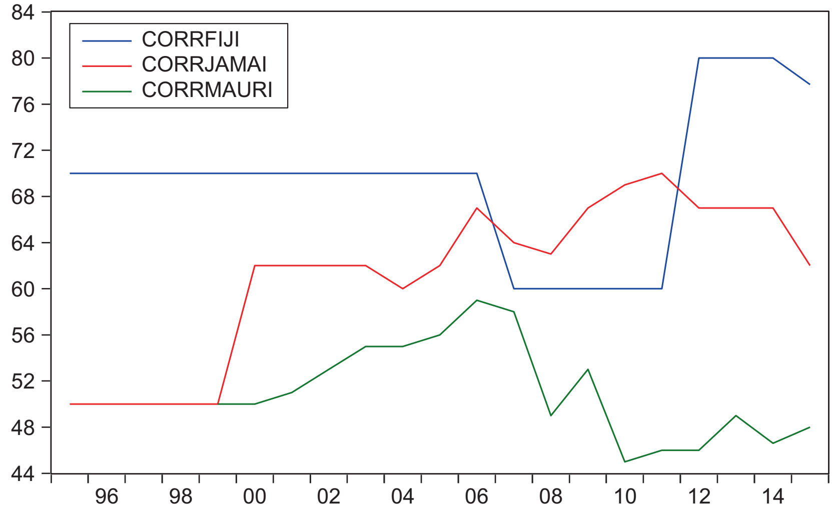
Fiji, Jamaica, and Mauritius resemble similar trends in internet technology use. Approximately half of the total population in Fiji, Jamaica, and Mauritius are using internet services. There are many reasons why people use internet in these three countries. Some of the reasons are leisure, travel, e-government services, and educational purposes (Global Investment Centre 2015). In Fiji, the internet is mainly accessible to people living in urban areas and accessibility of internet in rural areas is constraint by the high cost of internet use and poor network availability (Global Investment Centre 2015). In the Jamaican context, the government has invested in ICT expansion, as a large proportion of the population are in the 10–29 year age group and these youngsters are more likely to use the internet (Kelly 2007). According to Dirooven (2013), internet subscriptions in Mauritius have drastically increased to 568,700 of the total population. Prices on the internet have also decreased in Mauritius (Kelly 2007).

Figure 2 shows that internet use in Fiji as percentage of the total population increased from 1.50% in 2000 to 41.80% in 2014. Internet use in Jamaica has increased from 3.12% in 2000 to 40.50% in 2014. Internet use in Mauritius increased from 7.28% in 2000 to 41.44% in 2014.

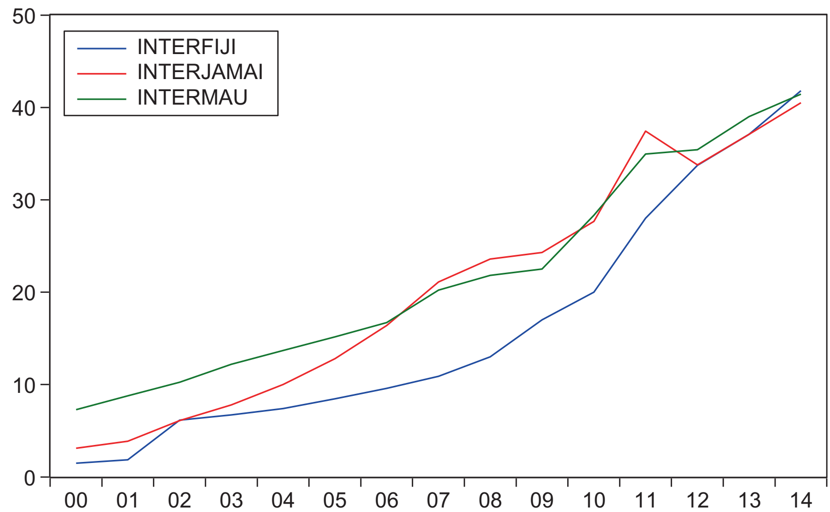
Budget Deficit of Fiji, Jamaica, and Mauritius

As compared to Mauritius, the budget deficit of Fiji and Jamaica has been highly volatile with sharp increase and decrease in the budget deficit in every 2–4 year period. In 2015, the government of Fiji is projecting a higher budget deficit of around 2.5% of GDP (Asian Development Bank 2015). In comparison to Fiji and Mauritius, the budget deficit of Jamaica is much higher. The budget deficit of Jamaica decreased from 10.6% of GDP in 2009 to 6% of GDP in 2011 (Johnston and Montecino 2013). In the recent decade, the government of Mauritius has been emphasizing on economic stability while announcing its budget. During last year's budget announcement, it was projected that the economic growth rate of Mauritius will be around 4% and budget deficit around 3.2% of GDP (KPMG 2013).

Figure 3 shows that the budget deficit of Fiji as percentage of GDP declined from 2.6% in 2013 to 1.9% in 2014. The budget deficit of Jamaica decreased from 5.9% of GDP in 2011 to 4% in 2012. The budget deficit of Mauritius decreased from 1.1% in 2011 to 0.6% in 2012.



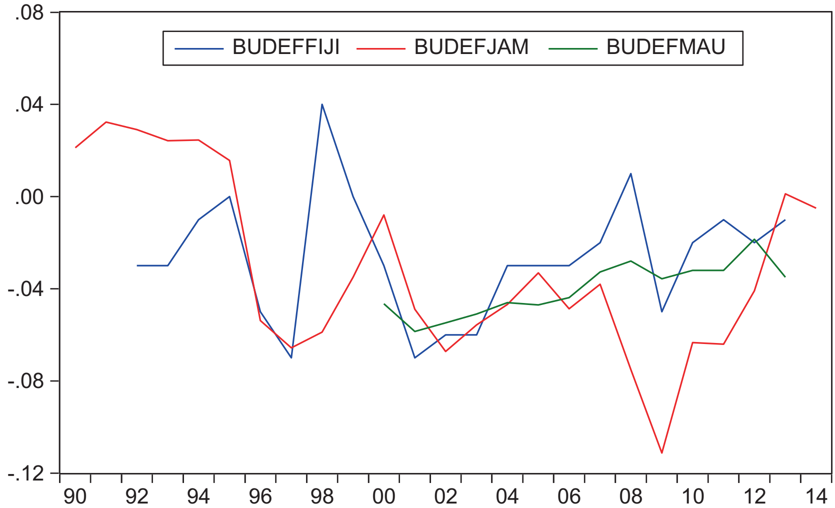
New Public Management, Corruption, Information Computer Technology, and Budget Deficit: Fiji, Jamaica, and Mauritius, Fig. 1 Corruption Index for Fiji, Jamaica, and Mauritius. (Source: The Heritage Foundation in Partnership with the Wall Street Journal (2015))



New Public Management, Corruption, Information Computer Technology, and Budget Deficit: Fiji, Jamaica, and Mauritius, Fig. 2 Percentage of individuals using internet in Fiji, Jamaica, and Mauritius. (Source: International Telecommunications Union (2015))

Economics of Corruption, ICT Use, and Government Budget Constraint

This study uses the Constant Elasticity of Substitution (CES) production function polarized by Devarajan et al. (1996), Ghosh and Gregoriou (2008), and Beladi and Oladi (2015) in order to explain the impact of corruption and ICT use on budget deficit. Assuming that there are two forms of government spending and integrating this with the CES production function, Eq. 1 is derived (Ghosh and Gregoriou 2008):



New Public Management, Corruption, Information Computer Technology, and Budget Deficit: Fiji, Jamaica, and Mauritius, Fig. 3 Budget deficit as percentage of GDP in Fiji, Jamaica, and Mauritius. (Source: World Bank (2015a) database, Asian Development Bank (2015) database, http://countryeconomy.com/, PricewaterhouseCoopers (2013))

$$\varphi = \left(\omega k^{-\tau} + \delta g_1^{-\tau} + \theta g_2^{-\tau}\right)^{-1/\tau} \quad (1)$$

In Eq. 1, φ is output, k is privately owned capital, g_1 is government expenditure one, and g_2 is government expenditure two. In Eq. 1, the following conditions need to be satisfied. First, ω should be greater than 0. Second, δ should be bigger than or equal to 0. Third, θ should be bigger than or equal to 0. Fourth, ω, δ, and θ should add to one. Fifth, τ should be bigger than or equal to −1. The function of government budget constraint is given in Eq. 2 (Ghosh and Gregoriou 2008):

$$\gamma = \mathrm{f}\ (\mathrm{G,S}) \quad (2)$$

In Eq. 2, G is government expenditure that is divided into g_1 and g_2. Further, S is budget surplus or deficit and γ is government revenue. The share of the tax revenue that will be allotted to g_1 and g_2 is given by Eqs. 3 and 4 (Ghosh and Gregoriou 2008):

$$g_1 = \pi\gamma \quad (3)$$

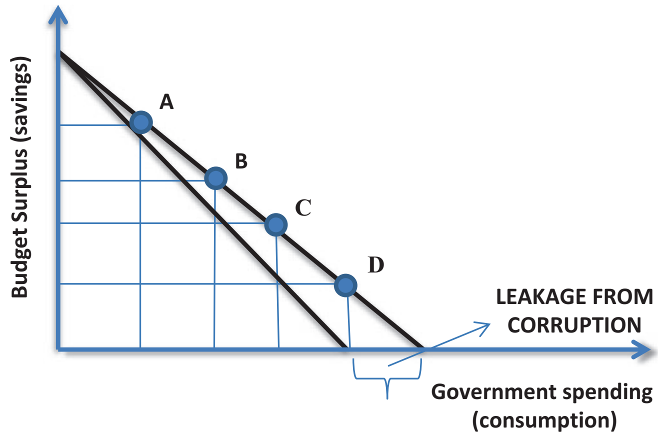
$$g_2 = \beta\gamma \quad (4)$$

where $\pi + \beta = 1$.

The government's budget constraint expanded from Eq. 2 is given below:

$$g_1 + g_2 = \gamma \quad (5)$$

Following the studies conducted by Arin et al. (2011), Eq. 5 is modified in order to capture the effect of corruption on g_1 and g_2. There are two important issues that need to be considered when examining the relationship between corruption, ICT use, and budget deficit. First, corruption brings inefficiency in government spending as corruption causes leakage in the fiscal policy transmission mechanism. (Leakage is caused by the corrupt officials.) For instance, if government has allocated US$1,000,000 for government spending in the coming period and 10% of this is siphoned by corrupt government officials, then the actual government spending on the economy will be US$900,000 (Delavallade 2006). Second, with the use of ICT, corruption level can be effectively monitored and reduced. ICT use brings transparency, accountability, and reliability in delivery of



New Public Management, Corruption, Information Computer Technology, and Budget Deficit: Fiji, Jamaica, and Mauritius, Fig. 4 Corruption, ICT use, and budget constraint line. (Source: Created by the Author of this Project (2015) by using her own economic intuitions)

public sector services (Proskuryakova et al. 2013). These two issues are captured in Eq. 6:

$$\frac{\partial g_1 + \partial g_2}{c} = \gamma \tag{6}$$

In Eq. 6, ∂ represents information computer technology and c represents corruption. The impact of corruption and ICT use on budget constraint line is shown in Fig. 4. It also shows that the leakage from government spending will reduce government spending but with the increased level of ICT use, the budget constraint line will adjust to its original level.

Oligarchs Utility Function and Budget Constraint Line

Parallel to the arguments of Beladi and Oladi (2015), this project assumes that the economic system of a country is corrupted by unethical agents called "oligarchs." The utility function for oligarchs is given as follows:

$$U = \int_0^\infty \frac{\forall^{1-\sigma} - 1}{1-\sigma}\, e^{-\rho t}\, dt \tag{7}$$

In Eq. 7, $\forall$ is private consumption and ρ is time preference ($\rho > 0$). The oligarch's budget constraint is given by:

$$\varnothing = yc - \forall \tag{8}$$

In Eq. 8, $\varnothing$ is budget constraint for oligarch, y is income that increases by the amount of leakage from corruption, and $\forall$ is private consumption. Fig. 5 shows that the unethical government official will be able to maximize his/her utility from the additional income he/she gets from corruption.

Drawing from the study conducted by Devarajan et al. (1996), the ratio of government spending to private capital derived from Eq. 1 is given below:

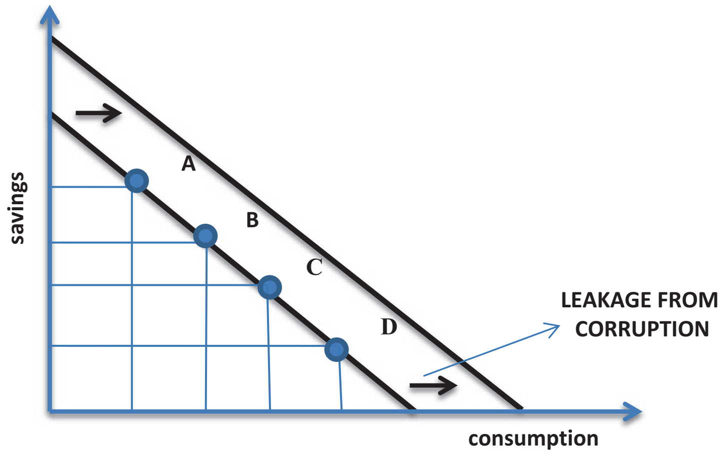
$$\frac{g}{k} = \left[\frac{c^{\tau} - \delta^{-\tau} - \theta\beta^{-\tau}}{\alpha}\right]^{1/\tau} \tag{9}$$

The endogenous budget deficit framework is given in Eq. 10 (Ghosh and Gregoriou 2008):

$$\vartheta = \frac{(\propto ?(1-c)\{\alpha c^{\tau}/[c^{\tau}-\delta^{-\tau}-\theta\beta^{-\tau}]\}^{-(1+\tau)/\tau} - p}{\sigma} \tag{10}$$

This section has developed the endogenous budget deficit framework that is linked to government spending, corruption, ICT use, and budget deficit. The impact of corruption and ICT use is clearly related to budget deficit. There are crucial implications on budget deficit as ICT use and corruption level fluctuates.

New Public Management, Corruption, Information Computer Technology, and Budget Deficit: Fiji, Jamaica, and Mauritius, Fig. 5 Oligarchs utility function and budget constraint line. (Source: Created by the Author of this Project (2015) by using her own economic intuitions)



New Public Management (NPM), Corruption, Information Computer Technology, and Budget Deficit

Effective financial resource management has always been the center stage of the NPM-driven reforms. The traditional model of public management has numerous loopholes that have resulted in ineffective budgeting, human resource management practices, and public sector service delivery management (Devarajan et al. 1996; Delavallade 2006). When ineffectiveness constraints the growth of the public sector, it is natural that wastage of resources, low levels of employee productivity, and morale will become a major constraint to public service delivery. According to Bogicevic (2012) and Lukea Bhiwajee and Garavan (2016), when ineffectiveness constraints the growth of the public sector, the budget deficit and corruption are likely to increase. By early 1990s, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund who are the donor agencies of the small island developing countries enforced the need to reform the public sector in order to qualify to receive the financial resources for public sector management (Lukea Bhiwajee and Garavan 2016). Many small island developing countries are pressured to reform their public service delivery in order to secure funds from the IMF for the public expenditure (Lukea Bhiwajee and Garavan 2016). A common phenomenon in both large and small island developing countries is that governments usually spend more than their internal available financial resources. To address their budget deficit, they have to take loans with interest. The high level of interest payments, coupled with issues related to corruption, inefficiency, lack of employee morale, and productivity leads to accumulation of the budget deficit (Devarajan et al. 1996; Delavallade 2006). Fiji, Jamaica, and Mauritius together with other large developed, developing, and small island developing countries are affected by the new conditionality's of the IMF and World Bank (Bogicevic 2012).

There were a number of factors that constrained the ability of the small island developing countries to maximize the utility of funds received from the donor agencies (Devarajan et al. 1996; Delavallade 2006; Bogicevic 2012). Firstly, high levels of corruption in countries like Fiji and Jamaica inhibited the effective utilization of the donor agency funds. Most of the funds disbursed to the small island developing countries were for improving the transparency and accountability of the public sector, human resource development, effective financial management, and process reengineering. The high level of corruption restricted the maximum use of the donor agency funds for reducing the budget deficit of the public sector. For instance, Fiji had scored highest as compared to Mauritius and Jamaica on the Corruption Index. In order for Fiji to qualify for the disbursement of the donor agency funds, it will have to reform its public service delivery. Secondly, the high levels of budget deficit have become a growing concern not only for the small island developing countries, but also for large developed and developing countries as well. The Asian Financial Crisis, Latin American Debt Crisis, and the Global Financial Crisis showed how vulnerable the largest developed and developing countries have become as a result of accumulating large amounts of public debt (Lukea Bhiwajee and Garavan 2016). It has been noticed that most governments has been spending far more than they should be spending and resultantly both the future and the current generation is troubled with the accumulating debt. The current generation is less troubled with this accumulating debt as compared to the future generating because the longer it takes for the government to pay for the debt, the higher the interest rate and debt accumulation. As compared to the three countries, the budget deficit of Fiji is the highest followed by Mauritius and Jamaica. The public sector reforms in these three countries are indicative of the following issues (Devarajan et al. 1996; Delavallade 2006; Bogicevic 2012; Lukea Bhiwajee and Garavan 2016):

- The high level of the budget deficit and corruption levels in countries like Fiji and Jamaica can become a very serious problem if no action is taken.
- The big size of the government is a serious concern in the small island developing countries. There are few small island developing countries where the government is the major employers of more than 60% of the population. The small island developing countries are interdependent because the government is not promoting the growth of private sector activities in order to engage the population in research and development activities. It is important for the government officials in the small island developing countries to realize that the role of the government is to provide employment and reduce unemployment rate. The role of the government is not to provide employment to the majority of the citizens in the government departments in order to reduce the employment rate.

Essentially, it is important for the government officials in the Fiji, Jamaica, and Mauritius to realize that the role of the NPM-driven reforms is to achieve a perfect balance between the economic and social development. Fiji, Jamaica, and Mauritius are open economies; therefore, it should be noted that the structural adjustments will be ineffective until it is supported by the public policy. There are a number of reasons for the ineffectiveness of NPM reforms in countries like Fiji, Jamaica, and Mauritius (Devarajan et al. 1996; Delavallade 2006; Bogicevic 2012; Lukea Bhiwajee and Garavan 2016). Firstly, the governments has always given importance to the social policy over fiscal policy contraction. The overall idea of the NPM model is to improve the efficiency of the public sector so that the public sector is able to create a worthwhile business environment for the private sector (Lukea Bhiwajee and Garavan 2016). This will have a multiplier effect on the private sector because as the efficiency of the private sector improves, there will be more room for entrepreneurship, new business start-up, etc. This will generate employment opportunities for the citizens of the countries. Secondly, the small island developing countries are still in the process of slowly adopting digital technology. Digitalizing the government processes is a way to improve the accountability and transparency of the government system (Lukea Bhiwajee and Garavan 2016). It is very difficult for citizens to use digital technology in order to use the government services in the small island developing countries. Fiji and Jamaica are still struggling with issues of lack of trust on the e-government website, and poor internet infrastructure.

Moreover, achieving the best fit between the NPM reforms, social policy, and fiscal consolidation would require a good knowledge of intellectual foundations, the specific types of fiscal assistance needed, and the best way to reduce public expenditure in order to reduce public debt. The NPM model specifically emphasizes on "achieving value for money" (Devarajan et al. 1996; Delavallade 2006; Bogicevic 2012; Lukea Bhiwajee and Garavan 2016). The political ideologies of the public sector, government influences how and what they see in value for money. For instance, for a right wing government, the value for money is achieved by investing in the private sector, while for the left wing government the value for money is achieved by investing in the social assistance program. Before the 1980s, the public sector of Fiji, Jamaica, and Mauritius has always emphasized on red tapism, bureaucracy, and rules-driven approach. However, under the NPM model, the public sector of Fiji, Jamaica, and Mauritius is required to be (Lukea Bhiwajee and Garavan 2016):

- Results orientated with specific emphasis on quality of service, efficiency and effectiveness
- An approach for providing feedback to clients
- A strong emphasis on clients
- Flexibility and cost effectiveness of public provision
- Transparency and accountability while establishing the public sector processes

Reasons for the Ineffectiveness of the NPM Reforms in Fiji, Jamaica, and Mauritius

There are a number of reasons for the ineffectiveness of the NPM reforms in the small island developing countries, such as, Fiji, Jamaica, and Mauritius (Devarajan et al. 1996; Delavallade 2006; Bogicevic 2012; Lukea Bhiwajee and Garavan 2016). Firstly, NPM was treated as a universal approach of implementing reforms globally. The socioeconomic context of the small island developing countries is different and this is one of the main reasons for the failure of NPM reforms in reducing corruption and the budget deficit as it was expected when this model was implemented. The NPM-driven reforms in the case of Fiji, Jamaica, and Mauritius should have been designed to suit the unique public sector problems that are faced by the public sector of these three small island developing countries (Lukea Bhiwajee and Garavan 2016). Secondly, the public sector officials lack the skill and the required capacity to implement public sector reforms in the developing countries. In order to implement successful reforms, the public sector officials need to be well trained in the area of process re-engineering, public policy, etc. There is a major skill gap noticed in countries such as Fiji and Jamaica. Mauritius is not an exception to this case, but there still needs to be improvements in the area of human capacity development in the public sector of Mauritius (Lukea Bhiwajee and Garavan 2016). Thirdly, too much internal bureaucracy in countries like Fiji and Jamaica makes it difficult to implement NPM model.

Policy Implications

There are a number of policy implications of this study. Firstly, the governments of the small island developing countries should realize that is no one fit reform model in the world. A global-driven reform by donor agencies may not be successful all the time as locally driven factors should be considered when implementing reforms. A number of national factors affect the effectiveness and success of reforms in the small island developing countries and some of these factors are as follows (Devarajan et al. 1996; Delavallade 2006; Bogicevic 2012; Lukea Bhiwajee and Garavan 2016):

- Economic factors
- Political factors
- Social factors

The abovementioned factors should be considered while reforming the public sector of the small island developing countries. Secondly, an unsuccessful reform strategy will further exacerbate the existing problems faced by the public sector of the small island developing countries. It is imperative for the government officials to determine the best reform model that has the drive, commitment, and abilities to provide a perfect fit between the public sector resources and the re-engineered processes proposed by the reform model.

Conclusions and Directions for Future Research

The main aim of this entry was to determine how high levels of corruption faced by the small island developing countries can be a major deterrent to the budget deficit position of these countries. Countries like Fiji and Jamaica can learn from Mauritius on the importance of engaging information computer technology (ICT) in the public sector reform process. The NPM reform model, driven by the donor agencies, has received numerous criticisms in the existing literature. With the recognition of these issues, this book entry tries to emphasize how the small island developing countries can learn from this these models and propose models that would prove successful in their socio-economic context.

References

Arin KP, Chmelarova V, Feess E, Wohlschlegel A (2011) Why are corrupt countries less successful in consolidating their budgets? J Public Econ 95(7):521–530

Asian Development Bank (2015) Fiji: Economy. Retrieved from http://www.adb.org/countries/fiji/economy

Beladi H, Oladi R (2015) On smart sanctions. Econ Lett 130:24–27

Bogicevic O (2012) Governance, politics and corruption: An inquiry in electoral corruption in Jamaica. Master Thesis in Development Studies, Lund University, Sweden. Retrieved from http://lup.lub.lu.se/luur/download?func=downloadFile&recordOId=2688636&fileOId=2796359

Bureau of Statistics (2011) Fiji facts and figures 2011. Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics, Suva

Central Intelligence Agency (2015) Economy Overview. Retrieved from https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mp.html

Delavallade C (2006) Corruption and distribution of public spending in developing countries. J Econ Financ 30(2):222–239

Devarajan S, Swaroop V, Zhou HF (1996) The composition of public expenditure and economic growth. J Monet Econ 37(1):313–344

Dirooven V (2013) Overview of the ICT Sector and Software Industry in Mauritius. National Computer Board, Jamaica. Retrieved from http://www.ncb.mu/English/Documents/News/World%20IP%20Day%202013/session%201/Overview%20ICT%20Sector%202013.pdf

Ghosh S, Gregoriou A (2008) The composition of government spending and growth: is current or capital spending better? Oxf Econ Pap 60(1):484–516

Global Investment Centre (2015) Fiji: internet and E-commerce investment and business guide. International Business Publications, Washington, DC

Government of Mauritius (2015) Republic of Mauritius: Location. Retrieved from http://www.govmu.org/English/ExploreMauritius/Geography-People/Pages/GeographyPeople/Location.aspx

Guajardo J, Leigh D, Pescatori A (2014) Expansionary austerity? International evidence. J Eur Econ Assoc 12(4):949–968

Hood C (1991) A public management for all seasons?. Public Admin 69(1):3–19

Johnston J, Montecino JA (2013) Update on the Jamaican economy. Working paper series. Centre for Economic and Policy Research, Washington DC Retrieved from http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/jamaica-2012-05.pdf

Kelly R (2007) Internet use among young people in the Kingston metropolitan area. Planning Institute of Jamaica working paper series, Kingston, Jamaica. Retrieved from http://pioj.gov.jm/Portals/0/Sustainable_Development/Internet%20use%20in%20the%20KMA.pdf

KPMG (2013) Mauritius Budget 2014. Retrieved from https://www.kpmg.com/Africa/en/IssuesAndInsights/Articles-Publications/Documents/KPMG%20Budget%20Highlights%202014.pdf

Lee S, Lim J, Lee H, Park C (2013) Food prices and population health in developing countries: An investigation of the effects of the food crisis using a panel data. ADB Economic working paper series no. 374, Manila, Philippines. Retrieved from http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/30389/ewp-374.pdf

Lukea Bhiwajee S, Garavan TN (2016) The empowering of public sector officers in the Mauritian public sector in the context of reforms: how far has management education helped? European Journal of Training and Development 40(4):262–283

PricewaterhouseCoopers (2013) Fiji National Budget Synopsis 2014. Retrieved from http://fijilive.com/archive/showpdf.php?pdf=237.pdf

Proskuryakova L, Abdrakhmanova G, Pitlik H (2013) Public sector e-innovations: E-government and its impact on corruption. Higher School of Economics research paper no. WP BRP, 4

Transparency International (2013) Anticorruption helpdesk: Providing on demand research to fight corruption. Retrieved from https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mp.html

Transparency International (2014) Anticorruption helpdesk: Overview of corruption in Mauritius. Retrieved from http://www.transparency.org/files/content/corruptionqas/Country_Profile_Mauritius_2014.pdf

World Bank (2015a) World Bank GDP Data for Fiji, Jamaica and Mauritius. Retrieved from http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG

World Bank (2015b) Overview: Political Context. Retrieved from http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/mauritius/overview