**THE POLICY POCESS: EVALUATION AND REVISION**

Name

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Course

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Date

**The Policy Process; Evaluation and Revision**

Public policies have a great impact on the social, political and economic nature of a country. This makes it necessary for them to undergo serious evaluation, analyzation and revision before they are implemented hence aids in avoiding mistakes which may result to consequences.

## **Evaluation Stage**

Evaluation is a process that is used to examine the project, policy or program critically hence has the main objective of answering all the questions put forward regarding the policy programs to be implemented. It includes the collection and analyzing information related to program or policy activities and outcomes hence improves the program or policy effectiveness through identifying the weak areas and changes in the programming or policy decisions. It also correctly evaluates or measures health care policy in good time to ensure success of processes. Evaluation is an appropriate stage after the policy implementation as it is effective to evaluate the policy effectiveness in terms of accomplishing policy objectives. Along with this, it should also be noted that, evaluation will be based on formalized outcome indicators and measures. An evaluation plan should also discover the following things:

- The short-term and long-term expected outcomes from the implementation process
- How the data relative to health care policy will be collected
- How the relevant data will be evaluated

The evaluation stage will also discover new problems that are developed through the implementation process and changes in policy by the problem-solving process if necessary. Furthermore, both qualitative and quantitative methods of evaluation are used in the process of

analyzing public policies. It's a norm for experts from different disciplines to be called upon to help and evaluating the public policies to make the whole process very comprehensive and inclusive.

The process of policy evaluation occurs in different stages with each stage raising questions about the policy program. The evaluators have to provide answers to the questions raised and make necessary changes if the feedback is negative.

♦ Stage 1: Collection of relevant information and analyzation of the relevant data- to help determine whether the objectives or goals of the policy will be met is carried out. This is done through verification of the real facts on the ground to confirm whether the situation is necessary for the implementation of the policy. Furthermore, an assessment of the population is carried out to check whether the said need exists and requires the attention of the government. The people affected by the problem are identified and the extent of the problem established. Policy evaluators come in to determine the measurable effects of the problem on the affected population. This stage ensures are well allocated and used wisely.

♦ Stage 2: The next step in policy evaluation is the assessment of the policy model to find out whether the actions can comprehensively achieve the intended objectives and goals of the policy. In most cases, policy implementation models are normally assumed by those in charge of running the policy programs and in the process leading to poor results at the implementation stage due to poor decisions made by the few who were in charge. The authenticity and effectiveness of the implementation model is assessed to ensure effective implementation of policy programs. The logic behind the implementation method is thoroughly explained by policy evaluators to ensure both negative and positive consequences of the policy are known before

implementation. A clear and effective logic model of policy program implementation ensures that all the stakeholders involved in the implementation of the policy play their roles effectively.

Apart from assessing the implementation model, policy evaluation also scrutinizes the actual implementation of policy programs. The main aim of assessing program implementation is to ensure that all the critical components of the policy program are applied according to the original plan. Evaluation of policy programs ensures that the programs reach the intended group and the staff responsible for implementing the policy programs is qualified for the job. The implementation process is evaluated continually to check the efficiency of policy programs. Policy evaluation also entails the assessment of the policy impact on the target population. Any policy program put in place is supposed to achieve some desired outcomes for the program to be termed successful. After policy implementation, the evaluation team seeks to establish whether the policy programs are bringing the desired effects on the target population. The evaluation team carries out the cost-benefits analysis to assess the efficiency of a program for comparison purposes.

It is possible for the desired outcomes to be realized on the ground as a result of other external processes hence this poses a great challenge to evaluators in determining whether the effects on the ground are as a result of the implemented policy program. Statistical techniques are normally used to in the process of assessing the real impact of the policy program in question. The process of determining causation is always a great challenge to evaluators because of a number of factors that complicate the process of assessing the real impact of the policy program on the ground. The self-selection bias is one of the major factors that complicate the

process of determining causation. This problem occurs when all the participants in policy formulation and implementation are self-selected.

The issue of self-selection bias can only be resolved by conducting a comprehensive impact analysis of the policy program. Through experience, it has been proved that causation cannot be determined by random assignment because the correlation between the cause and effect cannot be effectively proved through random assignment of people. This leaves impact analysis as the only option of determining the actual cause of the impact being reflected on the ground. In case enough data has been collected, statistical methods of impact analysis can be used to determine causation. Determination of causation helps in establishing the viability of a policy program for the intended purpose.

The instruments used in policy evaluation should be very accurate for reliable results to be obtained thus to ensure credible results are obtained, statistical techniques are used to assess the accuracy of the methods used in impact analysis of the policy program in question. Some of these statistical techniques include reliability, sensitivity and validity.

- Reliability seeks to determine whether the measurement instrument produces the same results after being used several times to measure the impact of the same policy program.
- Validity refers to the ability of a measuring instrument to measure what it is intended to measure and it is determined using the validity technique. The validity of a measuring instrument in many policy programs is determined by program administrators and sponsors who ignore the use of statistical techniques to determine the validity of the measuring instrument.

- The sensitivity of a measuring instrument is very important because of the fact that some changes can occur in process of measuring the impact of the program. This might occur as a result of a change in application which might affect the final effect of the program.

## Revision Stage

Public policies need to undergo revision before implementation to avoid the many complications that might arise at the implementation. In addition, policy revision is recommended to restructure outdated policies and make them consistent with the current economic, social and political trends. The process of policy revision can be carried out through editing the existing policies according to current requirements or developing new policies in case the existing ones are completely outdated. Policy makers have the responsibility of identifying the policies that need revision and present them for revision. All the stakeholders are called upon to give their input on the areas that need revision before the policy agenda is sent to for amendment, discussion and adoption. The other option is to formulate new policies addressing the same problem but using a different approach. The new policy draft is then discussed and legislated using the normal policy legislation procedure. In case of policy editing, all the suggested changes that are meant to improve the efficiency of a policy program should be included in the final draft before being sent   for debate and adoption. Constant policy revision by the government ensures that funds are not wasted on outdated government policy programs with no real positive impact. Statistical methodologies are normally used to identify and review public policies that need revision.

**CONCLUSION**

To conclude, policy evaluation and revision is essential in ensuring all government programs attain the desired results. Policy evaluation seeks to find out all the answers to the questions that might be asked regarding the policy programs being developed and implemented which aid policy evaluators assess the viability and efficiency of a policy program using analytical and descriptive statistical methods. It is important for all public policies to be reviewed to make sure that they are consistent with current social, political and economic trends in the country and the whole world at large.

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