

Civil Society Organisations, Evidence and Policy Influence

A policy maker's perspective

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### What is public administration?

- It can denote:
  1. The activity of public servants;
  2. The structure of government: that is institutions and relationships through which the activity of public servants is carried on;
  3. The study of 1 and 2.

Fletcher (1967)

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### The policy/administration dichotomy

- Sometimes a distinction is made between:
  - Policy and politics – work of elected politicians
  - Administration – the work of officials or administrators
- However, the above distinction is problematic, because the term 'administration' is not straight forward.
- Politicians rely heavily on officials when formulating policy!

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### The changing context of pub. admin.

- Public bodies do not exist in a vacuum.
- They are closely related to the environment which they inhabit, and they influence, and are influenced by that environment.
- A number of external influences assist and constrain public administrators.
  - Political environment
  - Social and cultural environment
  - Globalisation
  - Information and communication technologies

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### Features of the public service

- Permanence
- Unity
- Anonymity
- Neutrality

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### The public policy making system

- A sub-system of society
- Interacts constantly with
  - culture
  - public opinion
  - social groups
  - economic, religious and educational institutions
  - All other components of society

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- Autonomy of the public policy making system is increased by:
  - Growing complexity of the issues
  - Strength of the national leaders who can use mass-communication media
- Yet, influence of the environment on public-policy-making is tremendous.
- Improving policymaking depends on the change in the environment.

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### Policy Cycle – a basic presentation

- Formulation
- Implementation
- Evaluation
- Reformulation

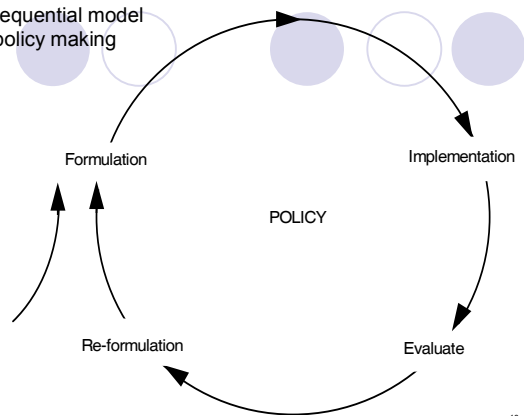
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### Policy cycle – a more elaborate presentation

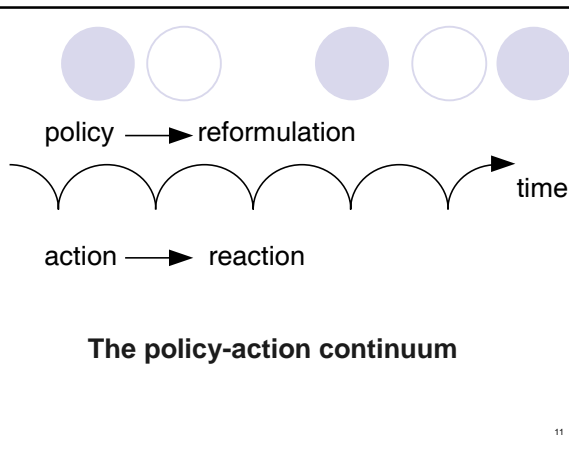
- Policy initiation/agenda setting
- Appraisal
- Formulation
- Implementation
- Evaluation
- Policy continuation / termination / reformulation/ succession / learning

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A sequential model of policy making



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### Policy Defined

- Defines an area for decision making with a degree of discretion
- States objectives to be achieved
- States criteria for factual and value judgement
- Enables decisions to be consistent with the stated objectives
- Enables decisions on issues before they become problems/crises
- Enables delegation of authority
- Enables maintenance of central controls
- Coordinates backward/forward/horizontal area plans and policies

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## Annex 4 Seminar Keynote 1 Presentation

### How are policies made

- Most are formulated after crisis/crises (eg. Policy on salaries)
- Some are formulated to satisfy a need of a group or groups of people
- Some policies are made purely to please those who make a din
- Some policies are made purely to enhance one's political image/stature
- Occasionally policies are made on gut feelings
- Policies are also made for political gain/advantage
- Policies are also made to benefit oneself

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### Why the gap between research and public policy making?

- **Poor relationship between research bodies & bureaucracy**
- **Lack of applied research**
- **Research not oriented towards public policy making**
- **Bureaucracy lacks public policy making skills**
- **Politicians are in a haste to make policies**
- **Highest policy making bodies do not depend on research**

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