



Decision-Making, Policy- Making/Policy Analysis

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Introduction

- The terms decision-making, and policy making and policy analysis are interrelated but distinct things.
- The three are so closely related that many people tend to, erroneously, use them interchangeably.



Conceptual Analysis

- As the title of this paper indicates, its theme revolves around the concepts of “decision making”, “policy making” and policy analysis. Hence, the logical questions are: what do these concepts mean? How are they related?



Decision-Making

- Decision: a rationally calculated choice two or more alternatives
- ❖ Identification of the problem (immediate cause, underlying cause, root cause)
- ❖ Analysis
- ❖ Choice



Policy

- Policy: is a set of interrelated decision by actor(s) concerning the selection of goals and the means of achieving them within a specified situation where those decisions should, in principle, be within the power of those actors to achieve.



Policy Making Process

- Policy: course of action or patterns of action including decision and other actions related to it
- Complex process comprising three interrelated and sequential steps; namely formulation, implementation and evaluation.



Policy Formulation

- The preliminary stage of goal setting which involves:
 - (1) Identification of the problem
 - (2) Development of alternative course of action
 - (3) Analysis of available alternatives
 - (4) Selection of the best alternative



Policy Implementation

- At the implementation stage, attention has to be given to four things, viz:
 2. Policy content
 3. Resources
 4. Client
 5. Environment



Policy Evaluation

- The stage of determining the extent to which a policy is yielding its set out objectives using available tools.
- The purpose of evaluation therefore, is to monitor the satisfactory execution of the policy and to discover any problem that might arise in the course and find solution to such problem.

Policy Analysis



- A before hand attempt to examine, measure and evaluate the impact/effect of policy
- It seeks to answer 6 questions:
 - (1) What is the actual policy being formulated?
 - (2) How is the policy determined?
 - (3) Why is policy X chosen not Y?



Policy Analysis contd.

- (4) Is the policy selected the best?
- (5) Why has the policy succeeded or failed?
- (6) How can the policy be improved?



What is to be done?

- Identify problems
- Capability of matching the rightly diagnosed problem with available resources
- Development of feasible implementation strategy
- Prudent, judicious policy evaluation
- Feedback