

**SUBJECT PAPER: POLICY SCIENCES**

**SUBJECT CODE: 18MPO31C**

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**CLASS: II M.A., POLITICAL SCIENCE**

## **UNIT I INTRODUCTION**

### **MEANING AND SCOPE OF POLICY SCIENCE**

The policy sciences study the process of deciding or choosing and evaluate the relevance of available knowledge for the solution of particular problems. When policy scientists are concerned with government, law, and political mobilization, they focus on particular decisions.

There is science used for developing public policy, as part of the decision-making process to create laws related to problems such as water quality and clean air (science for policy). ... Those policy decisions fall to an increasingly polarized political process.

1.The main concern of policy sciences is the understanding and improvement of macro-control systems and especially the public policy systems. This includes policy analysis, alternative innovations, master policies (mega policies) evaluation and feedback, improvement of meta policy (policy about policy-making), etc.

2.Policy sciences would break the barriers and traditional boundaries between various social science disciplines including behavioural sciences and decision disciplines.

Further, they would integrate knowledge and build-up a supra-discipline focussing on public policy-making. In this attempt even the knowledge relevant in physical and life sciences would be drawn.

"Policy sciences must integrate knowledge from a variety of branches of knowledge into a supradiscipline focusing on public policy-making"

Those models emphasising policy analysis have been dominant among economists, operations researchers and public administrationists who assumed that policy problems and their solutions could be defined with rational accuracy and subjected to empirical analytical precision.

This policy analysis culture has three main features as found in Dror's pioneering writings: i) technical experts who are sensitive to the ethical implications of decisions; ii) close cooperation between researchers in government; and iii) an informed citizenry to fend off the anti-democratic spectre of an expert ruling class.

Policy science may contribute to the selection of policy options. As conceptualisation, it has two .i: i) It contributes to the way in which policy-making is done; and ii) its policy options may percolate into

society, influencing the way that a society thinks about issues, the facets of the issues that are viewed as susceptible to alteration, and the alternative measures that it considers.

### **POLICY SCIENCE AND POLITICAL CULTURE**

Lucian Pye's definition is that "Political culture is the set of attitudes, beliefs, and sentiments, which give order and meaning to a political process and which provide the underlying assumptions and rules that govern behavior in the political system".

Political culture describes how culture impacts politics. Every political system is embedded in a particular political culture. Its origins as a concept go back at least to Alexis de Tocqueville, but its current use in political science generally follows that of Gabriel Almond.

Political culture differs from political ideology in that two people can share a political culture but have different ideologies, such as Democrats and Republicans. According to Almond and Verba's 1963 study, there are three basic types of political culture: parochial, subject, and participatory.

- Cognitive Orientation.
- Evaluation Orientation.
- Affective Orientation.

A political culture is a set of attitudes and practices held by a people that shapes their political behavior. It includes moral judgments, political myths, beliefs, and ideas about what makes for a good society. A political culture is a reflection of a government, but it also incorporates elements of history and tradition that may predate the current regime. Political cultures matter because they shape a population's political perceptions and actions. Governments can help shape political culture and public opinion through education, public events, and commemoration of the past. Political cultures vary greatly from state to state and sometimes even within a state. Generally speaking, however, political culture remains more or less the same over time.

The concept of political culture can be seen as a natural evolution in the growth of the behavioral approach in political analysis, for it represents an attempt to apply to problems of aggregate or systemic analysis the kinds of insights and knowledge which were developed initially by studying the political behavior of individuals and small groups.

### **POLICY ANALYSIS**

Policy analysis is a technique used in public administration to enable civil servants, activists, and others to examine and evaluate the available options to implement the goals of laws and elected officials. The process is also used in the administration of large organizations with complex policies.

The most common methodologies of policy analysis include program evaluation, cost-benefit and cost analysis, needs assessment, single-subject or case studies, surveys, secondary data analysis,

implementation studies, and outcome studies, although the array of available types—both qualitative and quantitative as well as

**Policy analysis**, evaluation and study of the formulation, adoption, and implementation of a principle or course of action intended to ameliorate economic, social, or other public issues. Policy analysis is concerned primarily with policy alternatives that are expected to produce novel solutions. Policy analysis requires careful systematic and empirical study.

Policy analysis plays an important role in helping to define and outline the goals of a proposed policy and in identifying similarities and differences in expected outcomes and estimated costs with competing alternative policies. Many public policies are designed to solve both current and future problems, and thus policy analysis attempts to forecast future needs based on past and present conditions. Policy outcomes can be found in a variety of different forms—tangible outputs and less-tangible outputs for which the impacts are more difficult to measure.

### **APPROACHES IN POLICY ANALYSIS**

There are five basic approaches to policy analysis: formal cost-benefit analysis, qualitative cost-benefit analysis, modified cost-benefit analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis and the most common type of policy analysis, multi-goal policy analysis.

Howlett and Ramesh's model identifies five stages: agenda setting, policy formulation, adoption (or decision making), implementation and evaluation. Let us briefly examine each of these stages

A policy analysis model is developed to analyze policies that have not yet been chosen. They have not been (and may never be) implemented, and the impacts cannot be observed directly.

The purpose of policy analysis is to facilitate the choice of sound policy with a view to improvement (Ukeles, 1977). It is important to note that policy analysis is not a one-off tool, but a way or culture of handling tasks at all stages of the policy cycle.

A key element of a credible policy analysis involves the use of an analytical framework grounded in one or more theories and models of policy making. These frameworks help to identify and interpret the relationship between key variables relevant to the policy issue of interest.

### **MODELS AND TECHNIQUES IN POLICY ANALYSIS**

In Dror's analysis of public policy-making, models occupy an important place. Dror considers the normative model as a tool for systematically analysing public policy-making, as a basis for the criteria and standards needed to evaluate policy-making, and as a guide for formulating effective proposals for any improvements that are found to be desirable. Dror examines existing normative models critically and suggests that they fall short of the requirements. He identified six normative models of policy-making: 1) the pure-rationality

model; (2) the 'economically rational' model; (3) the sequential decision model; (4) the incremental change model; (5) the satisfying model; and (6) the extra-rational process model.

### **DECISION MAKING ANALYSIS**

Decision analysis is a systematic, quantitative, and visual approach to making strategic business decisions. ... Risk, capital investments, and strategic business decisions are areas where decision analysis can be applied. Decision trees and influence diagrams are visual representations that help in the analysis process.

The basic components to a successful decision analysis are reliable probabilities and outcome values.

A probability is a quantitative estimate of the chance or likelihood that a given outcome will occur.

The fundamental tool of decision analysis is a decision-analytic model, most often a decision tree or a Markov model. ... Decision models can incorporate the probabilities of the underlying (true) states of nature in determining the distribution of possible outcomes associated with a particular decision.

- Rational decision-making model.
- Bounded rationality decision-making model. And that sets us up to talk about the bounded rationality model. ...
- Vroom-Yetton Decision-Making Model. There's no one ideal process for making decisions. ...
- Intuitive decision-making model.