

# Reading List

- ❖ Anderson, J.E. (2011). **Public Policymaking: An Introduction**, Seventh Edition. USA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.
- ❖ Bardach, E. (2012). **A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis**. Los Angeles: Sage.
- ❖ Fischer, F., Miller, G.J and Sidney, M.S. (2007). **Handbook of Public Policy Analysis: Theory, Politics and Methods**. USA: CRC Press/Taylor and Francis Group.
- ❖ Olaniyi J.O. (2001). **Foundations of Public Policy Analysis**. Ibadan: Sunad Publishers.
- ❖ Sapru, R.K. (2004). **Public Policy Formulation, Implementation and Evaluation**. New Delhi: Sterling Publishers Private Limited

# GENERAL INTRODUCTION

- ❖ Nations are always confronted with various challenges or problems
- ❖ Governments provide solutions to these problems through the policy process

# CONCEPTUAL ISSUES

❖ Public policy is not amenable to easy clarification. The difficulty in explaining the concept is attributable to the following:

- ✓ Public policy is an omnibus concept;

- ✓ Public policy is multidisciplinary in orientation.

# DEFINITIONS

❖ **Thomas Dye:** Public policy is whatever government chooses to do or not to do

❖ **Chandler and Plano:** Public policy is the strategic use of resources to alleviate national problems or governmental concerns

❖ **Robert and Clark:** Public policy is a series of steps taken by a government to solve problems, make decisions and allocate resources or values.

❖ **Professor James Anderson:** Public policy is a relatively stable and purposive course of action or inaction followed by an actor or set of actors in dealing with a problem or matter of concern

# ATTRIBUTES OF PUBLIC POLICY

- ❖ It is a purposive course of action
- ❖ A policy is designed to affect a particular “target” population
- ❖ Public policies emerge in response to policy demands
- ❖ Public policies are actually what governments do, and not merely what they intend to do
- ❖ Public policy may either be positive or negative
- ❖ Public policy, in its positive form, is based on law and it is authoritative.

# Public Policy Making Process

The stages include:

The Formulation Stage

The Implementation Stage

The Evaluation Stage

## □ Formulation Stage

- ✓ Policy actors take decisions about *what* is to be done and *how* it is to be achieved
- ✓ The forces in the formulation stage include the individual citizen, campaign promises and policy agenda, the media, pressure groups and political parties



# □ Implementation Stage

- ✓ This comes after a policy has been adopted
- ✓ It is the translation of policy goals into concrete action
- ✓ The success of the implementation stage is hugely dependent on the knowledge of what is to be done and the availability of the required resources

# □ Evaluation Stage

- ✓ This is the careful comparison between the intended outcome of policy and the actual achievement

# Categorisation/Types of Public Policy

Public policy, albeit an omnibus construct, is not indecipherable. Authors have come up with different typologies to provide information about the scope and purposes of public policies. A very notable categorization is the one done by **Theodore Lowi**

# □ Distributive Public Policy

- ✓ Distribution of resources or benefits to the segment(s) of the population that need them
- ✓ Usually financed through general tax revenues
- ✓ Zero-sum game does not apply
- ✓ Intended to fulfill Pareto's Optimality

# □ Redistributive Public Policy

- ✓ Deliberate transfer of resources from one segment of the society to another one
- ✓ Usually financed through the graduated income tax
- ✓ Zero-sum game applies
- ✓ Intended to achieve equilibrium

# □ Regulatory Public Policy

- ✓ Imposes limitations on the behaviour of individuals
- ✓ Provides standards and rules to control the activities of some groups
- ✓ Relies on deterrents
- ✓ Intended to prevent unacceptable behaviours

# Actors Involved in Policy Making

❖ A number of actors are involved in policy making. These include:

- ✓ The Executive
- ✓ The Legislature
- ✓ The Judiciary
- ✓ Administrators/Bureaucrats
- ✓ Interest Groups

# The Executive

- ✓ The Executive is the most important organ of government
- ✓ It makes general policies and implement laws
- ✓ It decides on which policy problem will receive the attention of the political system
- ✓ It exercises the power to approve or assent to bills
- ✓ It determines which agency implements which law/policy



# The Legislature

- ✓ The Legislature is the organ that makes law
- ✓ Approves executive policies and programmes
- ✓ Adopts bills as proposals for law
- ✓ Debates bills that emanate from other sources
- ✓ Determines the outcomes of critical issues such as state creation and revenue sharing

# The Judiciary

- ✓ Through the process of judicial review
- ✓ Through interpretation of laws
- ✓ Serving as heads of commissions of enquiry

# Administrators/Bureaucrats

- ✓ They assist in collecting and collating relevant data about policy problems
- ✓ They assist in the preparation of policy proposals
- ✓ They implement executive policies
- ✓ They are also involved in policy evaluation

# Interest Groups

- ✓ As structural mechanisms, they generate policy demands
- ✓ They aggregate and articulate policy demands
- ✓ They are involved in advocacy
- ✓ They help to design programmes/policies

# Policy Analysis

- ✓ Problem Diagnosis
- ✓ Pre-Adoption Analysis
- ✓ Post-Adoption Analysis

# Policy Analysis (Tools)

✓ Cost-Effectiveness Analysis

✓ Cost-Benefit Analysis

# Theories of Decision Making

- ❖ The theories of decision making include:
  - ✓ Rational-Comprehensive Model
  - ✓ Incremental Theory
  - ✓ Mixed Scanning

# Rational-Comprehensive Model

❖ This involves a comprehensive examination of all issues with the aim of rationally choosing the best alternative course of action.



- ❖ The sequence of action involved include:
  - ✓ A decision on which problem to address
  - ✓ The decision-maker must recognize that he is in a choice situation
  - ✓ He ranks all the available courses of action logically

- ✓ He determines the cost of each alternative
- ✓ He predicts the consequences of each with reasonable certainty
- ✓ He selects one these alternatives that will help maximize the attainment of goals
- ✓ The selected alternative is adopted and implemented

# Incremental Theory

❖ The theory assumes that administrative decision making usually involves a continuation of past policies with the least possible modifications to suit changing circumstances.

❖ The sequence of action involved include:

✓ Problem identification

✓ An investigation into how similar problems were addressed in the past

✓ Analysis of a few plausible solutions

✓ Selection of one that makes real contributions to addressing the problem without drastically altering existing processes

# Mixed Scanning

- ✓ Represents a compromise position between rationality and incrementalism
- ✓ Considered to be superior to the other two
- ✓ It utilizes what is best in the other two
- ✓ It is a flexible instrument of decision making