

MPA-015: PUBLIC POLICY AND ANALYSIS
(Tutor Marked Assignment)

Course Code: MPA-015

Assignment Code: MPA-015/Asst/TMA/2019-20

Marks: 100

This Assignment consists of Section - I and Section - II. There are five questions in each section. You have to answer a total of five questions in about 500 words each, selecting at least two questions from each section. Each question carries 20 marks.

SECTION – I

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| 1) Discuss the role of civil society in policy-making. | 20 |
| 2) Explain the significance of policy sciences and examine its relevance to public policy in the contemporary context. | 20 |
| 3) Elucidate the Systems Model for policy analysis. | 20 |
| 4) What are the major constraints in public policy formulation? | 20 |
| 5) Examine the role of Inter-Governmental relations in policy-making. | 20 |

SECTION – II

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| 6) Explain the term policy implementation and highlight various types of problems in policy implementation. | 20 |
| 7) Describe the process of policy monitoring and suggest the remedial measures for effective monitoring. | 20 |
| 8) What are the major problem areas in policy evaluation? | 20 |
| 9) Discuss the methods and techniques in policy analysis. | 20 |
| 10) Analyse the telecom policies and their impact on telecom sector. | 20 |

IGNOU ASSIGNMENTS

PROGRAMME TITLE:- M.A.(PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION)

COURSE CODE:- MPA-015

COURSE TITLE:- PUBLIC POLICY & ANALYSIS

STUDY CENTRE CODE:- 1301

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SECTION-I

1) Discuss the role of civil Society in policy-making.

Ans

Civil Society Organisations are expected to play an important role in conceivable aspects of development as a planner and implementer of development programmes, mobiliser of local resources and initiatives, catalyst, enabler and innovator, builder of self-reliant sustainable society, mediator of people and government, facilitator, supporter and partner of government programmes, factor of transformation, improvement of the poor, facilitator of development education, training and technical assistance. Specific roles performed by civil society organisation are as follows:-

a) Supporting The Government Projects

CSO help in selecting the suitable locations for innovative government projects and specify the strengths and weaknesses. In this regard they suggest ways to overcome the short-comings that government may face at the time of implementation. Thus CSOs contribute at the time of planning itself. They act more quickly than a government bureaucracy due to the flexible and democratic nature of their organisations. They support and demonstrate the results of pilot projects very effectively and facilitate clear communication between citizens and the government.

b) Facilitating Communication in the Planning Process

In policy-making especially at the field level they have a good feel of the community response and basic needs of the citizens. To win the confidence of the people they use interpersonal methods of communication. They provide information to the public Agencies about lives, attitudes, culture

and capabilities of people in their area. In the context of policy making, they facilitate communication at both levels, upwards and downwards. In upward communication, they inform the government about the requirements, orientations and abilities of local people and provide feedback for modifying or changing the existing programmes in consonance with basic needs of the area. They work in strategic ways, share information and develop networking between other organisations involved in their field.

c) Mobilising Local Resources and Initiatives for Proper Planning:

The civil society actors play a crucial role in development especially through mobilising local resources and initiatives. These efforts can be seen during the post-disaster phase, esp. in planning for rehabilitation and reconstruction. To uplift the vulnerable people they plan and develop land, building materials supply centres and community based economic enterprises, construct houses and provide infrastructure.

d) Monitoring and Evaluation of Government Policy

The CSOs conduct innovative research and activities in the field of planning for policy-making and implementation of development programmes which is documented and shared with the government and public. These efforts in monitoring and sharing of results contribute to the effective functioning of the bureaucracy and political leadership and encourage people participation in policy making process.

e) Facilitating Development, Education, Training and Technical Assistance

The civil society actors develop programs with the help of experts to provide technical assistance and training capabilities.

2) What are the major constraints in public policy formulation?

Ans The major constraints of public policy formulation are:-

a) Knowledge Constraints

Knowledge is a pre-requisite for national policy making. Rationality of the policy in the sense of having adequate information base depends on a number of factors. They include efficient record keeping, computerised data base regarding past precedents; a sound and efficient management information system (MIS) to aid decision making at every level, monitoring mechanism supply of facts through research input broad based deliberations among stakeholders for consideration of all available values with due weight according to all competing interest and provision of information connectivity etc. Policy making seems to have suffered in the past due to piecemeal and narrow sectoral approach. Knowledge constraints are more evident in developing countries in terms of preparedness of the bureaucracy to utilise expertise, data availability and low risk perception with regard to matters like climate change. Negative social capital between institutions is at discount due to empire building tendency of key bureaucrats, it inhibits informal communication and impedes rationality. This can be overcome through horizontal integration of policies across ministries. The above enumerated virtues impart much valued responsiveness and responsibility on the part of the administration.

b) Legal Constraints

Lack of systematic effort in policy-making and other constraints often contribute to incomplete

on inconsistent or sloppy policies. The judiciary then resolves matters. The courts on a number of occasions have provided the substance of policies. Courts have also intervened on a number of occasions to check executive arbitrariness. This has led to allegations of 'Judicial Activism'. Even though section 3(3) of India's Environment Protection Act 1986, allows the government to create an authority with powers to control pollution and protect the environment, it has not done so. The apex court ordered the union government to establish an authority to deal with the situation created by the tanneries and other polluting industry in the state of TN. It was further directed that this authority shall implement the precautionary principle and polluter pays principle and identify (a) the loss to the ecology (b) determine the compensation to reverse the environmental damage and compensate those who have suffered from the pollution.

c) Environmental Constraints

In developing countries, the political elite perform the task of political communication inadequately. Political communication is the essential interface between the people and their representatives, whereby the latter apprise the former of the policies and plans of the government to be pursued in their benefit. It is a measure of gathering support as also inobilising people in support of development measures. In the absence of such communication, policies can never translate into results because of lack of proactive initiative on the part of administration, lack of public accountability of officials for sufficient effort towards attainment of result. Political communication is all the more necessary for sufficient impact and reach. The burden of precedent acts as a major organisational constraint to national policy making.

3) Examine The role of Inter-Governmental relations in policy making.

Ans

Facilitating cooperation and interaction between IGRs ensures that changes envisaged in policy matters are brought about smoothly and national and regional interest do not clash with each other. This relationship has certain dimensions in policy making, i.e., legislative, administrative and financial.

The constitution of India clearly highlights the equation between the union and the states in terms of distribution of power. The centre has the authority to initiate legislation in the parliament on policy matters included in the concurrent list to obtain all-India uniformity. The residuary powers are vested in the union parliament. The union is empowered to legislate for 2 or more states by the consent (Art 252). It can make any law for implementing any Treaty, agreement or convention with any other country or any decision made at international conference (Art 253). Article 356 also provides for the imposition of President's rule in a state. The legislature of state in question would stand dissolved and the law making power would rest in the Parliament during that period. There is also a provision for President's veto power over state legislation under certain circumstances (Art 200 and 201). This power does not extend to money bills.

The administrative relations between the centre and the states also reveals the enormity of control of the union on the states in the area of administration. The executive power of every state is to be exercised to ensure compliance with the laws made by the Parliament (Article 256). The Indian constitution makes provision for the creation of new All India Services by the Parliament (Article 312). The emergency provisions (Art 352 to 360) empower

The president in effect to suspend the constitution and to take over the administration of a state if there is a threat to security of nation, breakdown in constitutional machinery of a state on financial emergency. All the provisions reflect the dominance of the Union in administrative matters and policy process of states. The financial dependence of states leads to tensions in IGRs in policy making. The Finance Commission has recommended for a debt consolidation and waiver scheme for states linked to fiscal responsibility. In pursuance of the accepted recommendation of the commission, external loans to state governments are to be given on the same terms and conditions as it is received by the central Government.

The alleged partisan role of the Governor has been the focal point in union state conflict and gross imbalance in IGRs in policy making. The main objective of Article 243G is to ensure that panchayats function as institution of self government. It has been observed that there is no substantial devolution of administrative and financial powers of the states and as such local bodies lack autonomy. While making policy, the sphere of activity of each tier under each item has not been defined and left to the discretion of the concerned state government.

Many States including MP, Rajasthan and UP provide for nomination to MPs and MLAs in local bodies, thereby weakening the growth of local self-government. They influence not only the electoral outcome, but also decision processes of the respective local bodies. The District Planning Committees (DPCs) are expected to play a very important role in preparing draft plans for the districts concerned. In practice DPCs have been ineffective. Planning from below, it needs realisation, is the corner stone of local self-governance.

SECTION-II

4) Explain the Term policy implementation and highlight various Types of problems in policy implementation.

Ans

Policy implementation can be defined as the third stage of policy cycle it means the stage of policy process immediately after the passage of a law, on the action that will be taken to put the law into effect so that the problem will be solved. Implementation most broadly means administration of the law in which various actors, organization, procedures and techniques work together to put adopted policies into effect in an effort to attain policy or program goals.

The various types of problems in policy implementation are:-

a) Conceptual Problems

Implementation of public policy has been hindered by conceptual problems in understanding the nature of contextual problems and the kinds of policies and procedures necessary to address these problems. Problems may be related to policy design and Policy Analysis.

• Policy Design

India's population Policy (2000) lacks an adequate policy design. Acc to Singh, the problems of policy design in this particular policy include ambiguous and ill-defined objectives and inappropriate measures to achieve the stated goal. It also relates to lack of key regulatory principles in most public policies in India. They are partly a product of nature of federalism and adherence to symbolic politics that emphasises policy as an instrument to appease certain interest groups.

• Policy Analysis

Implementation of public policies has been hampered by conceptual weakness in the policy Analysis.

Ex: National Health Policy, inability to set priorities and evolve strategies has resulted partly from inadequate policy Analysis. State Pollution Control Boards, major policy have been adopted without due deliberation on various policy alternatives.

• Policy Statement

The implementers at the field level often face a variety of problems because the policy statements lack clarity. Implementers use their own discretion while implementing them or they refer back to higher rungs of administration for clarification. Such instance, policy implementation is affected.

b) Political Problems

Implementation of public policies are grave and complex. Central Policy Process - friction between central and state government relations has affected process adversely. Unionisation of Bureaucracy at lower levels, destroy work culture discipline and demoralised supervisory levels. Interest Group politics - support corrupt officials and put obstacles in the way of honest officials process of implementation remains weak & tardy.

c) Administrative Problems

Lack of adequate Institutional Capacity, structure and capabilities for implementation of environment laws and policies. Lack of Personnel and Financial Resources it is observed that most of the policies are not implemented because of deficient staff and lack of financial resources.

d) Pressure of Time

It is observed that the pressure of time often creates the implementation gap. Normally the policy formulators do not take into consideration the prevailing conditions. Head offices press agencies for speedy implementation. Under such conditions are unable to fulfill the targets allocated under the said policy.

5) Discuss the methods and Techniques in policy analysis.

Ans The methods and techniques in policy analysis are:-

a) Social Cost-Benefit Analysis

The CBA is one of the methods used in economic evaluation of policy analysis. CBA is also known as 'rate of return' analysis & the procedure followed to compute is similar to that of ordinary investment policy evaluation. CBA tries to estimate net social welfare changes. A policy is said to be efficient if it maximises the net benefits available to the society.

Economic Efficiency is a measure of net benefits accruing through a policy to the society. This is designed to answer whether the redistribution of resources implied by a policy results in a betterment of society. Economic efficiency seeks aggregate monetary gains accrued to the society. The Equity seeks to determine if costs and benefits are systematically reallocated in ways that favour people least able to protect themselves than the people who are already in an advantageous position. Techniques used are:

- Pay Back - It simply calculates benefits from a capital project, the number of period it takes in future to repay the initial investment.
- Discounted Pay Back - The Cost Benefit flows are discounted to incorporate the time value of the money. We discount future value of money to present value by using an appropriate discount rate.
$$PV = FV \left(\frac{1}{1+r} \right)^n$$

- Net Present Value - The NPV method takes all discounted cost benefit flows into account. This method yields one value for each project that can be interpreted easily. It is computed by totalling all discounted cost benefit flows.

NPV = Total discounted benefits + total discounted cost

- Cost-Benefit Ratio - It is simply the ratio of discounted benefits to discounted costs.

$$C.B.R = \frac{\sum DB}{\sum DC}$$

- Internal Rate of Return - The IRR computes a discount rate at which discounted benefits equal discounted costs. IRR is the method that does not depend on the assumption of discount rate and determine a value in terms of percentage

b) Inter-Sectoral Input Output Analysis

It assumes that there is an interdependence among various sectors of the economy like industrial, governmental, and household sectors. Each industry requires the output of others as input in their production process. Ex: In order to produce 1 ton of iron, we need x_1 tons of iron scrap, x_2 tons of iron ore, x_3 tons of coke & x_4 kW of electricity. Here the product iron is called output and the ingredients like iron ore etc are inputs. The inputs x_1, x_2, x_3 are also called product coefficients that reflect underlying causal relation b/w the production & consumption of goods and services. Inter-Sectoral input-output analysis seeks to explain and predict the interdependence among various sectors of the economy. One of the most important applications of input output analysis is the formation of a national income accounting matrix. The information from the input-output tables is used for economic planning. The data collection & compilation for input-output tables is an expensive and time consuming process; no. of sectors can vary from a few to hundreds or even thousands. Technique: Each coefficient expresses the numerical ratio of inputs required from particular sector to produce the total output of a sector.

$$a_{ij} = \frac{T_{ij}}{O_j}$$