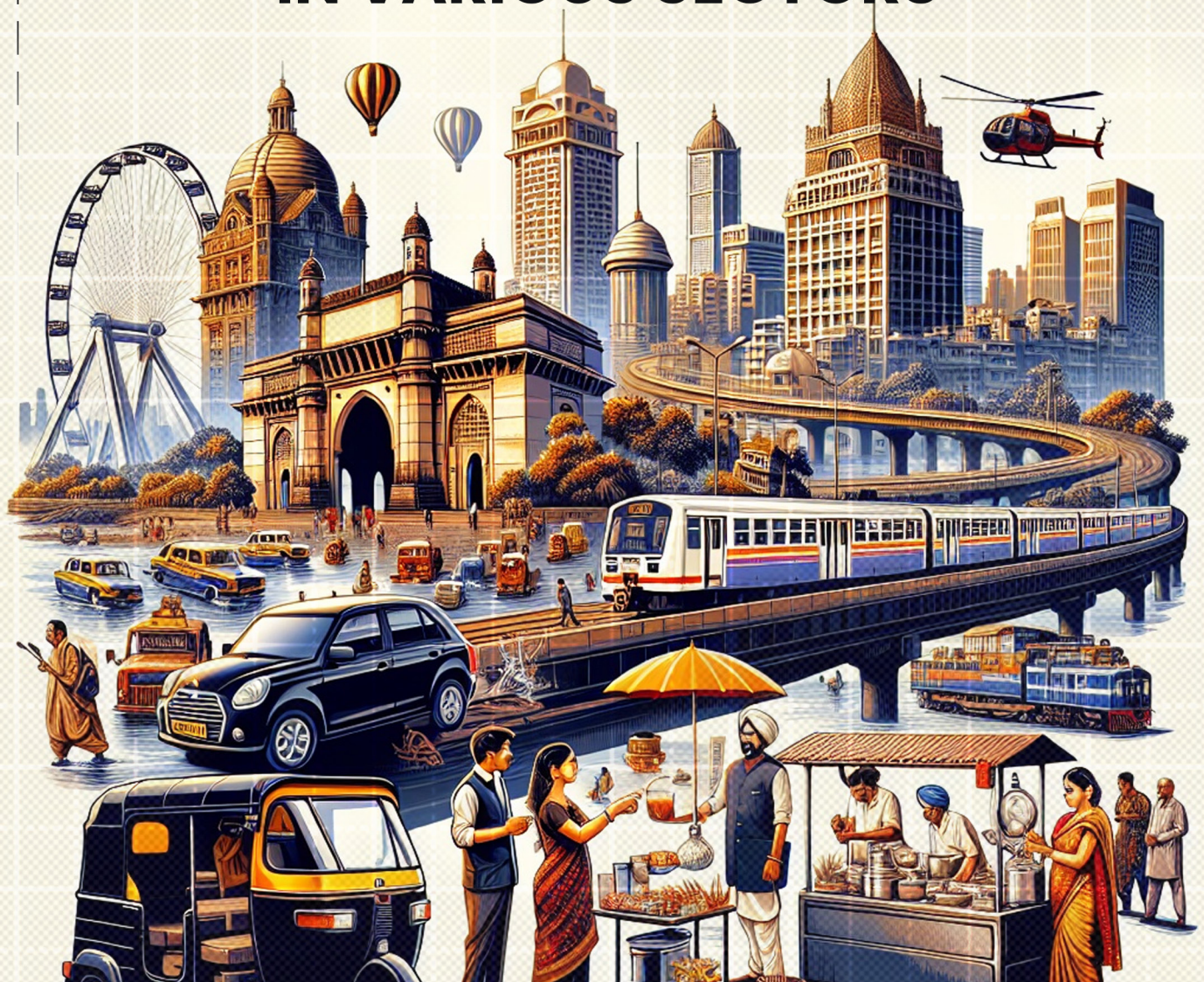


UPDATED VALUE ADDITION MATERIAL 2024

GOVERNANCE

**GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND
INTERVENTIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT
IN VARIOUS SECTORS**



GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND INTERVENTIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN VARIOUS SECTORS AND ISSUES ARISING OUT OF THEIR DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

Student Notes:

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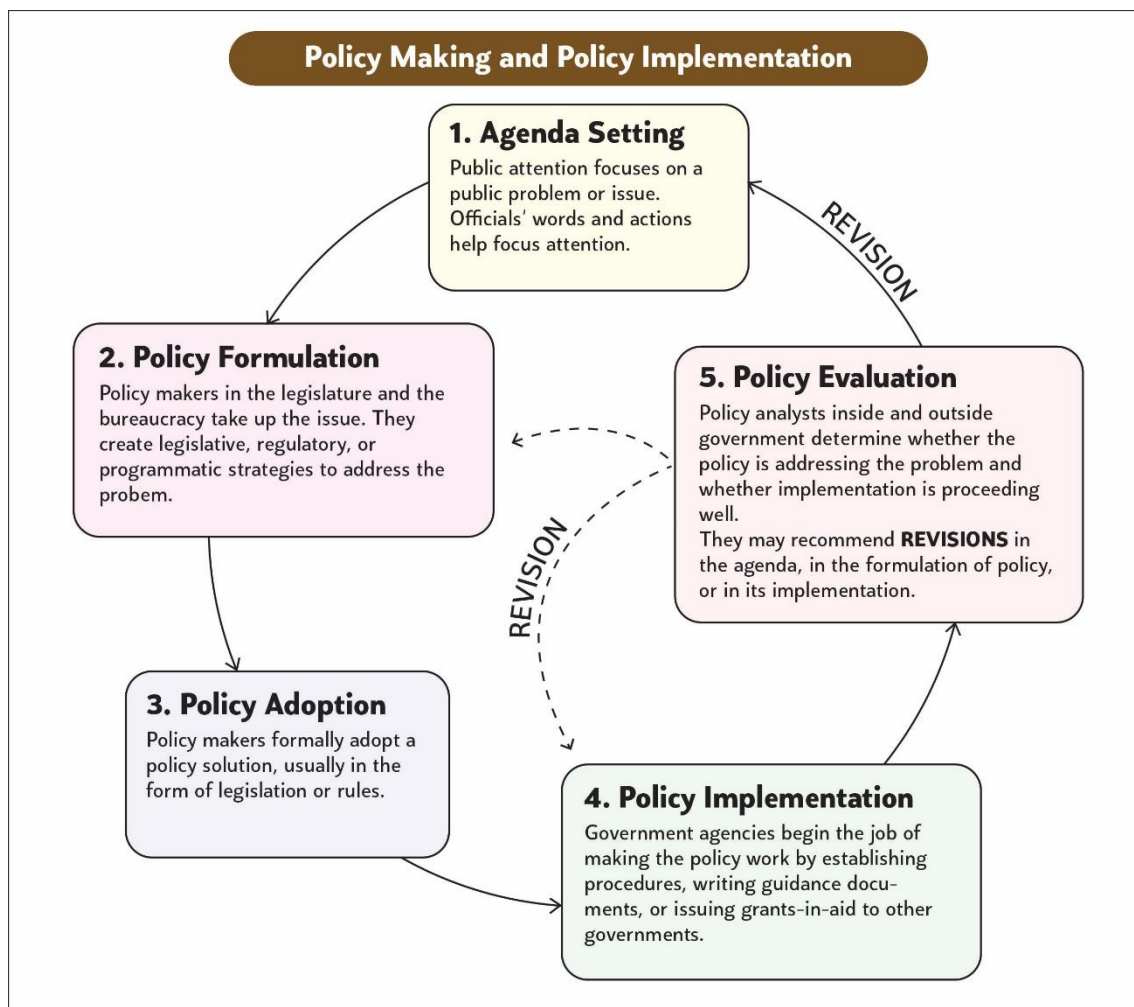
1. Public Policy

What is Public Policy?

Public policy is the framework of laws, regulations, and actions governments **implement to achieve social and economic goals**. It's a statement of the government's intent and commitment to address a particular issue or problem. Public policy shapes the decisions of government officials and agencies, and it affects society, the economy, and politics.

1.1. Process of Public Policy Formation

The process of public policy formation involves several stages, including agenda setting, policy formulation, adoption, implementation, and evaluation.



Nature of Public Policies

- 1. Goal-Oriented:** Policies aim to achieve specific objectives, like the **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**, which aims to improve sanitation across the country.
- 2. Collective Action:** These policies result from coordinated efforts by government officials. For instance, the **GST (Goods and Services Tax)** was implemented through collective decision-making by central and state governments.
- 3. Systematic:** Policies are developed and implemented through structured processes, as seen in the rollout of the **Aadhaar system**, which involved multiple stakeholders and systematic planning.
- 4. Strategic:** Focuses on long-term goals, such as the **National Education Policy 2020**, which aims to transform the educational landscape over the next few decades.

5. **Complex:** Involves interconnected components and communication loops, exemplified by the **Digital India initiative**, which integrates various technological and governance frameworks.
6. **Action-Oriented:** Creates an environment for implementation, such as the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)**, which guarantees employment to rural households.
7. **Consultative:** Involves wide consultation, seen in the drafting of the new **Labour Codes**, which included inputs from workers, employers, and other stakeholders.

1.2. Types of Public Policy

Public policies in India are diverse, addressing various sectors and target groups to promote balanced and inclusive development.

Category	Type	Description	Examples
Sector-Wise Public Policies	Economic Policy	Focuses on growth and inclusivity through initiatives emphasizing industrialization, infrastructure, and foreign investment.	Five-Year Plans, Make in India
	Social Policy	Addresses healthcare, education, gender equality, and social well-being to bridge social disparities.	National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), MGNREGA
	Environmental Policy	Balances economic development with sustainability, emphasizing ecological preservation.	National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)
	Education Policy	Shapes the future by promoting holistic learning, research, innovation, and access to quality education.	National Education Policy (NEP) 2020
	Healthcare Policy	Recognizes quality healthcare as a fundamental right, focusing on affordable services and infrastructure.	Ayushman Bharat, National Health Mission (NHM)

Category	Type	Description	Examples
Target Group-Wise Public Policies	Substantive	General welfare and development, such as education, employment, economic stabilization, law enforcement, and anti-pollution legislation.	Right to Education Act (RTE), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), anti-pollution legislation
	Regulatory	Regulation of trade, business, safety measures, and public utilities by organizations like LIC and RBI.	Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) regulations, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) guidelines
	Distributive	Specific segments of society, related to grants of goods, public welfare, or health services.	Saakshar Bharat Mission, Public Distribution System (PDS), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)
	Redistributive	Rearrangement of policies to bring about social and economic changes, streamlining disproportionate goods and services.	Progressive taxation, subsidies for essential goods and services, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)
	Capitalization	Financial help from the central government to state and local governments.	Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), Smart Cities Mission, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)

Category	Type	Description	Examples
Scope-Wise Public Policies	Domestic Policies	Actions impacting citizens directly.	Regulatory Policies: RBI regulations; Economic Policies: Mudra Yojana, LPG reforms; Social Policies: National Nutrition Policy
	Foreign Policy	Strategy for interacting with other nations.	Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Neighbourhood First Policy

2. Public Policy in India

Public Policy in India after Independence

Public policy in India has evolved through distinct phases, each characterized by unique approaches to development

First Phase: Post-Independence Planned Economy

- **Active Role of State:** In the planned economy, the state actively promoted and shaped society through public policy, expanding its scope from mere regulation to development.
- **Planned Economic Development:** Post-independence, India adopted planned economic development, believing that economic progress would spur social, political, and human development.
- **Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission was primarily responsible for formulating policies and perspectives to guide the country's direction. The Five-Year Plans (FYPs) became the cornerstone of all government policies.
- **Regulatory and Promotional Policies:** Policies were crafted for regulation (e.g., controlling the scope for entrepreneurs and industrialists) and promotion (e.g., social change through acts like the Dowry Act and Divorce Act).
- **Focus Areas:** The primary goal was socio-economic development, with significant policy formulation in industrial and agricultural development.
- **Security Policies:** In response to internal and external security threats, defense policies aimed at national integration and cohesiveness were formulated. However, policies often faced contradictions; what was beneficial for economic development could be counterproductive for national integration.

Neo-Liberalism

- Neo-liberalism is a **political and economic ideology** that emphasizes the role of **free markets, deregulation**, and the **reduction of government intervention** in the economy.
- After the 1990s, **neo-liberalism in India** gained momentum.
- Key **changes** included reducing government control, privatizing state-owned enterprises, and encouraging foreign investment.
- These policies led to significant **economic growth, improved infrastructure**, and increased global trade.
- However, they also resulted in greater **income inequality** and regional **disparities**, with the benefits of growth not reaching everyone equally.

Second Phase: Post-LPG Reforms and Devolution of Power

- **LPG Reforms:** This phase began after the Liberalization, Privatization, and Globalization (LPG) reforms in India, which marked a shift towards a market-driven economy.
- **Devolution of Power:** Significant changes included the **73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts**, which **decentralized** power to local governments, promoting greater participation and governance at the grassroots level.

Present Phase: NITI Aayog and Cooperative Federalism

- **NITI Aayog:** Established in 2015 to replace the Planning Commission, NITI Aayog aims to better serve a rapidly developing nation. It focuses on a collaborative and technology-driven approach to policy formulation.

- **Inclusive and Decentralized Policy-Making:** Unlike the Planning Commission's centralized plans, NITI Aayog facilitates policy-making that is inclusive and decentralized, aligning with contemporary governance needs.
- **Cooperative and Competitive Federalism:** The current phase is characterized by a blend of cooperative and competitive federalism, encouraging states to work together and compete in achieving development goals.

(Note: Details of Planning Commissions and NITI Aayog are covered in the value addition material of Economy and Polity)

Multi-level planning

- Multi-level planning in India involves the central, state, district, and local governments **working together**.
- It aims to **create and implement** development plans tailored to regional needs.
- This approach enhances **efficiency**, **optimizes resource use**, and **promotes** community participation.
- It ensures that **development efforts** are more

BUREAUCRATIC ROLES IN POLICY CYCLE

Role of civil servants in each stage of public policy formation:

1. **Agenda Setting:** Civil servants **identify emerging issues** and **priorities** them based on government priorities and public needs, shaping the policy agenda.
2. **Policy Formulation:** Civil servants draft policy options, **conduct research**, and **provide expertise** to develop detailed proposals aligned with government objectives and legal frameworks.
3. **Adoption:** Civil servants facilitate the **decision-making** process by presenting policy recommendations to policymakers, ensuring clarity and feasibility.
4. **Implementation:** Civil servants oversee the translation of policies into action, coordinating across departments, monitoring progress, and adjusting strategies as needed to achieve desired outcomes.
5. **Evaluation:** Civil servants assess policy **effectiveness**, gather feedback, and analyze outcomes to determine if objectives are met, providing insights for future policy adjustments or improvements.

3. Challenges in Policy Formulation at various Stages

Public policy formation in India faces several challenges at each stage: agenda setting, policy formulation, adoption, implementation, and evaluation. Understanding these challenges can help identify areas for improvement and ensure more effective policy-making.

1. Agenda Setting

- **Political Prioritization:** Issues that gain **political attention** may not always be the most pressing ones.
 - For instance, while **environmental concerns** are critical, they often take a backseat to more immediate economic or political issues.
- **Public Awareness and Engagement:** Limited public awareness and engagement can hinder the identification of crucial issues. Many rural and marginalized communities struggle to have their voices heard.
 - For example, in many **tribal areas of India**, issues such as lack of **access to clean drinking water** and basic healthcare services are often overlooked because these communities have **limited platforms** to raise their concerns.

Case studies and examples:

Delhi Air Pollution:

- Despite the severe **air pollution** in **Delhi**, which poses significant health risks, political focus often shifts towards economic growth projects.
- This includes infrastructure development or industrial expansion, overshadowing the urgent need for environmental policies and actions.

Western Ghats:

- The **Kasturirangan Committee Report** on the Western Ghats highlighted the need to protect ecologically sensitive areas.
- However, it often receives **less political attention** compared to economic activities like mining and real estate development.
- This happens despite the **long-term environmental impact** and biodiversity loss caused by these activities.

2. Policy Formulation

- **Lack of Data:** Reliable data is crucial for effective policy formulation. In India, **gaps in data collection** and **inconsistencies** in data quality often led to poorly informed policies.
 - For example: The formulation of **policies around urban planning** often suffers from inadequate data on informal settlements, leading to gaps in addressing urban poverty.
- **Stakeholder Involvement:** Ensuring comprehensive stakeholder participation is difficult. Marginalized groups may not have adequate representation in policy discussions.
 - For example, the lack of farmer engagement in the formulation of the Farm Acts 2020 led to widespread protests, resulting in the government repealing the acts.

3. Policy Adoption

- **Political Consensus:** Achieving consensus among various political parties and stakeholders can be challenging. This often leads to delays or dilution of policy measures.
 - For example: The passage of the **Women's Reservation Act** or the **Goods and Services Act**, after much delay, highlights the difficulty in achieving political consensus.
- **Bureaucratic Hurdles:** The complex and often slow bureaucratic processes can impede the timely adoption of policies.
 - The delay in adopting **e-governance initiatives** in several departments and states shows the difficulties in updating government systems and the resistance to using digital solutions.

4. Implementation

- **Resource Allocation:** Effective implementation requires adequate financial and human resources. In many cases, policies are hampered by insufficient funding and lack of trained personnel.
 - For example, **the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)** faced challenges due to insufficient funding and a shortage of trained healthcare personnel, impacting its ability to improve rural healthcare services.
- **Coordination:** Effective implementation requires coordination between various government departments and levels of government, which can be challenging.
 - For example: The challenges faced in implementing the **Right to Education (RTE)** Act include inadequate infrastructure in schools, lack of trained teachers, and uneven distribution of resources across states.

5. Evaluation

- **Monitoring Mechanisms:** Robust mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating policies are often lacking. This leads to difficulties in assessing the actual impact of policies.
 - For example, the **Public Distribution System (PDS)** in India suffers from inadequate monitoring, leading to leakage, corruption, and the failure to accurately target intended beneficiaries.
- **Feedback Integration:** Integrating feedback from evaluations into policy revisions is not always systematic or timely.
 - For example: Evaluations of the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** have highlighted issues such as corruption and mismanagement, but addressing these issues effectively has been a continuous challenge.

Addressing these challenges requires a **multi-faceted approach**. By tackling these issues, India can enhance the **effectiveness** of its public policy formation and **implementation** processes.

4. Strategies for Improving Policy Formulation

Addressing the challenges in public policy formation in India requires a concerted and strategic approach. Here are some ways forward for each stage:

1. Agenda Setting

- **Enhanced Public Engagement:** Increase efforts to raise public awareness and encourage active participation in policy discussions through community meetings, digital platforms, and media campaigns.
- **Data-Driven Prioritization:** Utilize data analytics and research to identify and prioritize pressing issues based on evidence rather than political expediency.

The Impact of AI on Government Policies in India

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) is greatly influencing **government policies** in India by improving efficiency and service delivery.
- AI helps provide **better public services** through **chatbots** that quickly answer queries, making it easier for people to access information.
- It aids in **data-driven decision-making** by analyzing large data sets, which helps create effective policies.
- AI also strengthens national security by predicting and preventing threats through data analysis and surveillance.

Overall, AI is making policies in India more efficient and responsive to citizens' needs.

2. Policy Formulation

- **Strengthen Data Collection:** Invest in robust data collection systems and ensure regular updates to provide reliable information for policy formulation.
- **Inclusive Stakeholder Involvement:** Create platforms for diverse stakeholder engagement, especially marginalized groups, to ensure their needs are considered in policy design.

Importance of Good Public Policies in India Now More Than Ever

- Good public policies are crucial for India today due to rapid **changes and challenges** in various sectors.
- Effective policies help in **addressing pressing** issues like economic inequality, healthcare access, education quality, and environmental sustainability.
- With a growing **population and urbanization**, there is an urgent need for robust infrastructure, efficient public services, and sustainable development.
- Additionally, the **COVID-19** pandemic has highlighted the importance of resilient healthcare systems and social safety nets.
- Good public policies ensure that **resources** are allocated wisely, fostering **economic growth, social justice, and overall well-being**.
- They also help in leveraging technology and innovation to improve governance and enhance the quality of life for all citizens.

3. Policy Adoption

- **Foster Political Consensus:** Promote dialogue and negotiation among political parties and stakeholders to build consensus on critical policies. Mediation and conflict resolution mechanisms can help.
- **Streamline Bureaucratic Processes:** Simplify administrative procedures and reduce red tape to accelerate policy adoption. Digital governance tools can enhance efficiency.

4. Implementation

- **Ensure Adequate Resources:** Allocate sufficient financial and human resources for policy implementation. Training programs for personnel and better budget planning are essential.
- **Improve Coordination:** Establish inter-departmental task forces and use technology to enhance coordination among different levels of government and departments.

5. Evaluation

- **Develop Robust Monitoring Systems:** Implement comprehensive monitoring and evaluation frameworks that use technology for real-time tracking of policy outcomes.
- **Feedback Integration:** Create mechanisms to systematically incorporate evaluation feedback into policy revisions. Regular review meetings and transparent reporting can aid this process.

Conclusion

To improve policies involves leveraging technology, fostering inclusive dialogue, enhancing data systems, and ensuring resource adequacy. By addressing these challenges through strategic reforms, India can improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of its public policy formation and implementation processes.

5. UPSC Previous Years' Mains Questions

1. 'In the context of neo-liberal paradigm of development planning, multi-level planning is expected to make operations cost effective and remove many implementation blockages.'-Discuss. (2019)
2. Performance of welfare schemes that are implemented for vulnerable sections is not so effective due to absence of their awareness and active involvement at all stages of policy process – Discuss. (2019)
3. "Policy contradictions among various competing sectors and stakeholders have resulted in inadequate 'protection and prevention of degradation' to environment." Comment with relevant illustration. (2018)
4. Has the Indian governmental system responded adequately to the demands of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization started in 1991? What can the government do to be responsive to this important change? (2016)
5. Two parallel run schemes of the Government viz. the Adhaar Card and NPR, one as voluntary and the other as compulsory, have led to debates at national levels and also litigations. On merits, discuss whether or not both schemes need run concurrently. Analyse the potential of the schemes to achieve developmental benefits and equitable growth. (2019)
6. Do government's schemes for up-lifting vulnerable and backward communities by protecting required social resources for them, lead to their exclusion in establishing businesses in urban economics? (2014)

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