Policy analysis and advocacy training

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Definitions

<u>What is policy?</u>

- A plan of action agreed or chosen by a political party a business etc

- Whatever government chooses to do or not to do.

- The principals that govern action. The action is directed toward predetermined objectives (Titmuss R.M (1974)

- <u>Policy:</u> a "*purposive course of action followed by an actor or set of actors*"

- This is a statement and a predetermined guideline that provides direction for decision-making and taking action.

- It is defined as a series of decisions as to what shall be done, how, where, when, and by whom.

Therefore…..

- Policy thus implies a <u>deliberate and conscious process</u> by which government seeks to effect change

- A <u>choice of action</u> of government intended to meet social needs, resolve disputes or conflicts, to protect the community from harm, to solve problems, to distribute and redistribute benefits and to regulate social conduct.

- It is also defined as <u>series of communication and technical acts</u> by which policy actors collectively engage themselves in the construction of political meanings and construct them into collective projects.

Historical perspective of policy development

Over the years political science has developed a number of concepts and policy models to help us understand political life. The purpose of these is

(1) to simplify and clarify our thinking about government and politics,

(2) to identify important political forces in society,

(3) to communicate relevant knowledge about political life,

(4) to direct inquiries to politics and

(5) to suggest explanations for political events and outcomes

History – Land marks

- **1950s - policy analysis developed – the policy out of the state – Rationalism**
- **1980 – policy processes – self conscience on policy – study policy on its right as a science and art or craft**
- **1990s – managerialism applied to public sector – administration v management**
- **21 century – import of post-modern concepts**
  - **Explanation & experimentation – rational model, frameworks, what, why and how?**
  - **Combination or normative and descriptive aspects**

Types of policy

- Communications & Information Policy
- National Defence policy
- Domestic policy
- Economic policy
- Education policy
- Energy policy
- Environmental Policy
- Foreign policy
- Health policy
- Housing policy
- Human resource policies

- Macro-economic policy
- Monetary policy
- Population policy
- Privacy policy
- Public policy in law
- Social policy
- Transportation policy
- Urban policy
- Water policy
- Rational policy
- Rights based policy

Types of policies cont....

A **social policy** represents an action, problem oriented process by which society attempts to change and influence the social order of that society.

A **rational policy** is one that is correctly designed to maximize the net value achievement.

1. Net value means that all values of society are known.
2. A rational policy is one that is efficient
3. An efficient policy is one with a net value higher than alternative policies.

A **Rights based policy**

1. Rights
2. Access
3. Justice

Terminologies in policy

- **Policy studies: knowledge of policy and policy process**
- **Policy analysis: knowledge in policy process**
- **Policy problem: unrealised needs, values or opportunity for improvement that may be pursued through public action**
- Policy development
- Policy formulation
- Policy making
- Policy identification
- Policy tracking
- Policy evaluation
- Policy review
- Policy cycle
- Policy content

Which is which and which comes first?

Lunch Break

Part II

Rights based approach

Genesis from <u>needs based</u> to <u>rights based</u>

INTRODUCTION

Rights Based Approach (RBA) is an approach to development.

Preliminary Questions:

What is Development?

What are the other approaches?

Why have CSOs adopted RBA?

Development Perspectives

Development always tries to address the problems of poverty, unemployment and quality of life. Development can be seen from different angles.

A vision with three dimensions

- Modern industrial society

- A society where every individual potential can be realized in conditions characterized by the capacity to obtain physical necessities (particularly food), employment, equality, participation in government, political and economic independence, adequate education, women equality, sustainable development and peace

- Reducing poverty, improving health, mitigating environmental degradation etc.

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Second Perspective

Historical change in which societies are transformed over long period of time. Some scholars have argued that the process that produces development in some parts of the world was at the same responsible for producing under development in other parts. This process has been dominated by the struggle between pro-market and protectionist movements.

Third Perspective

- **Deliberate efforts aimed at improvements** on the part of various agencies, including governments and all kinds of organizations and social movements. In this context, the important point to make is that it is crucial for people to be the agencies of their own development.

Approaches to Development

- Welfare/service delivery approach
- Development approach
- Participatory development approach
- Rights based approach

What is RBA?

Under the rights based approach to development, development actors and communities/groups identify what are basic rights of communities or groups. When the rights are identified, communities and/or groups then engage those with obligation (duty bearers) to meet those rights. RBA focuses on fundamental human rights

Right holders & duty bearers

Right holders

Duty bearers
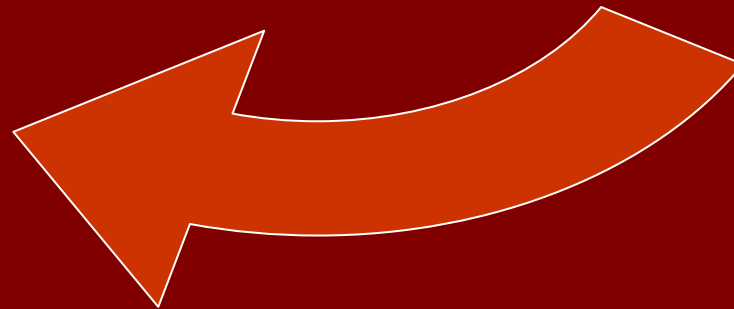
RBA Contd

- Recognises obligations of some actors
- Creates awareness on rights
- Enables rights holders to engage duty holders
- Forces/creates opportunities for participation in all forms of decision making to ensure rights are met
- Makes the achievement of human rights the objective of development

Fundamental Rights Contd

- Interdependence means that the loss of one right is a denial of other rights, and the promotion, protection and fulfillment of human rights in one area support other human rights.

- Indivisible means that they should be addressed as one body; whether they are civil, political, economic, social, cultural, solidarity or collective and respect for them is all encompassing.

Categories of Rights

- Civil and political rights e.g. right to life, personal liberty, fair hearing, freedom of movement etc

- Social and economic rights e.g. right to education, health, work, housing etc

- Right to development

Philosophy of RBA

Individuals have rights and the State has obligation to respect, protect and fulfil rights.

Other Duty Bearers: Individuals, Families, Communities, Non-profit actors, Private sector, Donors & the International community

Group work

In light of the basics about RBA what do you think are:

1. the Implication of the obligations on the State

2. Role of NGOs/civil society organisations

3. Skills required for RBA to work

4. Culture required for RBA to work

Implication of the obligations on the State

In spite of the problem of limited resources the state should ensure that:

- It satisfies the minimum obligation relating to each right
- It plans strategies and programmes for the eventual fulfilment of all of its obligations
- Monitors the fulfilment and obstacles
- To ensure that this is done governments should

o Conduct thorough situational analysis

o Develop time-bound goals and standards

o Develop plans and programmes to achieve the goals

o Monitor compliance by its agencies

ROLE OF NGOs IN RBA

- Create awareness
- Educate on rights and obligations
- Build capacities among right holders
- Organise movements of right holders
- Influence law/policies/actions
- Research/share information
- Share best practices with duty bearers
- Monitor use of resources/rights situation
- Provide Alternatives

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SKILLS REQUIRED FOR RBA WORK

- Mobilsation
- Campaigning
- Advocacy
- Communication
- Analysis
- Research
- Networking
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Activism

CULTURE REQUIRED FOR RBA

- Empowering others
- Willingness to let others lead
- Willingness to negotiate (with other actors)
- Good internal governance (transparency, accountability, participation …
- Continuous learning
- Genuine commitment to the poor & excluded
- Respect for all rights
- Persistent but Patient
- Team spirit
- Courage
- Altruism

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CHALLENGE OF RBA

- RBA requires challenging of structures and powers of oppressive State officials and institutions as well as traditional systems with risks of possible arrest, intimidation and repression from the state and traditional structures.

- Demand for services by communities

- Poor response by governments to campaigns and advocacy

- Skills for RBA programming

OPPORTUNITIES FOR RBA

- Growing democratisation process
- Global climate
- Progress of work on Rights by UN agencies and other groups
- Growth of civil society and links at international level
- Wealth of information
- Development of Technology making access to information/communication easy
- Experience of CS in mobilisation, research, training,
- Networking and alliance building not new to CS
- Existence of legislatures provide avenue for influencing legislation
- Legislation provide basis for enforcing rights
- Research institutions providing valuable services

Part III

What is power??

Role plays

Pairs of participants act out a brief role play to show different types of people interacting with each other, and the power dynamics involved in the relationships. Roles to take are:

- **Husband and wife:** The wife wants to undertake some training but her husband is not keen. He controls the money and he also threatens her with violence.

- **Street seller and policeman:** The policeman is trying to move the street seller away from selling goods outside an expensive hotel due to complaints by the manager, but the street seller refuses, knowing that he is legally allowed to be there.

- **Executive and secretary:** The executive keeps the secretary waiting outside his office, asks to be called 'sir', asks her to stay late, etc.

- **Judge and defendant:** The defendant is innocent of charges of theft, but the judge asks for a bribe to let him go, which the defendant is unwilling to pay.

After the role play, ask participants:

- What types of power are shown in these role plays?
- Are there any other types of power?

What is power?

- Power is a measure of an entity's ability to control the environment around itself, including the behavior of other entities. The term authority is often used for power, perceived as legitimate by the social structure. Power can be seen as evil or unjust, but the exercise of power is accepted as endemic to humans as social beings.

- Power as a goal of states or leaders;

- Power as a measure of influence or control over outcomes, events, actors and issues;

- Power as reflecting victory in conflict and the attainment of security; and,

- Power as control over resources and capabilities

Part III
Power & power relations

Why do we need to be conscious of power ?

What are power relations?
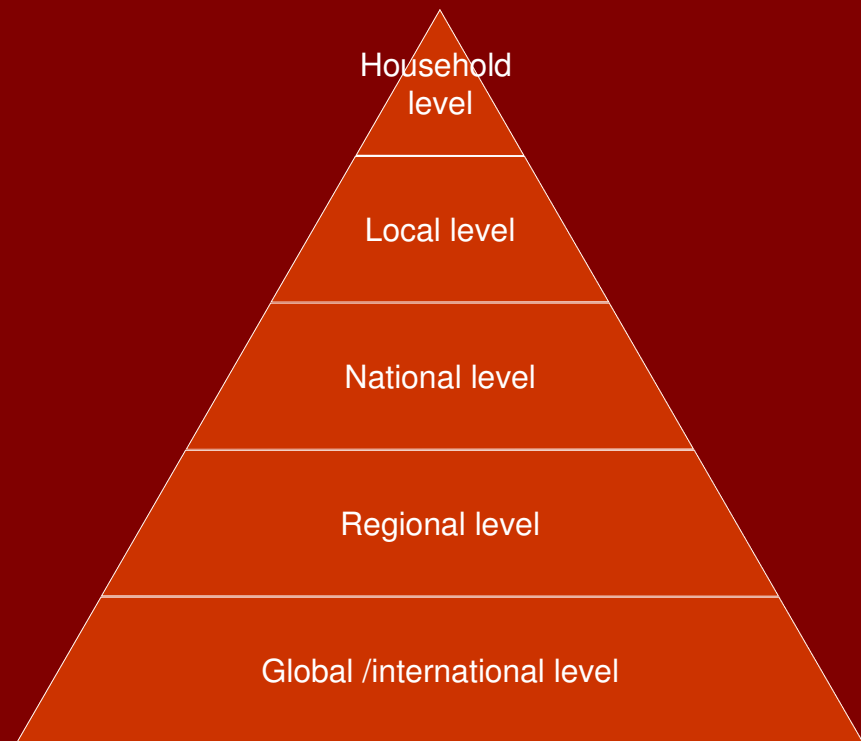
Any examples of power relations?

Sources of power

- Delegated authority (e.g. in a democratic process)
- Social class (material wealth can equal to power)
- Personal or group charisma
- Ascribed power (acting on perceived or assumed abilities)
- Expertise
- Persuastion
- Knowledge (granted or withheld,shared or kept secret)
- Money (financial influence, control labour, control ownership)
- Fame
- Force (violence, military might, coercion)
- Moral persuastion
- Operation of group dynamics e.g. PR
- Social influence of tradition
- In relationships: domination/submissiveness.

Types/forms of power

1. Power in terms of levels hence; administrative levels

Pyramid levels from top to bottom:
- Household level
- Local level
- National level
- Regional level
- Global /international level

2. modern Geo-political landscape

Hyperpower - coined in the 1990s to describe the post-Cold War unrivaled global power of the United States as the sole remaining superpower. It is also sometimes used retrospectively towards the ancient Greek Hellenistic Empire, Roman Empire, and British Empire.[citation needed] If such a state is the preponderant power in the international system, it is described as a hegemon.

Superpower - Fox (1944) defined superpower as 'great power plus great mobility of power' and identified 3 states, the United States, the Soviet Union and the British Empire[3]. People's Republic of China is often considered to be a potential future superpower. The term is also sometimes used retrospectively to describe Ancient Egypt, Babylonian Empire, Persian Empire, Ancient China, Spanish Empire, French Empire, and Third Reich.[citation needed]

Great power - in historical terms, the term great power refers to any nations that have strong political, cultural and economic influence over nations around it and across the world. France, Germany, Japan, People's Republic of China, Russia, United Kingdom, and the United States are often considered to be great powers. The terms is also sometimes used retrospectively to describe the Holy Roman Empire, Portuguese Empire,

Geo-political landscape cont….

- **Middle power** - a subjective description of second-tier influential states that could not be described as great powers. Australia, Canada, Spain, Brazil, India, Mexico, and South Korea are most commonly considered to be major middle powers alongside other middle powers. India and Brazil are also often considered to be a potential future great powers, and in India's case a possible future superpower.

- **Soft power -Soft** power is the ability to obtain what you want through co-option and attraction. It is in contradistinction to 'hard power', which is the use of coercion and payment. It is similar in substance but not identical to a combination of the second dimension(agenda setting) and the third dimensions (or the radical dimension) of power as expounded by Steven Lukes in Power a Radical View[1]. Soft Power can be wielded not just by States, but by all actors in International Poltics, such as NGO's, or International Institutions[2]. The idea of attraction as a form of power did not originate with Nye or Lukes, and can be dated back to such ancient Chinese philosophers as Lao Tsu in the 7th century BC, but the modern development dates back only to the late 20th century.

3. Governance dimension

- Political power (imperium in Latin) is a type of power held by a group in a society which allows administration of some or all of public resources, including labour, and wealth.

- Economic power

- Cultural/entertainment power

4. Hierachy & power Distribution

- There is always the notion of power which starts from one source e.g. God, the Pope, the president: thus the issue of **power over**

- **Power with:** we have some power with us

- **Power within:** something from within us which keeps on changing us: a dynamo within

- **Power to:** when working, we have the power to do something

- In advocacy, it is important to have power within which is inherent in our values

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Power cont....

- We use power within to influence power over and is only possible if power with and power to are integrated.: Integrating these various forms of power is the main challenge in advocacy

- Power and powerlessness pervades everything we do in life. The way we relate in life therefore is loaded in one way or the other with power.

- Power is not all about forms of identities but is about relationship

Three Faces of Power: A Framework for Advocacy

	First Dimension of Power	Second Dimension of Power	Third Dimension of Power
Power is understood as a product of:	•Which interest group wins and which loses on •Key, clearly recognisable issues in a •Relatively open political system	•Which groups sit at table and which issues/ grievances are recognised •Certain groups and issues kept from even getting to the table	•Preventing conflict from arising in first place •Powerholders shape consciousness and awareness of issues through processes of socialisation, secrecy, information control, etc.
Powerlessness and lack of participation comes <u>mainly</u> from:	•Individual choice, inaction not seen as serious problem, reflects relative contentment of the citizenry with the status quo or, conversely, their apathy •Lack of resources to compete effectively	•Systemic or structural barriers that keep certain groups and issues from the table •Lack of resources	•Barriers due to lack of awareness, critical consciousness, information; oppression is internalised, people blame themselves
Empowerment and related advocacy strategies <u>tend</u> to focus on:	**Public Interest Approach** •"Advocacy for the people" •Professional policy leadership and 'expert' knowledge •Issues/policies that are narrow and winnable according to rules of the game of current system •Agenda setting, formulation, enactment, or repeal of policies/laws	**Citizen Action Approach** •"Advocacy with and by the people" •local organizers build local leadership •key community issues that are winnable, galvanize grassroots and challenge structures •building powerful grassroots organizations to gain clout and access and get issues/policies to table for action and enforcement	**Transformative Approach** •"Advocacy by the people" •Indigenous/grassroots leadership •Education to develop political awareness, confidence and sense of rights and identify urgent issues that challenge structures •Strengthening group clout and accountability •Local knowledge and monitoring of policy implementation and enforcement

Clarity on Conceptualisation

Conceptually :- Power, Patriarchy & Globalisation…provide the key lenses through which poverty, exclusion, and injustice are analysed

The link between <u>advocacy and power</u>: Critical Reflection on Public Relations, the Dominant Coalition, and Activism

Power with

Power over

Power to
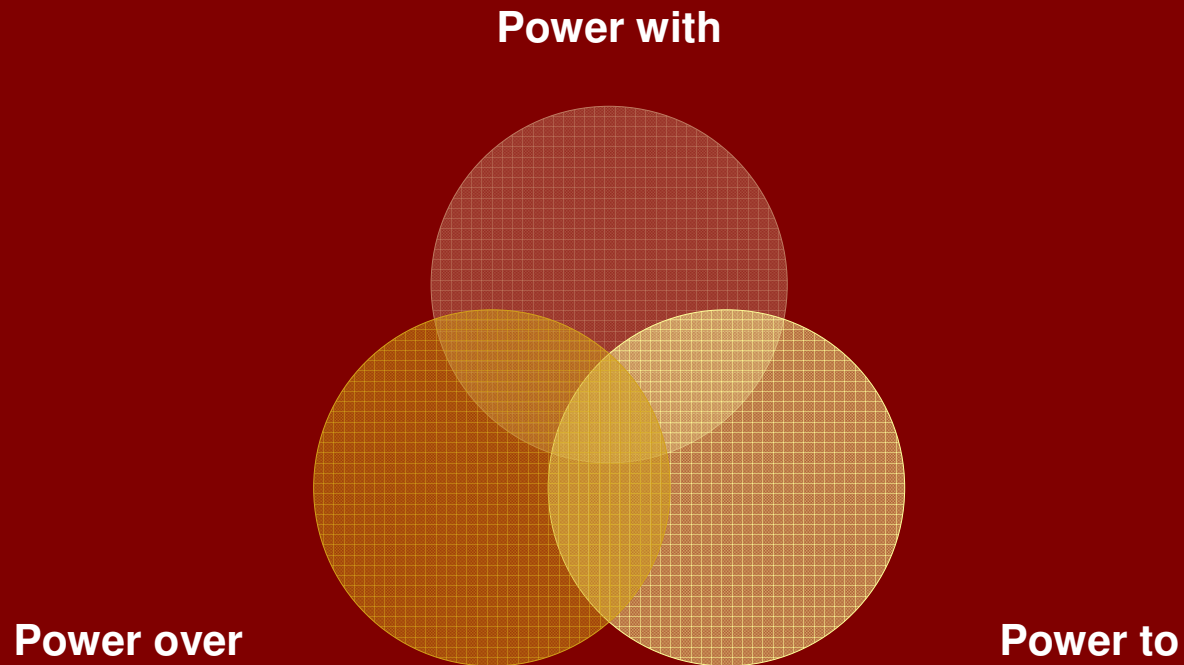
POWER AND POWER RELATIONS

IDENTITY

- Each of us has multiple identities in relation to the others: we are different things in different arenas

- In each identity a different expression is expressed in relation to the person/arena

- Different sources of energy and influencing is expressed and thus perceived differently

- Different arenas express different power relations

- We are who we are partly as a result of how others perceive us.

POWER AND POWER RELATIONS

- Perceptions vary from one person to the other
- Perceptions carry different interpretations and positioning
- Perceptions are very much driven by our own values
- We are different people in different times in different arenas
- The starting point is the self: This exudes itself in different arenas. In each of them, we are consciously occupying various positions of power
- Let your actions speak for you: on several occasions we see what we want to see in others.

Mapping power relations

Critical prerequisite to successful advocacy.

End DAY 1