
Monitoring Government Policies

What is Policy Monitoring?

- Policy monitoring is about gathering evidence on a policy while it is being implemented and then using your findings to influence future course of action.
 - It is about looking at the information/Evidence available to support/argue a particular issue
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- Policy monitoring involves three main components:

- a) gathering evidence about the implementation of a government policy

- b) analysing that evidence

- c) using the evidence to advocate for change

Monitoring Perspectives

- There are many ways to monitor government policies. All policy monitoring is informed by a perspective of some kind. It may be commitment to human rights, compassion for the poor, dedication to non-violence, the desire to strengthen democracy etc.
 - Your guiding principal to monitoring will help you define the broad aim of your policy monitoring.
 - **From what perspective/Focus will you monitor your issue?**
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Types of Policies

- There are many different types of policies, but those related to poverty include:
 - **Sectoral Policies:** Relates to the delivery of services such as health, education, water, finance, housing, policing, welfare, justice, agriculture etc.
 - Many sectoral policies have a direct bearing on people's everyday lives.
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- Macro-economic policies: such policies are used to regulate government income and expenditure, curb inflation, promote economic growth, and stimulate job creation.
 - Macro economic policies influence how much money will be available for spending on goods and services to reduce poverty.
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- Institutional Policies: Gov, create policies to guide and manage their own countries institutions, employees and work processes.
 - Involves policies on how public funds should be managed, performance of staff, and public finance management
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- Regulatory policies: They are used to impose norms and standards across a wide range of areas including pollution, food safety, medicines, endangered species etc.
 - Formal monitoring bodies are often created to ensure that these kinds of policies are adhered to.
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- National Development Plans: These include PRSP's, development plans, vision plans, national strategies etc.
 - They state how a gov. plans to bring about positive changes in a country over a given time.
 - They combine sectoral, institutional, and macro-economic policies discussed above.
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- Global and regional Policies: Such as human rights treaties, agreements etc. all influence policies adopted and implemented by gov.
 - It is useful to monitor discrepancies between national and international treaties and how this undermines progress for your issue.
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Which Policies to Monitor: Identifying Relevant policies

- When you start to investigate the policies you want to monitor, you will notice they are in various stage of development (draft proposals, or discussion papers)
 - Once adopted policies differ in legal status. Some become law, but as you know not all policies are turned into legislation.
 - When identifying policies to monitor, consider their legal status as it will determine what sanctions can be applied if a policy is not implemented as planned
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Group Work: Identifying Relevant Policies for your Issue

- Which regulatory, national development plans, global policies have an impact on your issue?
 - Which sectoral policies, institutional, or others have an impact?
 - ***This questions help you identify those policies that have direct and indirect impact on your issue***
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Defining Your Monitoring Objectives

- It is not possible to monitor everything about a policy. You have to be selective. The challenge is to identify which aspects or parts of the policy it would be most crucial to monitor.
 - One way to help you decide what to monitor is to pinpoint all the questions you find worth asking about the policy
 - you could also draw your questions from the research conducted
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- Looking at the policy from Gov. point of view:
 - 1. What are the aims and objectives of the policy?
 - 2. Who are it's intended beneficiaries?
 - 3. who is meant to implement the policy?
 - 4. what is the nature of goods and services are meant to be delivered?
 - etc
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GROUP DISCUSSION

- What questions would you raise in looking at the policy from the beneficiaries perspective?
 - What questions would you raise to the government based on your current Issue?
 - Address this from the effects of the issue to the beneficiaries already discussed class
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Setting your Monitoring objective

- Once you have identified the questions you want to ask about a policy, it is easy to re-state these as monitoring objectives .
 - Question on Policy: Will pple loose jobs as a result of policy?
 - Reformulated as MO: Our objective is to track how many people loose their jobs as a result of this policy over a one year period.
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- Monitoring objectives have to be SMART
 - -Specific: That their meaning is clear
 - -Measurable: That they can be measured
 - -Achievable: They are realistic enough to be achieved
 - Relevant: They are suited to your outcome/Goal
 - Time-Bound: They have an expected timeframe for achieving results
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- Objectives are at 3 levels of an issue.
 - Development goal: What the policy is meant to achieve in the long run
 - Immediate Objective/Purpose; What the policy is meant to achieve after the various activities have been implemented
 - Immediate results: What the policy is meant to achieve immediately that will have a direct gain to the beneficiaries
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Group Work

- Come up with a set of monitoring objectives for your issue. Make sure the objectives are Smart.



What kind of Evidence do you need?

- It is important to think about the kind of evidence that will make power players sit and listen to you. Evidence is based on concrete data from research.
 - Evidence could either be quantitative or Qualitative
 - You could use primary sources of evidence or secondary
 - (look at your Monitoring Objectives and think about the evidence you will need for each objective).
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Indicators – What are they?

- An indicator is a unit of measurement
 - E.g. of deaths caused by small arms
 - An indicator tells us something about changes in a system
 - e.g. reduction in small arms from a certain level to another
 - An indicator helps to qualify and simplify phenomena and helps us understand complex realities
 - E.g. communities involved in economic development activities that contribute to security
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What can they do?

- Good indicators must be useful to their intended audience
 - (e.g. kilometres of road per square kilometre?)
 - Indicators provide information
 - about the functioning of a specific system for a specific purpose
 - to support decision making and management
 - Indicators help quantify and aggregate data to determine whether change is taking place
 - O. of weapons in a place
 - Indicators need to help decision makers understand why change is taking place
 - Decrease in the number of armed robberies
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Choosing Indicators

- Indicators are a way of measuring progress.
 - There are no prescribed set indicators that can be applied to all policy monitoring projects.
 - Indicators are developed based on your monitoring objectives.
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- E.g.: Monitoring objective: Increased access to Mother and child health services

 - Monitoring Indicators:
 - ❑ No of women accessing the health services
 - ❑ No of health clinics in district X
 - ❑ No of women have safe deliveries
 - ❑ Decrease in maternal deaths in district X
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Quantitative and Qualitative indicators

- Quantitative are concerned with numbers and amount and are usually measured or counted
 - Qualitative data is concerned with Descriptions and attitudes. They assess behaviour change.
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Group work

- Look at the objectives that you have developed and come up with a set of indicators for your Goal, Purpose, and expected results. Make sure your indicators have a baseline.
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