

Role of Qualitative Research for Health Policy Making

Binaya Chalise

Nepal Health Research Council, Kathmandu, Nepal

17 Sept 2018

Policy Overview

- The action of government and the intention that determine those actions

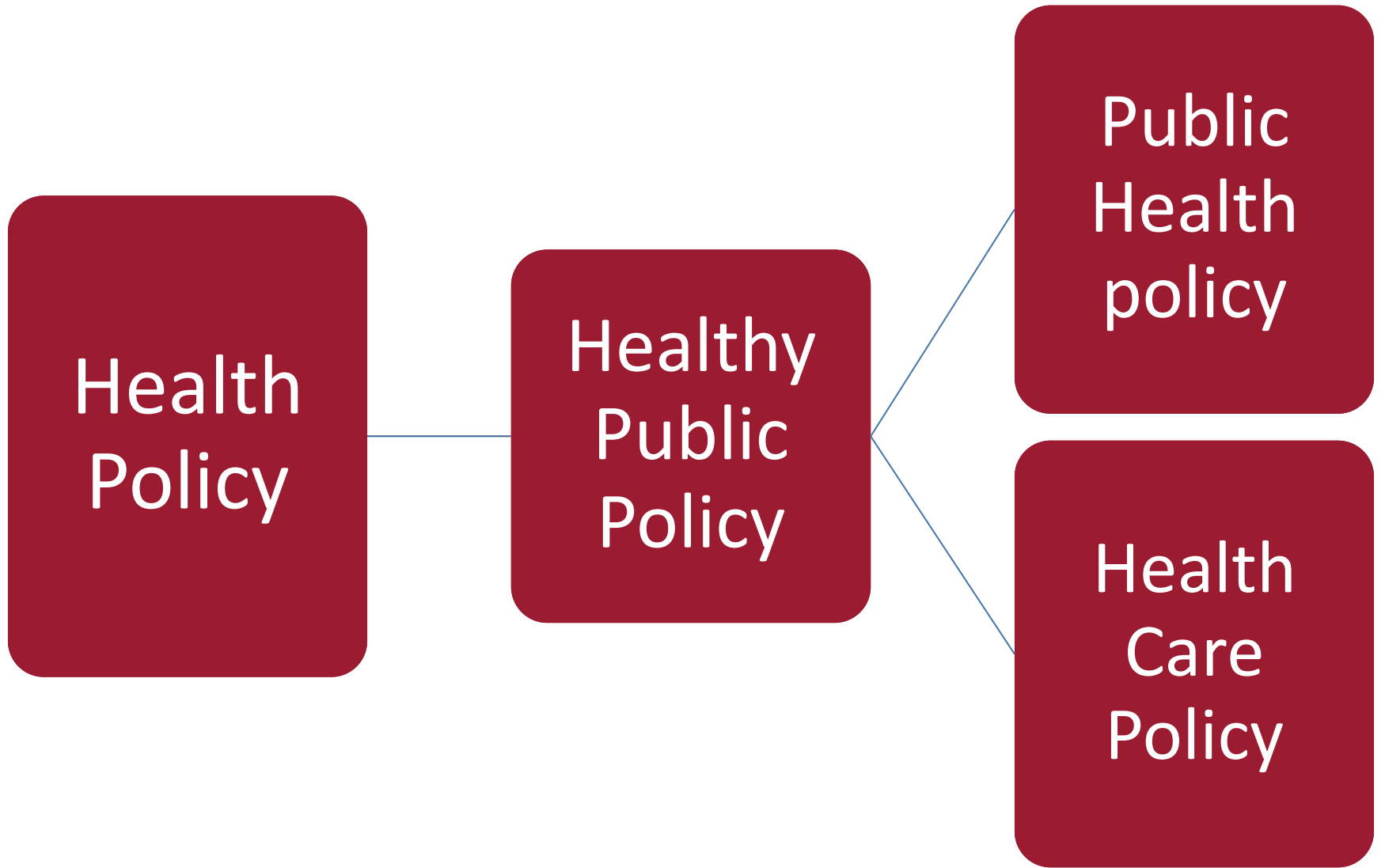
Chocrane et al 2005

- What ever government choose to do or not do do is public policy

Dye 2005

Policy Overview

- Public Policy – whatever government choose to do or not to do
- Health Policy – A course of action that affect the set of institution, services and funding arrangement in a health system (or that affect health risk or status in the community)
- Includes all policies within the health portfolio or policies that affect health?



Gather
Information

(re) Define Problem

Policy Theory

Describe
implementation

Evaluate
existing policy

Matrix it

Select best
fit

Trade off

Sources of Policy Problem

Market forces

- Extremities
- Public Goods
- Information Asymmetry
- Monopoly and unstable market

Other Sources

- Breakdown of system
- Racial Discrimination
- Shifting government roles

Policy Instrument

- Legislation
- Regulation and deregulation
- Privatization
- Taxation and Tax exempt
- Subsidies and grant
- Information Provision (e.g labeling, certification)
- Marketing
- Service Contract
- Training
- Education and awareness

Two Culture Hypothesis

Researchers

- Identify Problem
- Identify Causes
- Develop Options
- Analyse Options
- Select Intervention
- Implement and Evaluate

Policymakers

- Identify Problem
- Understand Context
- Develop Options
- Assess reactions
- Use Judgment
- Prepare for Next Crisis

Two Culture Hypothesis

DIMENSION	RESEARCHERS	POLICYMAKERS
Nature of Work	Discrete, Planned Projects	Continuous, unplanned
Incentive	Publication or Grant	Reorganization/Reelection
Time Frame for Action	Longer	Shorter
Knowledge Span	Deep but Fewer issue	Broad across many issue
Accountability	Scientific Peers/Funding Agency	Politicians/Electorates
Constrain	Research Funding and Ethic	Political/Bureaucratic Imperatives

Uses of Evidence

1. **Knowledge Driven Model**: New Knowledge will automatically drive new policy
2. **Problem Solving Model**: Knowledge are actively sought for pending decision
3. **Interactive Model**: Incremental policy change is interactively driven back and forth by emerging research outcome
4. **Political model**: Evidence is used to support partisan and political support

Uses of Evidence

5. **Technical model**: research is being undertaken as an excuse for delaying decision or deflects criticism
6. **Enlightenment model**: assume that concept and theoretical perspective that social science research has engendered permeate the policy making process rather than single studies or research program having a descramble impact on policy priorities the knowledge that science grant us is very slowly trickle down into policy

Qualitative Study and Policy Making

- Qualitative research is engaging – understand values beliefs and event
- Comprehensive - social setting and the context specific behavior
- Ability to document the process of changes as they occur (relates to first)

Defining the Policy Scope

- Identify relevant issues to policy stakeholders
 - E.g. Intrapartum care vs access to transport
- Shape and clarify key policy questions in terms of population, intervention and Outcome.
- Access extent to which policy benefits and harm are important to people

Acceptability/Denial of Policy Options

- Stakeholders view a policy option from different perspectives and attach values to its consequences.
- Qualitative study explores peoples experience, the issue underlying them and the role of contextual factors
- Evidence from qualitative studies are essential from a variety of stakeholders depending on policy options

Feasibility of Policy Alternatives

- Policy feasibility depends upon nature of policy options, beneficiaries, resources and socio-[political environment
- Qualitative methods make it possible to explore factors determining the success of proposed policy and the context within which these factors operate.

Other Uses

- Multiple Line of Evidence: opportunities for triangulation
- Examine the Unanticipated - flexibility and mostly inductive reasoning
- Documents Policy story: policy making is incremental and progressive

Types of Policy Questions

Dimension	Policy Questions
Contextual	What are the perception held against specific policy and policy environment?
Diagnostic	Why are policy decision taken or not taken?
Evaluative	How do political values affect policy success? What barriers exist in policy environment?
Strategic	What actions are required to make programs /services effective?

Case Study: Rolfe et al 2008



Volume 23, Issue 2

March 2008

Article Contents

Abstract

KEY MESSAGES

Introduction

Methods

Findings

Discussion

Endnotes

The crisis in human resources for health care and the potential of a 'retired' workforce: case study of the independent midwifery sector in Tanzania

Ben Rolfe, Sebalda Leshabari, Fredrik Rutta, Susan F Murray 

Health Policy and Planning, Volume 23, Issue 2, 1 March 2008, Pages 137–149,

<https://doi.org/10.1093/heapol/czm049>

Published: 29 January 2008 **Article history** ▼

Abstract

The human resource crisis in health care is an important obstacle to attainment of the health-related targets for the Millennium Development Goals. One suggested strategy to alleviate the strain upon government services is to encourage new forms of non-government provision. Detail on implementation and consequences is often lacking, however. This article examines one new element of non-government provision in Tanzania: small-scale independent

Thank You !