

Public Policy Management:

1. Introduction to Public Policy

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Sl. No	Main Topics	Key words
1	Introduction to Public Policy	Public policy, goals, decisions
2	Fundamental theories in public policy	Theories, Concepts, framework, model
3	The Policymaking Process	policy process, policy cycle
4	Agenda Setting & Framing	Defining the problem, brainstorming, lobbying
5	Paradoxes, Dilemmas, and Path-Dependence	coalition, advocacy
6	Policy Design	design, structure
7	Law Making and its Actors	Democracy, Parliament, Assembly, Congress

Course description

- Public Policy Management delves into different aspects of public policy.
- The first aspect is the basic concepts of public policy, including normative and positive theories, ideologies, policy determinants, and contextual influences.
- This exploration provides a comprehensive knowledge of public policy besides providing the skills to understand the policy management processes.
- Second aspect covered is the process of developing public policy.

Course description

- This second aspect covers many areas of the public policy cycle starting from:-
- Problem identification and definition;
- Policy formulation – research, information gathering, analysis,
- Policy instruments, options, policy design and recommendations;
- Agenda Setting – goal setting, policy planning;
- Policy implementation and its challenges; and Evaluation and Feedback.
- Budget as a part of a policy cycle.
- Third and the last aspect is public policy analysis. Here, we examine the most popular policy tools that are applied to critically analyze the public policy viz.,
 - stakeholder analysis and cost-benefit analysis.

What we learn?

- Public policy plays an enormous role in influencing the choices that we make in our day-to-day life.
- Hence, it is something that we can not afford to overlook or not paying attention to.
- Here in this course, we develop a detailed understanding of what public policy is and why public policy is imperative and the role of government and other stakeholders.
- Further, we will study the institutional arrangements for making public policy decisions, the role of various actors-including nonprofit and private-sector professionals-in shaping policy outcomes, and the rudiments (and their limits) of analytic approaches to public policy.

The course covers

- This course Public Policy Management covers the following aspects:
- Introduction to PP
- Fundamental theories in public policy,
- Agenda Setting & Framing
- Paradoxes, Dilemmas, and Path-Dependence
- Policy Design
- Law Making and its Actors
- Policy implementation

The course covers

- Budget as a Part of Policy Cycle
- Basic systems/mechanics of policy formulation
- Evidence-Based Policymaking
- How Policy Makes Politics
- Diagnosis of policy contents
- Challenges of implementing public policy
- Policy Analysis: Stakeholder Analysis
- Policy Analysis: Cost- Benefit Analysis

Outline of this Lecture on Introduction to Public Policy

- What is Public Policy (PP)?
- Nature of PP
- Key attributes of PP
- Policy and goals
- Policies and decisions
- Categories of Policies
- Characteristics of PP making
- Growing importance of PP

Introduction

- In order to grapple with variety of socio-economic problems and adverse cultural practices (like child marriages) and demands of the people, the government has to make many policies, these policies are called public policies.
- Even though, public policies are as old as governments, the genesis / evolution of public policy gained importance in the post world war II era, with the emergence of democratic governments after many colonized countries have become independent republic nations.
- These nations in their development process, in multiple perspectives viz., economic, political, social, cultural, etc., have been looking for models and practices elsewhere, more importantly looking at development models and the policies and programs of the developed nations.
- With the formation of UN, developed nations especially the academic and policy analysts have shown great interest in the development process of developing countries.

What is public policy (PP)?

- Commonly, the *term policy* describes the behavior of some actor or set of actors, such as an official, a governmental agency, or a legislature, in any area of public such as public transportation, education, health, e-commerce, consumer protection, etc. Sometimes even private lives of people as well like LGBT.
- Public Policy - whatever governments choose to do or not to do.
- *Policy* is defined as *a relatively stable, purposive course of action followed by an actor or set of actors in dealing with a problem or matter of concern.*
- This definition focuses on what is actually done instead of what is only proposed or intended; differentiates a policy from a decision - specific choice among alternatives; and views policy - something unfolds over time.

What is public policy?

- Several implications of this concept of PP:- relatively stable, purposive course of action followed by govt. in dealing with some problem / matter of concern.
- This definition links policy to purposive or goal-oriented action rather than to random behavior. PPs policies in modern political systems do not, by and large, just happen.
- PP are designed to accomplish specified goals or produce definite results, although not always attained.
- Proposed policies can be thought of as hypotheses to be taken to achieve certain goals.
- PPs are developed by governmental bodies and officials. Non-governmental actors and factors can influence PP development.

What is public policy?

- Goals of a policy provide general direction – not precise targets for its implementation; as often the goals of a policy - somewhat loosely stated.
- Those who want action on a problem may differ on - to what should be done and how it should be done.
- Ambiguity in language - become a means for reducing conflict - for the moment.
- Compromise; build support - yield general phrasing and lack of clarity in the statement of policy goals.
- Policies consist of courses or patterns of action taken over time by governmental officials rather than their separate, discrete decisions.

What is public policy?

- A policy includes - decision to adopt a law or make a rule on some topic but also the subsequent decisions that are intended to enforce or implement the law or rule.
- Amendment to the law or rule
- SIM card registration, for example, is shaped not only by the Safety and Security of the Internet Usage but also by a stream of administrative rules and judicial decisions interpreting, elaborating, and applying (or not applying) the act to particular situations.
- PP emerge in response to *policy demands* - private citizens, group representatives, or legislators and other public officials - upon government officials and agencies.
- Such demands may range from general insistence that a municipal government - traffic congestion to a specific call for the national government to prohibit theft of pet dogs and cats for sale to medical and scientific research organizations.
- Some demands simply call for action; others also specify the action desired.

What is public policy?

- In response to policy demands, public officials make decisions - direction to public policy.
- These decisions may enact statutes, issue executive orders or edicts, promulgate administrative rules, or make judicial interpretations of laws.
- These decisions may be contrasted with the some of the relatively routine decisions.
- The Department of Education, for example, makes a number of decisions every year on Teachers / Students' benefits; most, however, fall within the routine decisions.

What is public policy?

- *Policy statements* - formal expressions or articulations of public policy.
- Among these are legislative statutes, executive orders and decrees, administrative rules and regulations, and court opinions, statements and speeches by public officials indicating the government's intentions and goals and what will be done to realize them.
- Policy statements are sometimes ambiguous - witness the conflicts that arise over the meaning of statutory provisions or judicial holdings;
- or the time and effort expended analyzing and trying to devise the meaning of policy statements by national political leaders;
- different levels, branches, or units of government may also issue conflicting policy statements, as on such matters as covid-19 domestic and cross-border restrictions.

What is public policy?

- Policy involves what governments actually do; not what they intend to do.
- If a legislature enacts a law requiring employers to pay no less than a stated minimum wage but nothing is done to enforce the law; very little change occurs in economic behavior, then that PP - nonregulation of wages.
- *Policy output* or the action - taken in pursuance of policy decisions - significant.
- Output vs outcomes - like amounts of taxes collected, miles of highway built, welfare benefits paid, restraints of trade eliminated, traffic fines collected, foreign-aid projects undertaken and the like.
- Enumerated easily

What is public policy?

- Examining policy outputs, policy differs from what policy statements indicate it should be.
- Policy outputs should be distinguished *from policy outcomes*, which focus on a policy's societal consequences.
- For example, do longer prison terms reduce crime rates?
- Do air pollution control programs improve public health?
- Outputs can be counted; outcomes are often difficult or impossible to measure.
- PP may be either positive or negative.

What is public policy?

- Some form of governmental action may deal with a problem on which action is demanded (positive), or governmental officials may decide to do nothing on some matter on which government involvement was sought (negative).
- Govts. can follow a policy of laissez faire - on some aspects of economic activity (sand quarrying).
- Such inaction may have major consequences for a society or some groups, no action on the industrialists polluting the natural resources like river, air, forests, etc.
- Inaction becomes a PP when officials decline to act on a problem - they decide on an issue negatively.
- This choice differs from nonaction on a matter - not become a public issue; not been brought to official attention; not been considered or debated.

What is public policy?

- PP is based on law and is authoritative. Members of a society usually accept as legitimate the facts that taxes must be paid, import controls must be obeyed, and highway speed limits must be complied with.
- Has an authoritative, legally coercive quality; private organizations do not have.
- Monopoly over the legitimate use of coercion. Governments can legally incarcerate people; private organizations cannot.
- Some PP may be widely violated even though they are authoritative, such as many highway speed limits. Enforcement may be limited, piecemeal, or sporadic.
- Are these still public policies? The answer is yes; because they were on the statute books and enforcement was provided for.
- Whether such policies are effective or wise is another matter.
- Authoritativeness is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for effective public policy.

Nature of Public Policy

- PP are goal oriented; formulated and implemented to attain the objectives - for the ultimate benefit of the masses in general; clearly spell out the programs of government.
- PP is the outcome of the government's collective actions; pattern or course of activity or the governmental officials and actors in a collective sense than discrete and segregated decisions.
- PP is what the government actually decides or chooses to do; relationship of the govt. units to the political environment; in variety of forms like law, ordinances, court decisions, executive orders, decisions etc.
- Positive concern of the government; involves its action to a particular problem on which the policy is made; sanction of law and authority behind it.
- Negatively, it involves a decisions by the governmental officials regarding not taking any action on a particular issue.

key attributes of PP

- Policy is made in response to some sort of issue or problem that requires attention.
- Policy is what the government chooses to do (actual) or not do (implied) about a particular issue or problem.
- Policy might take the form of law, or regulation, or the set of all the laws and regulations that govern a particular issue or problem.
- Policy is made on behalf of the "public."
- Policy is oriented toward a goal or desired state, such as the solution of a problem.
- Policy is ultimately made by governments, even if the ideas come from outside government or through the interaction of government and the public.
- Policymaking is part of an ongoing process that does not always have a clear beginning or end, since decisions about who will benefit from policies and who will bear any burden resulting from the policy are continually reassessed, revisited and revised.

Policy and Goals

- Distinction between policy and goals.
- Goals are what policies aim at or hope to achieve. A goal is a desired state of affairs that a society or an organization attempts to realize.
- Goals can be understood in a variety of perspectives; viz.,
- Abstract values that a society would like to acquire or
- Specific and concrete goals.
- Ex: Removal of poverty is a goal that the government wants to pursue.
- Public policies are concerned with such specific goals.
- They are the instruments which lead to the achievement of these goals.

Policy and Goals

- If the govt. announces that its goal is to provide housing to all the members of the deprived sections of society it does not become a public policy.
- It is a statement of intention of what the government wants to do. For political reasons, announces goals that it has little desire to achieve.
- For this to become a policy, the goal has to be translated into action. Programs have to be designed to achieve specific objectives.
- As an illustration, let us look at the policy of poverty alleviation.
- Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP), National Rural Employment Program (NREP) etc. Each program has certain goals to achieve within a specified time and each program is provided with financial resources and administrative personnel.
- These become concrete efforts to achieve a goal. Policy spells out the strategy of achieving a goal. Thus policy is essentially an instrument to achieve a goal. Statement of a goal does not make it a policy.

Policies and Decisions

- Distinction between a policy and a decision; used interchangeably.
- Individuals, organizations or government are constantly taking decisions. But all these decisions – not described as matters of policy.
- The essential core of decision-making is to make a choice from the alternatives available in order to take an action, if there is only one course of action available then there is nothing one can choose from and therefore, no decision can be taken.
- A decision can be taken only when there is more than one alternative available. Thus a decision is the act of making a choice.
- The science of decision-making has been developed in order to analyze the conditions that can improve this activity and how a decision maker can improve his choice by expanding the number of alternatives available to him.

Policies and Decisions

- Two types of decisions:- programmed and non-programmed.
- Programmed decisions are repetitive in nature; do not require a fresh consideration every time. These decisions are routine in nature and for these definite procedures can be worked out.
- For example, once the decision to open the library from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. is taken, it does not require fresh consideration to keep it open during those hours. The decision is incorporated into procedures that are established for the purpose.
- Non-programmed decisions are new and unstructured. No well laid-out methods are available for such decisions, each issue or question is to be dealt with separately.
- Such decisions are required in the situations of unprecedented nature, for example breakdown of an epidemic, occurrence of earthquake, etc.
- Training in skills, needed for such decisions and innovative ability become reliant in this regard.

Policies and Decisions

- PP - broad direction or perspective that the government lays down in order to take decisions. Each organization or the individual is enjoined to take a decision within a policy framework.
- Decision can be a one time action. Policy consists of several decisions that are taken to fulfil its aims.
- A policy - series of decisions tied together into a coherent whole; however some similarity in the processes involved in decision making and policy making.
- Both are concerned with choice among alternatives and for both similar processes can be followed in generating alternatives.
- But remember that policy is a more comprehensive term, as it encompasses a series of decisions and has a comparatively longer time perspective.

Categories of Public Policies

- Govts. at all levels - national, state, and local - increasingly active in developing public policies. Every year a large volume of laws and ordinances flows from the these layers of legislative bodies.
- This proliferation of public policies has occurred in traditional areas of governmental action as foreign policy, transportation, education, welfare, law enforcement, business and labor regulation, international trade, etc.
- Much activity unlike the traditional areas that received attention recently include :- economic stability, environmental protection, equality of opportunity, medical care, nuclear energy, consumer protection, internet regulation, etc.

Categories of Public Policies

- With large number and complexity of PPs, the task of trying to make sense of them is enormous.
- Hence, summarize a number of general typologies that political scientists and others have developed for categorizing PPs.
- These typologies - useful in distinguishing among and generalizing about policies, such as by:
 - issue area (labor, welfare, civil rights, and foreign affairs),
 - institution (legislative policies, judicial policies, and departmental policies),
 - and time (New Deal era, post-World War II, late nineteenth century, etc).
- These categories are convenient for designating various sets of policies and organizing discussions about them; but not helpful in developing generalizations, as they do not reflect the basic characteristics and content of policies.

Categories of Public Policies: **Substantive** and Procedural Policies

- This discussion provide the scope, diversity, and different purposes of public policies.
- First, policies may be classified as either *substantive or procedural*.
- Concerned with the general welfare and development of the society, the programs like provision of education and employment opportunities, economic stabilization, law and order enforcement, anti-pollution legislation etc. are the result of substantive policy formulation.
- Have vast areas of operation affecting the general welfare and devt. of the society as a whole; do not relate to any particular or privileged segments of the society.
- Such policies have to be formulated keeping in view the prime character of the constitution socio-economic problems and the level of moral claims of the society.
- *Procedural policies* - pertain to how something is going to be done or who is going to take action.

Categories of Public Policies: Substantive and **Procedural** Policies

- Procedural policies include laws providing for the creation of administrative agencies, determining the matters over which they have jurisdiction, specifying the processes and techniques that they can use in carrying out their programs, and providing for presidential, judicial, and other controls over their operations.
- Ex - important procedural Income Tax policies, law and order control, etc.
- Procedural policies – have important substantive consequences; how something is done or who takes the action may help determine what is actually done.
- Frequently, efforts are made to use procedural issues to delay or prevent adoption of substantive decisions and policies.

Categories of Public Policies: **Distributive**, Regulatory, Self-Regulatory, and Redistributive Policies

- Based on their effect on society and the relationships among those involved in policy formation.
- Distributive policies involve allocation of services or benefits to particular segments of the population—individuals, groups, corporations, and communities.
- Some distributive policies may provide benefits to one or a few beneficiaries.
- Others may provide benefits for vast numbers of persons, as is true for agricultural income-support programs, tax deductions for home mortgage interest payments, free public school education, and job-training programs.
- Distributive policies typically involve using public funds to assist particular groups, communities, or industries.
- Those who seek benefits usually do not compete directly with one another.

Categories of Public Policies: Distributive, **Regulatory**, Self-Regulatory, and Redistributive Policies

- Distributive policies can create both winners and losers. Ex Interest Subsidy Scheme on Education Loans in India
- Regulatory policies impose restrictions or limitations on the behavior of individuals and groups. That is, they reduce the freedom or discretion to act of those regulated, whether bankers, utility companies, meat-packers, or saloonkeepers.
- Clearly differ from distributive policies, which increase the freedom or discretion of the persons or groups affected.
- When we think of regulatory policies we usually focus on business regulatory policies, such as those pertaining to control of pollution or regulation of transportation industries.

Categories of Public Policies: **Distributive**, Regulatory, Self-Regulatory, and Redistributive Policies

- Distributive policies are meant for specific segments of society.
- It can be in the area of grant of goods, public welfare or health services, etc.; mainly include all public assistance and welfare programs.
- Some more examples of distributive policies are adult education program, food relief, social insurance, vaccination camps etc.
- The most extensive variety of regulatory policies:- criminal behavior against persons and property.
- Social regulatory policies deal with affirmative action, school prayer, gun control, and abortion, and involve the regulation of personal behavior.

Categories of Public Policies: Distributive, **Regulatory**, Self-Regulatory, and Redistributive Policies

- Regulatory policies are concerned with regulation of trade, business, safety measures, public utilities, etc.
- Such regulation is done by independent organizations that work on behalf of the government.
- Ex. From India:- Life Insurance Corporation, Reserve Bank of India, Hindustan Steel, State Electricity Boards. State Transport Corporations, State Financial Corporations, etc., engaged in regulatory activities.
- The policies made by the government, pertaining to these services and organizations rendering these services are known as regulatory policies.
- The formation of regulatory policy usually features conflict between two groups or coalitions of groups, with one side seeking to impose some sort of control on the other side, which customarily resists, arguing either that control is unnecessary or that the wrong kind of control is being proposed.

Categories of Public Policies: Distributive, **Regulatory**, Self-Regulatory, and Redistributive Policies

- Amid this opposition, regulatory decisions involve clear winners and losers, although the winners usually get less than they initially sought. (When the winners are public interest groups, they may not gain direct material benefits from policies which, like the Clean Air Act, provide broad social benefits.)
- It is difficult to identify all the purposes and consequences of regulatory policies.
- Regulatory policies take several forms:- Some regulatory policies set forth general rules of behavior, directing that actions be taken or commanding that others not be taken.
- MRTP Act 1969 in effect tells businesses, "Thou shalt not monopolize or attempt to monopolize or act to restrain trade." These prohibitions are enforced by actions brought in the central / union courts against violators.
- In contrast, public-utility regulation by central governments involved detailed control of entry into the business, standards of service, financial practices, and rates charged by electric, telephone, and other utility companies.
- Comparatively, antitrust regulation entails much less restriction of business discretion than does public-utility regulation.

Categories of Public Policies: Distributive, **Regulatory**, Self-Regulatory, and Redistributive Policies

- Consumer-protection policies illustrate other variations in regulatory policies.
- Some statutes, such as the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 and the Drug Amendments of 1962, set standards for quality that drug manufacturers must comply with.
- Thus, before new drugs can be put on the market, they must be shown to meet the standards for safety in use and efficacy for the purposes intended.
- Other consumer legislation, such as the Consumer Credit Protection Act, requires creditors to provide borrowers with accurate information on interest and other financing costs for credit purchases.
- The first sort of policy is intended to prevent products that do not meet designated standards from entering the marketplace; the second type is meant to provide consumers with enough information to make informed decisions.

Categories of Public Policies: Distributive, **Regulatory**, Self-Regulatory, and Redistributive Policies

- Some regulatory policies, such as those which restrict entry into a business such as television broadcasting or electric power distribution, are implemented by decisions that confer benefits on some and deny them to others.
- Of the several applicants for a television broadcast license (cable TV operators) for a city, only one can be propitiated.
- These can be called *competitive regulatory policies* because they limit the number of providers of specific goods and services. They also may regulate the quality of services that can be provided to consumers.
- Self-regulatory policies are similar to competitive regulatory policies in that they involve restricting or controlling some matter or group.

Categories of Public Policies: Distributive, Regulatory, **Self-Regulatory**, and Redistributive Policies

- Unlike competitive regulatory policies, self-regulatory policies are usually more controlled by the regulated group as a means of protecting or promoting the interests of its members.
- Several hundred professions and occupations, ranging from tree surgeons and auctioneers to lawyers and physicians, are licensed in one or more states.
- Commonly licensed health professionals include, dentists, dental hygienists, emergency medical technicians, optometrists, pharmacists, physicians, podiatrists, practical and registered nurses, psychologists, sanitarians, and social workers (ASHA workers in India).

Categories of Public Policies: Distributive, Regulatory, **Self-Regulatory**, and Redistributive Policies

- The policymaking pattern is for a professional or occupational group acting on its own to seek licensing legislation from the state legislature.
- Outside the ranks of the interested group, interest in the matter usually is slight.
- The result is enactment of a licensing law, whose implementation is delegated to a board dominated by members from the licensed group.
- In time, entry into the licensed occupation or profession may be restricted and the prices charged for its specialized services may increase.
- It is unclear to what extent licensing improves the quality of services available to the public.
- Supervised self-regulation may also occur. This can avoid the quacks practicing the specified services.

Categories of Public Policies: Distributive, Regulatory, Self-Regulatory, and **Redistributive** Policies

- Redistributive policies involve deliberate efforts by the government to shift the allocation of wealth, income, property, or rights among broad classes or groups of the population, such as haves and have-nots, proletariat and bourgeoisie.
- In any society redistributive policies involve disagreements between liberals (pro) and conservatives (con) and tend to be highly productive of conflict.
- The usual pattern in redistributive policy shifts resources from haves to have-nots. However, it is possible for the flow to reverse.
- Farm subsidy payments under the agricultural income-support programs go mostly to large commercial farmers; small-scale farmers derive few benefits, yet everyone who pays taxes contributes to financing of the programs.

Categories of Public Policies: Distributive, Regulatory, Self-Regulatory, and **Redistributive** Policies

- Redistributive policies are concerned with the rearrangement of policies which are concerned with bringing about basic social and economic changes.
- Certain public goods and welfare services are disproportionately divided among certain segments of the society, these goods and services are streamlined through redistributive policies.
- Redistributive policies are difficult to enact because they involve the reallocation of money, rights, or power.

Categories of Public Policies: Distributive, Regulatory, Self-Regulatory, and **Redistributive** Policies

- Those who possess money or power rarely yield them willingly, regardless of how strenuously some may discourse upon the "burdens" and heavy responsibility attending their possession.
- Because money and power are good coinage in the political realm, those who possess them have ample means to resist their diminution.
- Policies that have (or have had) some redistributive influence include the MNAREGA Employment Act in India.
- Redistributive policies are not only difficult to obtain, they are also hard to retain.
- Equality of result or condition (that is, equality in income or standard of living) is not overly appealing to most.
- International Women's Day, 2023 the theme is 'embrace equity'; equality vs. equity

Categories: **Material** and Symbolic Policies

- Public policies may also be described as either material or symbolic, depending upon the kind of benefits they allocate.
- Material policies actually either provide tangible resources or substantive power to their beneficiaries, or impose real disadvantages on those who are adversely affected.
- Legislation requiring employers to pay a prescribed minimum wage, appropriating money for a public-housing program, or providing income-support payments to farmers is material in content and effect.
- Symbolic policies, in contrast, have little real material impact on people.
- They do not deliver what they appear to deliver; they allocate no tangible advantages and disadvantages.
- Rather, they appeal to peoples cherished values, such as peace, patriotism, and social justice.

Categories: Material and **Symbolic** Policies

- Occasionally a policy that appears to be mostly symbolic may turn out to have important consequences.
- The Endangered Species Act of 1973, which is intended to help ensure the survival of rare animals and plants, initially appeared to be a statement of good intentions with few costs. Little opposition attended its enactment.
- As implemented, the act has had important effects, sometimes being used to block construction projects, timber cutting, and other activities that would threaten or destroy the habitats of endangered species, such as spotted owls, and the red-cockaded woodpecker.
- Most policies are neither entirely symbolic nor wholly material.
- The symbolic and material categories should instead be viewed as the poles of a continuum, with most policies being ranged along the continuum depending upon how symbolic or material they are in practice.

Categories: Material and Symbolic Policies

- Policies that are apparently material may be rendered essentially symbolic by administrative action or by the legislature's failure to provide adequate funds for their implementation.
- On the other hand, policies may move from the more symbolic to the more material category. Policy for controlling air pollution was largely symbolic during the years 1940s to 1960s in England. Legislation was on the books but little was done to enforce it.
- After 1960s, the control of air pollution became much more effective as a consequence of growing public concern about pollution, increased enforcement activity.
- The material-symbolic typology is especially useful to keep in mind when analyzing effects of policy because it directs attention beyond formal policy statements. It also alerts us to the important role of symbols in political behavior.

Categories: Policies Involving **Collective Goods** or Private Goods

- Public policies may also involve the provision of either collective (indivisible) goods or private (divisible) goods.
- The nature of collective goods is such that if they are provided for one person, they must be provided for all. Moreover, one person's consumption of a collective good does not deny it to others.
- A standard example is national defense: there is no effective way to provide it for some citizens and exclude others from its benefit, enjoyment, or other consequences, nor to calculate that some citizens benefit more from it than others.
- Thus an economically rational person would never voluntarily pay for national defense, choosing rather to be a free rider and let others stand the costs. Hence defense must be provided, if we want it, by government and financed by taxation.
- Other examples of collective goods are clean air, public safety, traffic control, and mosquito abatement.

Categories: Policies Involving Collective Goods or **Private Goods**

- Private goods may be broken into units and purchased or charged by the individual user or beneficiary, and are available in the marketplace; **Rival and excludable.**
- Others may be excluded from their use.
- Various social goods provided by government (garbage collection, postal service, medical care, museums, public housing, and national parks) have some characteristics of private goods.
- Charges and fees are sometimes levied on users.
- Whether such goods, which could be provided by the market economy, will be provided by the government is a function of political decisions influenced by tradition (parks), notions of the proper functions of government (the post office), the desire of users or beneficiaries to shift some of their costs to others (tolls on bridges), and the like.

Categories: Policies Involving **Collective Goods** or **Private Goods**

- Some argue that only collective goods should be the subject of public policy. The tendency has been more and more to convert private goods into social goods by government action.
- Many consider ill health, unemployment, environmental pollution, industrial accidents and disease, and misrepresentation in the marketplace to be collective rather than individual problems—matters affecting the entire population, hence involving public goods for which the entire society should pay.
- Generally, the more something is thought to have the qualities of a public good, the more likely people are to accept its provision by government.
- Some benefit more directly than others, there may also be a desire to levy charges, fees, or taxes on the direct beneficiaries to cover part of the cost.
- Thus user fees at national parks, tuition at public colleges, rent in public-housing projects, and tolls for some bridges and highways.

Categories: Policies Involving Collective Goods or Private Goods

- The privatization movement, encouraged in the 1980s by the Reagan administration, and Thatcher govt. in UK represented a counterforce to the long-run tendency to expand the scope of social goods.
- Based on free-market economic theory, privatization supports transferring many government assets or programs to the private sector and contracting with private companies to handle many public services, whether the collection of garbage or the operation of prisons.
- The private sector, it is argued, will perform these functions more efficiently and economically than the public sector.
- The results of the privatization movement at the national level are mixed.
- Spread across the world, including developing and poor nations – advocated by the World Bank and IMF

Characteristics of Public Policy Making

- Some of the major characteristics of public policy making are:
- **Public Policy Making is a Very Complex Process:** Policy making involves many components, which are interconnected by communication and feedback loops and which interact in different ways. Some parts of the process are explicit and directly observable, but many others proceed through hidden channels that the officials themselves are often only partly aware of. These hidden procedures are very difficult and often impossible to observe. Thus, guidelines are often formed by a series of single decisions that result in a 'policy' without any one of the decision makers being aware of that process.
- **It is a Dynamic Process:** Policy making is a process, that is a continuing activity taking place within a structure, it requires a continuing input of resources and motivation. It is a dynamic process, which changes with time. The sequences of its sub-processes and phases vary internally and with respect to each other.

Characteristics of Public Policy Making

- **Policy making Comprises Various Components:** The complexity of public policy making as we know is an important characteristic of policy making. Public policy formulation often involves a great variety of substructures. The identity of these substructures and the degree of their involvement in policy making vary because of different issues, circumstances and societal values.
- **Policy Structure makes Different Contributions:** This characteristic suggests that every substructure makes a different, and sometimes unique contribution to public policy. What sort of contribution substructures make, depends in part on their formal and informal characteristics which vary from society to society.
- **Decision-Making:** Policy making is a part and parcel of decision-making because it lets us use decision-making models for dealing with policy making.

Characteristics of Public Policy Making

- **Lays down Major Guidelines:** Public policy, in most cases, lays down general directives, rather than detailed instructions, on the main lines of action to be followed. After main lines of action have been decided on, detailed sub-policies that translate the general theory into more concrete terms are usually needed to execute it.
- **Results in Action:** Decision-making can result in action, in changes in the decision-making itself, or both or neither. The policies of most socially significant decision-making, such as most public policy making are intended to result in action. Also policies directed at the policy making apparatus itself such as efficiency drives in government are action oriented.
- **Directed at the Future:** Policy making is directed at the future. This is one of its most important characteristics since it introduces the ever-present elements of uncertainty and doubtful prediction that establish the basic tone of nearly all policy making.

The growing importance of Public Policy

- Policy analysis has become an important area of study. Policy makers have also shown great interest in it because it ultimately helps in improving the effectiveness of policy.
- Many universities and research institutes are involved in policy analysis.
- The field of public policy analysis is not constrained by traditional disciplinary boundaries or practices.
- It is informed by the work of political scientists, economists, sociologists, psychologists, and lawyers, as well as interdisciplinary scholars of substantive policy areas, such as those who specialize in education, welfare, housing, health care, climate change, environment, digital commerce, and many other policy areas.
- Theoretical or methodological innovations in any of these areas are often quickly added to the toolkits of policy analysts and manifest themselves in their work.
- As a result, the field of policy analysis is unique in its dynamism and continuous evolution.

To sum up

- In this first lecture we covered the following:
- What is Public Policy (PP)?
- Nature of PP
- Key attributes of PP
- Distinction between policy and goals
- Difference between Policies and decisions
- Detailed discussion on the Categories of Public Policies
- Characteristics of PP making
- Growing importance of PP

References

- Anderson, J. E. (2003). *Public policymaking: An introduction*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, pp. 1 – 34. Chapter 1, The Study of Public Policy, available at <http://kropfpolisci.com/public.policy.anderson.pdf>
- Unit 1 Public Policy : Meaning and Nature, available at <https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/19329/1/Unit-1.pdf>

What next?

- Few more aspects on the introduction to Public Policy, viz actual policy making, why study PP? scope and purpose of PP, etc
- Theoretical Foundations of Public Policy