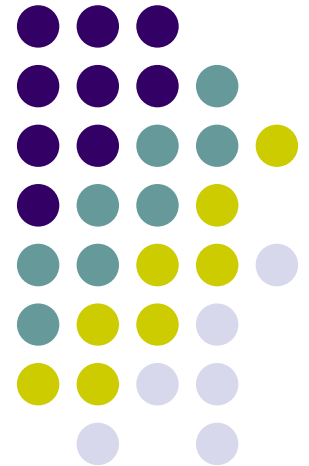


Developing Policy in Support of Early Childhood Development

Judith L. Evans
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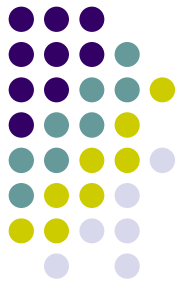


Why should we be concerned with policy development?



- **Policies provide the framework for taking action.**
- **Policies help ensure sustainability of appropriate actions.**
- **Policies can strengthen Early Childhood's contribution to national development.**
- **Policies can become barriers.**

STEPS IN DEVELOPING A POLICY AGENDA



- 1. Initiating the Process***
- 2. Situation Analysis/Policy analysis***
- 3. Developing Appropriate Policy***
- 4. Moving From Recommendations to Policy and Action***
- 5. Implementation and Enforcement***
- 6. Monitoring and Evaluation***



1. Initiating the Process

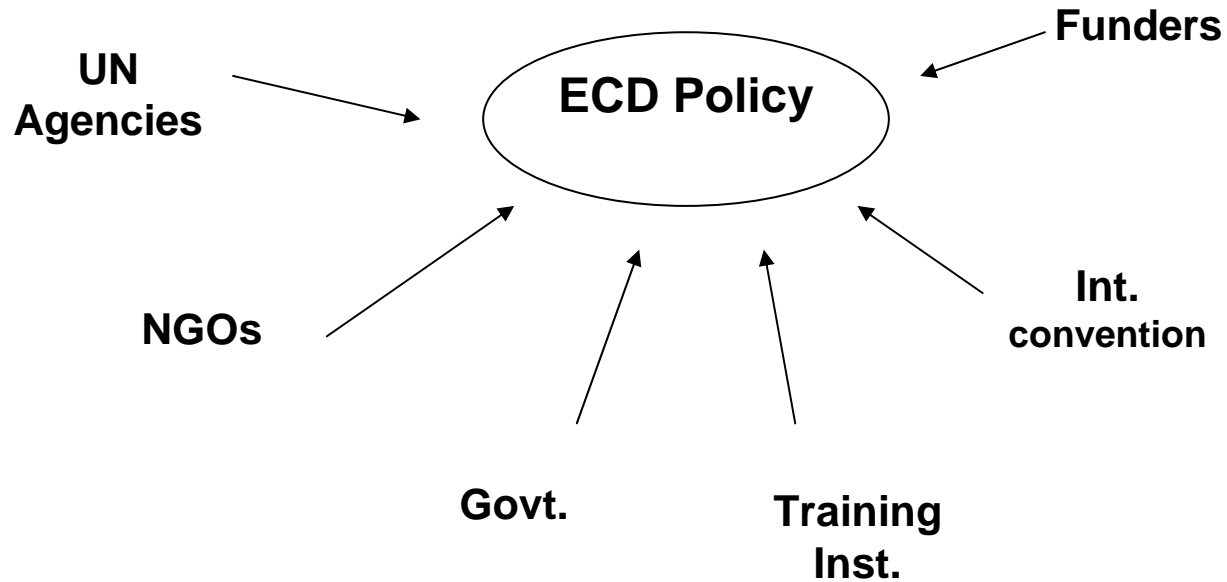
- a. Determine who is to be involved in the process and in what capacity**
- b. Identify and secure commitment of a lead agency**

a. Determine who is to be involved in the process and in what capacity





Who is involved in making policy?



Engage stakeholders at all levels



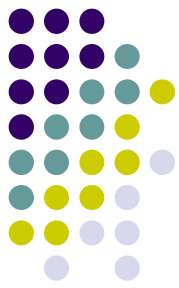
Within government

- **Engage variety of ministries**

Other stakeholders include

- **The community**
- **NGOs, private sector, religious groups media, other civil society actors**
- **Professionals, practitioners.**
- **Rights-holders who are most likely to be affected by the policies.**

b. Identify and secure commitment of lead agency



Choose lead agency carefully (if you can choose) - an agency that has decision-making power and resources.

Outside support is often required – a role for UNICEF

2. Situation Analysis/Policy analysis



- a. Assess current context***
- b. Document the issues affecting the rights of young children***
- c. Assess Current Policy Provisions/Gaps***



a. Assess current context

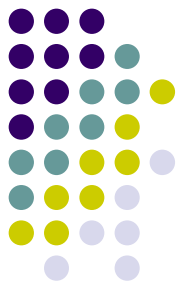
- **What is the level of political will to engage in a policy process at this point in time?**
- **Is the government supportive of ECD in ways that can be built on?**
- **What makes it possible to discuss policy now?**



b. Document the issues affecting the rights of young children

- **Demonstrate the status of women and children's rights**
- **Determine current coverage and the ways it responds to rights and demand**
- **Identify gaps in service and why they exist**
- **Assess for overlaps, fragmentation/linkage contradictions/consistency, young child friendliness, etc.**

c. Assess current policy provisions/ gaps



- **Identify existing policies/legislation addressing concerns**
- **Identify supports and resources that are available for implementation**
- **Identify costs associated with different models of Early Childhood provision and how paid**
- **Identify most productive role government in addressing gaps**

3. Developing appropriate policy



- a. Building the case for early childhood policy***
- b. Articulating Policy Recommendations***



a. Building the case for early childhood policy

Data need to be gathered to answer the following questions:

- **Why should we invest in ECD programmes?**
- **Given children's rights, what is the need (under what conditions do children live; what is their physical, emotional and mental status) and what is the demand for ECD programming?**

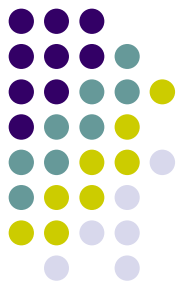
b. Articulating Policy Recommendations



- **Establish ideals - In the best of all possible worlds, what would we like to see in terms of ECD provision?**
- **Assess policy options for feasibility, potential for misunderstanding/resistance, potential effects on children, families, institutions, affordability for operationalisation, required legislative, financial, human, organizational and technical supports required.**



- **Establish definition, goals, strategies not just for national plans but for policies.**
- **What are some short-term and long-term goals we can set in order to move toward the kind of coverage and provision we envision?**



Developing forms of policy

- **Overall Early Childhood policy**
- **Specific more detailed policies**
- **Policies that precede and drive decision making**
- **Policies that systematise recommendations from experience**



Acceptance Process

- **Ensure acceptance at highest levels of decision-making (i.e.. Cabinet).**
- **Examine what policies may need to be legislated.**

4. Moving From Recommendations to Policy and Action



**Gathering data and making a set of
recommendations is 1st Step**

**2nd Taking the recommendations through
the legislative process**

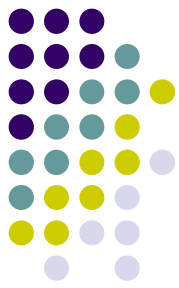


Anticipate roadblocks

For example.:

Is there a significant group or organization that has not been included in the policy-formulation process who may raise opposition as recommendations are put forward?

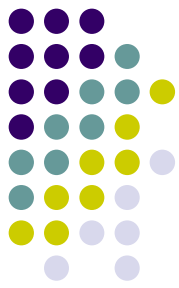
Opposition might come from political party not currently in power.



5. Implementation and Enforcement

Policies need to be interpreted through National Plans of Action that include:

- **strategies for effective implementation**
- **Procedures for management and coordination of ECD programmes**
- **Systems for monitoring**
- **Budget allocation.**



Implementation & Enforcement

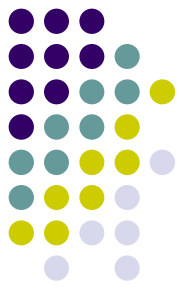
- **Policy needs to be operationalised via plans, programmes, projects**
- **Guidelines should be established for translating policies into action**
- **There need to be resources to support implementation**
- **A communication strategy should be developed to support implementation.**



6. Monitoring and Evaluation

- **A mechanism needs to be created to ensure implementation and to assess the consequences of policies that are being implemented. Is the desired outcome being achieved?**

One Approach: Create an Inter-sectoral Committee to oversee process



Advocate for an "inter-sectoral" committee to coordinate the analysis, identify gaps and needs for new policies, develop an implementation strategy, and finally monitor implementation. (Their 'power'/ authority needs to be defined as do mechanisms for their operation.)

Include Ministries of finance and planning in policy discussions right from the start.

The Committee would be responsible for:



- **Gathering data**
- **Defining areas to be addressed through policy**
- **Drafting policies for review**
- **Overseeing the review process as the policy goes through DRAFT after DRAFT after DRAFT**
- **Organizing reviews for stakeholders**
- **Ensuring broad representation of relevant points of view**

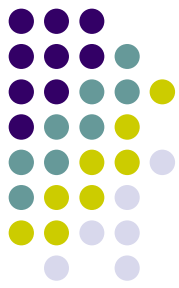
Remember!!!!



Policy making is a *process* that takes time AND requires a long-term commitment!

But.... It can make a difference in the kind of supports that are provided to young children and their families!

A word of advice!



Be aware that
the process of policy
development is more political
than technical