

Abstract:

Introduction & Aim: Maintenance and promotion of the health status of residents living in the societies are the most important tasks of policy makers. With regard to the extent of factors affecting health and various aspects of health, including social, spiritual and moral, and physical, it is obvious that maintaining the health status of societies is far beyond authorities of the ministry of health, and medical universities. Indeed, it needs multi-sectorial collaboration and coordination. Furthermore, identifying factors that affect health and designing intervention need multi-sectorial collaboration of all institutions of the society. The Islamic Republic of Iran perceived this necessity and established the supreme council of health and food security at national level, and health and food security working groups in provincial level as a response to it. Since the establishment of this working group, which its main task is to create a multi-sectorial partnership and achieving the slogan of “health for all”, there was not a comprehensive analysis about the structure and functions of these working groups. The aim of the current study is to investigate the performance of this working group from participant’s view using *Lasswell* policy cycle framework in Kerman province.

Method: The current study is a qualitative case series study. Health and food security working group in Kerman was chosen as a case. The aim of this study is to investigate the performance of mentioned working group based on *Lasswell* cycle policy framework. The purposive sampling was conducted, so individuals whom expert in the field cause of experience and were able to provide suitable information in this area of knowledge, including current and previous members of this working group were chosen. Semi-structured and deep interviews, direct observation and document review were conducted to collect data. Sixteen experts of the working group were interviewed and available documents about this working group were reviewed for the past six years (2009 to 2015). Researchers also attended at the meeting of the working group and the results of the direct observation used in this research. A Framework analysis was employed for data analysis.

Findings: Five main concepts which all belongs to policy making process were identified, including issue identification, agenda setting, enacting, implementation and evaluation that each of them encompass different stages of policy making cycle. Each of these concepts consists of sub-concepts. According to interviewed opinions, twenty-six sub-concepts were identified. The necessity of issue identification as the prerequisite of the policy making cycle is one of the main findings of this study. To achieve this aim, establishment a think tank was proposed, as the counselor of the working group to identifying, defining and set priorities of issues. The results also show that investigated issues did not have any pattern or criteria and most of them were proposed according to members' view. The main defects of enacting stage were: Inattention to the capabilities and resources of the organizations and institutions, hasty decision, lack of participation of all stakeholders in the decision-making process, self-censorship and agreement with the group. The main problems of implementation stage were: low level of obligations and responsibility of other organizations that prolong the enactment process, laws and regulations of other organizations or national laws or regulations, lack of proper communication between organizations and institutions. From the perspective of the interviewees, there was no issue in policy cycle assessment stage. The pre-requisite of this stage is an active secretariat that monitor the implementation of legislations, and provide reports on the consequences and outcomes of all policies and decisions to policymakers.

Conclusion:

This study shows that the investigated working group taken away with optimum point. This working group was not successful in areas that need more multi-sectoral collaboration, division of responsibilities and tasks, more time and sharing interests. Previous policies were not evaluated and policy making cycle is completely linear. Whereas every stage of policy making process was evaluated separately, but , indeed, these steps cannot be regarded separately, and should be considered as comprehensive cycle. Since the existence of such structures in provincial level can be regarded as potential source to institutionalize the health

approaches in all policies and we believe that with some reforms in short and long-term the performance of this working group can be improved.

Key words: *Inter-sectoral Collaboration, specialized working group on health and food security, policy cycle, Lasswell, Kerman, Iran*



Kerman University of Medical Sciences

Faculty of Medicine

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requierments for the Degree (M.Sc)

Title:

**Performance analysis of Health and Food Security Working Group
from participant's view using policy cycle framework: A case study of
Kerman province in Iran**

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2016