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Policy and Policy Making in Iran; Issues and Process

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Abstract: Policy and policy making are continuous and complex task that crosses all levels of the country's organizations in public and private. It is an inherent role of government and company want to be survive and competitive in this chaotic area. Policy making is kind of mapping which maps the road of a country to get its goals. This paper aims to study the policy and policy making with concentration on Iran

Keywords: policy; policy making; Iran; challenges; issues

1. Introduction

Islamic republic of Iran is an Islamic country which has a good and comprehensive policy making system with its base and foundation on holy Quran and Islamic roles.

Evidence suggesting that policy and policy making is one of the fundamental parts of any government. And there are different types of policy making process in different countries, for example some countries having democratic and some have dictatorship policy making process.

This paper first discusses the policy making definition and effective policy making advantages. Also some guides for effective policy making will be discussed. Then some proposals for effective policy making in Iran come. At the end characteristics of good policy ad policy making in Iran come in detail.

What is Policy Making?

According to Effective Policy Making (2003), Policy making is the process by which the administration translates its vision into actions to achieve desired outcomes. Good policy making is therefore essential if government is to achieve its aims and deliver real change and benefits (Hernandez & Noruzi, 2010).

2. Effective Policy Making Advantages

According to the Strategic Policy Making Team Cabinet Office (1999), an effective policy making has lots of competencies for organizations below are some of them:

- Creating the map of success and forward looking – takes a long term view, based on statistical trends and information;
- Finding future opportunities;
- Finding the failures;
- Overall and outward looking– takes account of factors in the national, European and international situation and communicates policy effectively;
- Evaluating the process road and Predictions, of the likely impact of policy and builds systematic evaluation of early outcomes into the policy process;
- Mapping creativity in the organization and Innovative and creative – questions established ways of dealing with things and encourages new ideas; open to comments and suggestions of others;
- Finding and evaluating different forces, public, private and political forces;
- Minimizing the policy failure;
- Using evidence – uses best available evidence from a wide range of sources and involves key stakeholders at an early stage;
- Inclusive – takes account of the impact on the needs of all those directly or indirectly affected by the policy;
- Coalition and Joined up – looks beyond institutional boundaries to the Government’s strategic objectives; establishes the ethical and legal base for policy;
- Evaluating feedback – keeps established policy under review to ensure it continues to deal with the problems it was designed to tackle, taking account of associated effects elsewhere
- Learning lessons – learns from experience of what works and what doesn’t (Noruzi &, Hernandez 2010).

Guidance Steps in an Effective policy making

According to Effective Policy Making (2003), for making an effective policy or identifying problems of policy it should be considered some steps as come below.

- ✓ Searching the problem
- ✓ Finding the problem
- ✓ Analyzing the problem, is it really a problem? Or not
- ✓ Why is it a problem? What is the main cause of this?
- ✓ Who will effect on the problem formal or informal groups?
- ✓ Identifying the informal and political groups

- ✓ Who within the administration has decision making authority on the issue?
- ✓ Creating a map of policy
- ✓ How does the issue relate to the firms strategic vision and mission? Will addressing the issue contribute to the realization of strategic objectives?
- ✓ What policy instruments could be utilized to address the issue? Can the resource requirements be estimated?
- ✓ Is there a case for government intervention?
- ✓ What impact assessments may be required?
- ✓ What are the outcomes of doing this process?

The above steps should be considered for an every country wants to make an effective policy

2.1. Proposals for improving policy making in Iran

Iran and any other country in the world should try to implement strategies to develop policy making process in it. Here are some examples;

1. Creating networks for policy making among NGOs and other groups.
2. Conducting different researches on policy making influential role in public policymaking (see, e.g., Heinrich, 2007; Sanderson, 2002; Warren, 2002)
3. Participating citizens and interested people in policy making process.
4. Learning citizens about policy and policy making process and its role on success.
5. Holding classes from government to learn staff and citizens the policy.

2.2. Characteristics of Good Policy

Policy and policy making has some good benefits some of benefits of good policy are included here in below (DECS, 2005):

- ✓ Good policy is trustful;
- ✓ Good policy is beneficial;
- ✓ Good policy is necessary;
- ✓ Good policy has an end in mind;
- ✓ Good policy aligns with the goals of the government and the department;
- ✓ Good policy is well informed, concise and rigorous;
- ✓ Good policy is ethical;
- ✓ Good policy is transparent;
- ✓ Good policy is intelligible;
- ✓ Good policy is open to change and improvement;

- ✓ Good policy is on time;
- ✓ Good policy can be enacted.

2.3. Policy Making in Iran

In Iran because it is an Islamic country so its laws and policies are in Islamic base. In different countries there are different levels of policy making but in Iran there are just three level of management in Iran includes:

- Political management;
- Public management and
- Private management.

And policy has been formulated in the two above ones. Political management and political manager called "Rahbar" refers to the leader and its professional consulting group that make Meta policies and the can be considered as vision in strategic management and other sub- policy systems obey and look for it and it is as the tip of the mountain that policy makers want to get it. According to the different conducted researches about policy making in Iran and the related text about policy making system in Iran, supreme leader is responsible for making Meta policies of I. R. Iran and this is formulated after consultation with the Expediency Council. Expediency Council is the specialized consulting group for supreme leader. In the second level public policies are made by triple forces including:

- Legislative;
- Executive;
- Judicial.

And in the third level public and private organizations create strategies instead of policies. Therefore, the process of policy making process in Iran is a systematic and comprehensive, clear, easy to understand and specialized also (Danaee Fard, and et al, 2010, p. 185).

3. Conclusion

Iranian government as other countries should take some steps to strength the policy making process i.e. these steps will strength the policy making process in organizations. Although Iran in its' fifth development program has prepared a brief and comprehensive program to be cleared and easy to understand to everyone who is engaged in organizational programs and this is a good action but other important factors are listed below:

- ✓ Providing complete information;
- ✓ Providing objective information;
- ✓ Providing clear information;
- ✓ Providing reliable information;
- ✓ Providing easy to understand information;
- ✓ Bringing specialized consultants;

- ✓ Using and engaging citizens in policy making process;
- ✓ Holding some programs to learn the policy making process for citizens and others who are interested in the process of policy making because citizens can sometimes offer good tips (OECD, 2005).

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