Public policy

Policy setting deals with the process of formulation of policies. Policies are formulated by concerned ities to prevent unfavorable issues and to have a sense of guidance in the situations of uncertainty. Agenda setting is an important step in policy making process because it helps in differentiating that whether the problem that is under consideration is minor or major as it plays a great role in the identification of a problem thus it also helps in determining the level of attention that problem requires from the concerned officials.

This process of policy making involves number of factors to be considered and various players are involved in the process. However the process of development of policies can be initiated by any of ministers departments, think tanks, parliament, general public, cause groups, media, academic experts, party groupings, extra parliamentary parties, prime ministers and cabinet.

There are players in policy making who are consulted while formulating policies such as civil servants, key pressure group leaders, outside experts for an outer perspective about the problem and concerned ministries for their approval and ideas.

There are two approaches to policy making, one is top-down approach and another is bottom-up policy making. Top-down policy making, involves formulation of policy taking place from higher levels of political system and then those policies are communicated to the sub-ordinates who are then held responsible to make sure that the execution of those policies is done in the right manner. This approach is also referred as the concept of core executive (Health Knowledge, 2011). For example, bottom-up approach of policy development may have a sequence like:

Another approach that is bottom-up approach to policy making which deals with development of policies getting initiated from sub-ordinate level rather than higher levels as this approach believes in empowerment of sub-ordinates and thus they own the power to reshape or change the policies thus policy may change during implementation. This approach recognizes policy formulation process as interactive process (Health Knowledge, 2011). For example, a bottom-up approach of policy formulation may have sequence like:

There are two views of about how evaluation is done, one is impressionistic and another is systematic. Impressionistic method of evaluation id the method of assessment based on overall quality. It is qualitative and subjective method of evaluation where the subject experts are requested to thoroughly examine and evaluate. Systematic method of evaluation is reviewing the matter, analyzing its potential threats and potentials, weighing its merits and demerits and then deciding about the issue. Both are important as one provides subjective view on the issue and the other provides an objective view on the issue.

Snail darter case, did involve Supreme Court's order initially indicating to stop the construction of dam on the Little Tennessee River because it was endangering species. But the construction company did not stop it but slowed down the process. The order of Supreme Court was a top down approach of policy making but the construction company did complete it which was actually bottom up approach as then they claimed that completion of the project would result in the flooding of lands considered sacred to Native Americans that was considered as a obvious breach of National Historic Preservation Act. Upon which, Supreme Court decided to

pass judgment in favor of the completion of dam in spite of any other law that might hinder the construction (Sparks, n. d.).

References

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