

A Study on the Issues of Policy Advisers to Developing Countries, How to Make A Good Use of Policy Advisers (Bangladesh Perspective)

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Abstract—This article applies framework and content analysis on the Issues of policy advisers to Developing Countries, How to make a good use of policy advisers. Good policy advice helps decision makers the confidence to make decisions identifying problems in a timely manner. He also suggests the methods and mechanisms of implementation. Policy Advice is necessary because of Provision of guidelines supporting government rules and policies relating to the whole information of the state, explanation of government regulations and policies relating to information security.

Keywords—Policy Advice, Make decision, Identifying problems, Mechanisms of implementation, Supporting government, Government regulations.

I. INTRODUCTION

POLICY Advice is the part and parcel of a democratic country. Good policy advice helps decision makers the confidence to make decisions identifying problems in a timely manner. The qualified policy adviser sets out the intended impact of each option presented in terms of the desired outcome. He also suggests the methods and mechanisms of implementation. Policy advice is the output of policy analysis by policy “professionals” who maybe called policy managers, policy specialists, technical specialists or policy experts. But these professionals have something in common. Their activities are collecting information, using data, discussing issues, weighing options, communicating their results and making recommendations. Policy advice is not only a function of the advice, but it is more importantly how well it analyzes the issue, how it is perceived and how it is received.

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II. DUTIES OF LEGAL ADVISER

Generally the role of a policy advisor is to inform policy analysts on the various issues involved in policy making. For example, the policy advisor might give advice on a particular program run by the government—was it effective? Were there problems?—which the policy analyst can then use to make their decisions. They may look at ways to implement policies when they have been approved by Parliament. A team of advisors may assist a single policy analyst to create a policy.

They would normally be expected to have tertiary qualifications in relevant areas. These qualifications may be in politics, economics, law, social and/or public policy, social sciences, health management or public health, depending on the policy advisor position. Administrative policy adviser Responsibilities may be related to

(1) A combination of the internal operation of an organization, (such as purchasing, employment relations, affirmative action and equal employment opportunity, policy and procedures, program implementation procedures, communications, finance, employee benefits, etc.);

(2) Administrative matters which cross agency or governmental lines (such as administrative hearing procedures, or programs impacting the state and federal government, or impact on multiple state agencies);

(3) Administrative policy advice provided in matters of high visibility and complexity which involves the coordination of resources both internal and external to state government, and affects external entities such as counties, local municipalities, public and private education providers, law enforcement agencies,²

III. CHALLENGES CONFRONTING ECONOMIC POLICY ADVISERS

Economic policy advisers must provide ministers with advice which is analytically sound, strategically focused and above all else compelling. Strategic policy advice looks beyond short-term preoccupations, focusing instead on

²What are the Duties of Legal Advisers?

http://www.ehow.com/list_6620201_duties-legal-advisers.html#ixzz0wMtsRLvy

medium-term challenges and opportunities from a whole-of-economy perspective. The important economic issues about which today's policy advisers need to think include: the consequences of a full employment economy; the increasing global economic weight of China, India and other emerging economies; the economic implications of new technologies; global migration; climate change; loss of biodiversity and Indigenous disengagement. Strategic policy advice can contribute to the development of broader narratives that provide context and foster support for desirable reforms.

Economic narratives have played a significant role in Australian public life. The most important and enduring economic narrative of the past quarter century is the proposition that Australia had to open its economy to the world to achieve sustainable growth and higher living standards. This narrative has underpinned a range of economic reforms and continues to inform policy development today.

A possible narrative that might support the next phase of Australia's economic development could be one that reconciles the concepts of opportunity and sustainability.³ The policy advising function is not well understood by the public, academics or commentators. In large part, I suspect, that is because of the complexity of the relationship between the public service adviser and the government decision maker. In providing policy advice, public servants are seeking to have influence. They are telling governments the course of action they consider should be followed on an issue.

This is what governments expect of public service advisers. Good public policy advisers understand both of these risks. Their behavior is both 'responsive' and 'responsible'. Judging whether and when to initiate a conversation with a minister on something about which he or she has a need to know, but on which advice has not been requested, is among the most difficult parts of the public servant's job. It is also among the most important capabilities of highly performing advisers.

IV. HOW TO MAKE A GOOD USE OF POLICY ADVISERS

Effective public policy advisers, then, will have the trust of their political masters, and they will be both responsive and responsible. But what makes for effective policy advice? Effective policy advice must have three qualities. It must embody the highest standards of evidence-based analytical rigour; it must have a clear strategic perspective; and it must be compelling. Analytical rigour demands soundness of empirical methods, analytical tools, models and frameworks. Analytical rigour should be the foundation upon which all advice is based; the ultimate assurance of its quality and credibility.

³Challenges confronting economic Policy advisers. Address to the Curtin Public Policy Forum, Perth, 4 September 2007
Ken Henry, Secretary to the Treasury | http://www.treasury.gov.au/documents/1329/PDF/02_Challenges_confronting_economic_policy_advisers.pdf

However, advisers have to be careful. Any official who enters into the public policy debate must bear in mind that the objective is to make it easier for the government of the day to do what needs to be done. Nothing is as important to the adviser's effectiveness as having the confidence, or trust, of the minister. Policy advisers sent to developing countries as developed countries economic aid programs must be viewed in the context of the whole entity of economic aid. Two facets of donor country's objectives of economic aid:

- To improve the welfare of recipient country's people.
- To pursue the donor country's nationals interests.

China's foreign aid projects are oriented to agriculture, industry, economic infrastructure, public facilities, education, and medical and health care, with the focus on improving recipient countries' industrial and agricultural productivity, laying a solid foundation for their economic and social development, and improving basic education and health care. In recent years, coping with climate change has become a new area in China's foreign aid. Bangladesh is a moderate Islamic country and is making efforts to promote regional cooperation as the advocator of SAARC.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relation in 1975, has become one of Bangladesh's major development partners. At present, the relations between the two countries are largely characterized by ever boarding economic cooperation. In recent years the economic and trade ties between Bangladesh and china have considerably developed with gradual expansion in cooperation fields.

It is important to assist Bangladesh for further sustainable development in order to achieve stability and economic development in the entire region. 36% of Bangladesh's total population is under poverty line. It is also important to support Bangladesh's efforts towards. Developed Country Assistance Program for Bangladesh was revised in May 2013.

The priority areas are as follows;

- (1) Poverty Reduction through economic growth (private sector development, infrastructure development [transportation and power sector], agriculture and rural development),
- (2) Social Development with Human Security (education, health, environment, and disaster management),
- (3) Good Governance (central, sectoral and local level).

There are four types of advisers' Technical adviser: Limit the advice on specific technical questions. Statesman adviser: Assess the impact of some policy instruments one of the whole economic and social structures. Party adviser: Align themselves closely with the authorities (i.e.; Government party). Personal adviser: An alter ego of a particular politicization. Bangladesh is one of developing country in the world which is necessary to fight with the poverty. Therefore, the policy advisor is the most important task in Bangladesh, in particular the infrastructure development, Human Resources Development, Agriculture, Industry, trade and

economic development. The policy advisor should be under the government organization of the host country. The international or policy advisors will support only the technical assistance and policy strategy.

The other observation of the international policy advisor, the advisor will focus primarily on strategic, advisory and technical support to assist the government projects especially the Project Manager, the Project Assistant Manager and the Project Coordinator in overall project management, including both on substantive and administrative matters, as required. The lead policy advisor will be responsible for providing broad policy and technical advice at both central and local levels as necessary.

V. DIVERSITY OF KEY SOURCES OF POLICY ADVICE IN BANGLADESH

For last two decades Bangladesh has remained dependent on donors, both for aid policy advice. In generally policy adviser office designed policy advice to decision making officials under the whole governance, national security, human resource management and total administration. Policy advice is always transmitted to high level decision makers including the minister head of the department and high level technical officers.

In Bangladesh, Adviser to the Honorable Prime Minister:

Name of the adviser	Portfolio
H.T Imam	Establishment and Administration affairs
Dr.Mashur Rahman	Economic affairs
Prof.Dr Syed Modasser Ali	Health's & Family affairs and Social welfares affairs
Dr Alauddin Ahamed	Education, Social Development and Political Affairs.
Dr Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, BB	Electricity and Mining affairs
Professor Dr Gowher Rizvi	International Affairs
Major General (ret) Tarique Ahmed Siddiki	Defense/Security affairs
Ikbal sobhan Chowdhury	Information affairs
Sojib Ahmed wazed (Joy)	Information and Telecommunication affairs

Source: author

Policy Advice is necessary because of

- Provision of guidelines supporting government rules and policies relating to the whole information of the state.
- Explanation of government regulations and policies relating to information security.

In Bangladesh sometimes business leaders and organization also provide some policy advice, such as:

1. Promoting the interests of domestic industries; Promoting competition in industrial production; Ensuring optimal use of industrial resource; Promoting exports.
2. Taking measures to prevent dumping or unfair practices in the importation and sale of foreign products; and increasing market access of domestic industries through bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements.

3. Agricultural policy adviser is committed to the continued sustainable development of agriculture in order to maintain food supplies for the growing population, provide income and employment for rural people and to maintain the ecological balance in the natural environment. Policy advice of Mass media: Press Information Department (PID) is the most important departments of Ministry of Information of Bangladesh. PID plays the nucleus role in disseminating information through press and media coverage for the people of national and international level to inform government's activity policy design, development plan etc.

The Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI)-is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization dedicated to promoting a greater understanding of the Bangladesh economy, its key policy challenges, domestically, and in a rapidly integrating global marketplace. (Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh) noted that "The PRI is committed to undertaking and disseminating unbiased policy-oriented economic research among public policymakers, business professionals, and the academic community"⁴

Policy Research Institute provides policy advice in the following field:

- Poverty reduction approaches and strategies, Trade, openness and competitiveness.
- WTO issues in a development perspective, Regional cooperation and multilateral trade agreements, Study of agriculture, industry and service sectors.
- Private sector development, Reforms in tax policy and tax administration.
- Broad-based economic and governance reforms.

In Bangladesh, there is some policy research organization where many policies think tanks to contribute regarding policy design for the development of the country. According to the South and Southeast Asia Studies information there are many important research organizations which are main resources of the thinks tanks as mentioned below:

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) organize policy oriented research on current issues mainly in the context of Bangladesh.⁵ Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies which conducts and promotes research and deliberation on international affairs, security and developmental issues.

Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs is one of the most pioneer Institutes in Bangladesh for the analysis of issues relating to law and International Affairs. Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD): was established in 1993 by Professor Rehman Sobhan with supporting the leading civil society institutions in Bangladesh, strives to bridge the gap between empirical research and policy advocacy through a sustained effort in public policy analysis.

⁴Policy research institute, Objective analysis positive impact. <http://pri-bd.org/about.php>

⁵South and south East Asian studies, Think tanks, Colombia university library. <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/southasia/guides/thinktanks.html>

A **think tank** (or **policy institute**) is an organization or individual that conducts research and engages in advocacy in areas such as social policy, political strategy, economy, science or technology issues, industrial or business policies, or military advice. In Bangladesh Government sometime gets policy advice from academic specialist like Agriculturist, Economist and others field regarded professionals. Senior bureaucratic (civil servant) is experienced in many administrative functions that are given some policy advice in the critical moment of Government.

- [6] The constitution of Bangladesh. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Bangladesh. Source: Bangladesh, Structure of Government. <http://countrystudies.us/bangladesh/82.htm> Policy research institute, Objective analysis positive impact. <http://pribd.org/about.php>
- [7] What are the Duties of Legal Advisers? http://www.ehow.com/list_6620201_duties-legal-advisers_.html#ixzz0wMtsRLvy

VI. POLICY ADVICE MY RECOMMENDATION

There are some recommendations, outlined below, are designed to help develop a bold and clear vision, formulate detailed policy, and ensure a bright future for Bangladesh:

- ✓ Establishment of policies, regulations and project assistance that will ensure sustained agricultural production.
- ✓ More efficient and balanced use of land water and others resources.
- ✓ Ensure human rights, establish democratic values and practices, improve governance, and establish Rule of law;
- ✓ Create the employment facility.
- ✓ Adequate food security and improve the nutritional status of Bangladesh.
- ✓ Investment in education sector and human resource development.
- ✓ Importance on the socio-economic infrastructure and energy.
- ✓ To reduce the environmental degradation.

In Bangladesh, Policy advice on the effective and efficient use of State resources including improved decision-making and performance management systems and the efficient management of Crown assets. . Such an agenda must originate through both. Political dialogue in parliament with the opposition as well as across the country and with the citizen's of Bangladesh most likely to be affected or benefited by public policy.

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