POLICY ANALYSIS, POLICY DEVELOPMENT & EVIDENCE-BASED ADVOCACY COURSE

Introduction

This course introduces participants to the principles, processes and practical tools of policy analysis and evidence-based policy development. Effective public policy requires more than identifying problems; it requires the ability to understand complex policy environments, assess available evidence, evaluate competing interests and develop realistic solutions that can be translated into effective decisions and measurable outcomes. The programme provides a comprehensive framework for policy research, problem identification, stakeholder and political-economy analysis, evidence gathering, policy-option development, impact assessment and policy communication. Participants will examine how governments, development institutions, research organisations, civil society and private-sector actors analyse policy challenges and engage decision-makers throughout the policy-development process. Particular attention is given to evidence quality, policy alternatives, feasibility analysis, stakeholder interests, policy trade-offs, implementation considerations and the preparation of high-quality policy briefs and recommendations. Participants will also explore how research findings can be effectively communicated to policymakers and other influential stakeholders. Through practical case studies, policy-analysis exercises, group discussions and policy-brief development, participants will build the ability to transform complex evidence and research into clear, practical and persuasive policy recommendations that support informed decision-making, policy reform and sustainable development outcomes.

Course Objectives

- Understand the policy-development cycle.
- Define and analyse policy problems.
- Conduct policy and stakeholder analysis.

- Gather and assess policy evidence.
- Develop policy options.
- Assess policy alternatives.
- Prepare policy briefs.
- Communicate recommendations to decision-makers.
- Build evidence-based advocacy strategies.

Course Modules

> Module 1: Understanding Public Policy
- Meaning of public policy
- Policy systems
- Policy actors
- Policy cycles

> Module 2: Policy Problem Identification
- Defining policy problems
- Root-cause analysis
- Problem framing
- Policy priorities

> Module 3: Policy and Political Economy Analysis
- Institutional analysis
- Political interests
- Power relationships
- Policy constraints

> Module 4: Evidence and Policy Research
- Sources of policy evidence
- Research methodologies
- Data quality
- Evidence credibility

> Module 5: Stakeholder Analysis
- Identifying policy stakeholders
- Stakeholder interests
- Power and influence

- Stakeholder engagement

> Module 6: Policy Options
- Developing policy alternatives
- Comparing policy options
- Feasibility assessment
- Policy trade-offs

> Module 7: Policy Impact Assessment
- Economic impacts
- Social impacts
- Environmental considerations
- Distributional impacts

> Module 8: Policy Recommendations
- Developing recommendations
- Evidence-based justification
- Policy prioritisation
- Implementation considerations

> Module 9: Policy Briefs and Communication
- Policy-brief structure
- Executive summaries
- Data visualisation
- Communicating to decision-makers

> Module 10: Evidence-Based Policy Strategy
- Policy strategy development
- Advocacy opportunities
- Monitoring policy change
- Policy action plan

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